

THE M.D. ANDERSON ALUMNI AND FACULTY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, February 8, 2007
Clark Clinic Building, 11th Floor, Wiess Conference Room, R11.1659
11:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Yvonne Bazunu (ex-officio)
Dr. Bloom
Dr. Chandra
Jennifer Collins (ex-officio)
Dr. Deavers
Dr. Haynie
Dr. Kanojia
Dr. Matney
Jakmica McKinney (ex-officio)
Sharon Pepper
Jennifer Price (ex-officio)
Lorraine Reitzel
Dr. Rios

ABSENT:

Anne Bettinger
Dr. Bibb
Dr. Candelari (ex-officio)
Dr. Fanning
Dr. Freedman (ex-officio)
Dr. Freireich
Dr. Gallick
Dr. Handy
Dr. Khalifeh
Dr. Komanduri
Dr. Kumar
Dr. Strong
Dr. Tomasovic (ex-officio)
Dr. Ueno
Dr. Walter
Ivone Bruno
Marcela Bridger
Patrick Gibney

A. OPENING OF MEETING

Dr. Chandra opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. She requested that the Steering Committee members review the minutes of the last meeting, and the minutes were approved.

B. NEW BUSINESS

Clarify Membership

Dr. Chandra posed a question of whether or not Observers and Visiting Professors, who are here for six months or more, are eligible for membership in the Alumni & Faculty Association. The complicating factor of this matter is that the Observers' and Visiting Professors' home institutions are not M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. However, the individuals are assigned educational appointments through Trainee and Alumni Affairs and Faculty Academic Affairs.

After some discussion in favor of including them, Dr. Chandra motioned that the bylaws be changed to reflect that our membership includes Observers and Visiting Professors (who have trained for at least six months). The motion was seconded by several members of the Committee.

Continuation of Strategic Planning – Dr. Joya Chandra

[Using information from the previous year's strategic planning sessions, Dr. Chandra has presented, in the last several steering committee meetings, summary categories with the hope of developing new goals from them. The summary categories for discussion are Activities, Membership, Contacts and Networking, Finances, Administration, and Steering Committee Administration.]

The discussion began with a recap of the categories discussed in the January Steering Committee meeting: Activities, Membership and Contacts and Networking. Dr. Chandra resumed the topic of Contacts and Networking and informed the Committee that as a follow-up to the last meeting, she was successful in negotiating a \$100 discount to the registration fee for the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Physicians Network Annual Meeting.

Dr. Chandra suggested that the Committee come up with a standard discount we would like to pursue for all institutional meetings. After further discussion, it was agreed that we would pursue a 20 percent reduction in the registration fee for alumni association members who wish to attend institutional conferences. If we are successful in securing it, this discount rate will become a benefit for all alumni members.

Dr. Chandra continued with the topic of networking by encouraging a discussion on ways in which we can make the Alumni Association more visible. The following were suggested:

- Participate in Community/Charity Activities
- Create Offsite Chapters/Organize Offsite Reunions
- Invite offsite alumni members to sit on the Steering Committee or on Sub-Committees

Participate in Community/Charity Activities

Dr. Rios suggested that we focus more on participating in community events, such as charitable activities, to make the Alumni Association more visible. He offered the example of hosting a dinner for which we solicit donations to attend (by table or by seat) and give the proceeds to charity. He further suggested that we select a community service as the beneficiary of the event. Dr. Chandra asked that he provide a list of beneficiaries on which the Committee will vote.

Dr. Bloom suggested that we start by hosting an event to raise money for the apartments Dr. Matney is building. She also suggested organizing a blood drive.

Create Offsite Chapters

The topic of creating international and domestic offsite chapters was raised. Sharon Pepper will contact existing groups to find out if there is any interest in Canada and Japan, as a possible pilot. We will also find out the interest in offsite chapters/reunions domestically through our alumni newsletter (and perhaps survey). This type of program could bring benefits, like referrals, clinical trials, etc.

Invite offsite alumni members to participate on the Steering Committee or on Sub-Committees. It was suggested these individuals could be teleconferenced in to our meeting, but the time difference might be a limiting factor. If so, then the individuals could participate on sub-committees.

In the interest of time, Dr. Chandra deferred further discussion of the strategic plan to the next Steering Committee Meeting in March.

C. OLD BUSINESS

Lapel Pin

After drafts of lapel pins were circulated around the table, it was decided that we would order a circle-shaped lapel pin design with the Alumni & Faculty Association highlighted. A member asked about who would receive the lapel pin. Dr. Chandra stated that all members of the Alumni Association would receive the pin.

Alumni Quest Initiative – Sharon Pepper

Sharon will provide an update at a future Steering Committee meeting.

D. OTHER

E. ADJOURN

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.