

Faculty of Health Sciences
School of Medicine Academic Council (SOMAC)
Minutes of Meeting, Thursday, November 22, 2007
Etherington Hall Auditorium, @ 4:30 p.m.

CHAIR: D. Walker, Director of the School of Medicine

Present: Approximately 50 members present.

Guest: Dr. Patrick Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic)
Queen's University

The Chair opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

It was *moved* by J. Matthews and *seconded* by T. Massey that the agenda be approved as circulated. **CARRIED**

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held May 15, 2007

It was *moved* by R. Deeley and *seconded* by L. Tomalty that the minutes of 18 September 2007 be approved as circulated. **CARRIED**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from minutes.

4. Announcements

- The Chair welcomed Dr. P. Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic), Queen's University, to the meeting.
- The Chair informed the members of SOMAC that S. Cole and R. Deeley, Professors in Pathology and Molecular Medicine, share one of the Diamond Jubilee Awards from NCIC. J. Pater, founding Director of the NCIC Clinical Trials Group was also awarded. Out of ten people sharing six awards, two awards involving three people came to Queen's. Congratulations!

5. Items for Discussion

1. Teaching Hospital's Budget Issues

Goal: Report on current situation & the University role to date.

Specific: Adoption of School of Medicine Executive Motion

The Chair reported that our teaching hospitals services are important to our public but are critical to the academic programs of our medical school. The Provincial/Community split has moved in the last ten years from 50-50- to 70-30 and now 9-10 on capital projects. Now with every dollar raised by the community it is matched 9x by the Provincial Government. Therefore, the construction budget of the hospitals is contingent upon the community raising

their share. That is the main means of going to Municipal Councils. This will be discussed at Monday night's Kingston City Council. Please write City Council with your support.

The Motion in support of our teaching hospitals was distributed with the agenda. The Chair informed everyone that our School of Medicine Executive approved the motion on October 16, 2007 and he seeks the approval of SOMAC to be able to bring forward to Senate. With the advent of the LIHN and the requirements under the balanced budget legislation our hospitals need to balance their budgets. The Principal has communicated with various people informing them that our teaching hospitals budget must be sustained, as it will affect all of our academic programs. This motion will hopefully influence the decision and secure the integrity of our academic programs.

The Chair then asked for discussion:

The President of the Aesculapian Society reported that the students are very much behind the motion and in taking all the necessary steps to ensure our programs.

The Chair then asked for the motion.

It was *moved* by J. Matthews and *seconded* by J. Wilson that the motion in support of our teaching hospitals be accepted and carried to more formal discussions. All were in favour.

UNANAMOUSLY CARRIED

The Chair reported that we will forward this approved motion to the Vice-Principal (Academic) and Senate.

In support of this motion and our school, it was reported that our Postgraduate Programs are in jeopardy now. There are a significant number of clinical cases being turned away mainly because of the hospitals inability to provide beds. If this continues there will be an inability to sustain our training programs in the near future. It puts us in a tenuous position.

2. Accreditation Progress and Status

Goal: inform, engage and solve

Specific: Medical School prescription to address academic needs.

Deployment of University and SEAMO derived resources to support the academic mission.

The Chair congratulated J. Matthews and J. McCans, in the Department of Medicine on the full approval of the Internal Medicine Program. With the anticipation of Family Medicine receiving approval in early 2008, all our programs will be at fully approved.

The Associate Dean Undergraduate Medical Education, reported that the Accreditation Team will be visiting our Medical School next week to review our plans on correcting the areas of concern that were reported in January 2007. They will meet with the Dean, members of the Undergraduate Office, the Curriculum Committee, and senior academic officers in the University.

The Associate Dean reported that we need to enhance resources and our facilities. We need to put a curricular model in place. Over the next year we will address all areas of concern. There will be discussion next week on the resources that we do have and making sure that they are put to good use.

The Chair updated everyone on our future new building. We need research and teaching space. We need small group learning space and space for our students. The Dr. Justus donation will pay for a share of this construction. The plan will be going to Campus Planning in December 2007 for approval and hopefully tendering in March 2008.

3. Basic Science Task Force

Goal: Open discussion of academic and fiscal challenges and opportunities.

Specific: Advice on process on structure.

Function and Structure of the Basic Medical Sciences within the Queen's Medical School.

The Chair reported that we have to look at how our Basic Science departments are organized and how they function. The evolution of the Basic Science disciplines, in particular the research programs and research streams, has created challenges for our organizational structure. Our facilities are archaic and our structure continues to be disciplinary based..

The Chair also reported that the other reality is the fiscal situation. Budget cuts of over 5% are being planned for in fiscal 2008-09, which will create serious problems for our basic science departments. Departments will be asked to set their objectives on different budget scenarios in order to be prepared. There will be a review process of our organization structure with a team of internal and external people. The review will be set up early in the new year.

During discussion it was mentioned that we need to keep the Graduate programs on the radar while doing the restructuring of our Basic Science departments.

The Chair then asked Dr. P. Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic) to give an update on the budget.

Dr. P. Deane reported that we have no indication of the level of funding the University will receive from Government for fiscal 2008-09. There may be quality funds. At present there are funds from Government directed specifically at Graduate enrolment. There are other monies in the system that flows in other ways. We continue to lobby for proper distribution.

Other Business

The Chair reported that members of the School of Medicine, and the Faculty, would be approached about the upcoming search for a new Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The memorandum of Agreement that created the Faculty of Health Sciences will be reviewed in this process prior to searching for a Dean. The Vice-Principal (Academic's) office will assist in the discussion on the structure of this Faculty.

6. Information item

Article “ Inconvenient truths about effective clinical teaching” was distributed with the agenda for information.

It was moved by J. Wilson that the meeting be adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

D. Edgar
Secretary to the Faculty