

THE M.D. ANDERSON ALUMNI AND FACULTY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES of STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, February 14, 2008
Clark Clinic Building, 11th Floor, Wiess Conference Room
11:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Yvonne Bazunu (ex-officio)
Dr. Bodurka
Dr. Candelari (ex-officio)
Jennifer Collins (ex-officio)
Melanie Dujka
Jonathan Earle
Dr. Fanning
Dr. Freireich
Dr. Handy
Dr. Haynie
Dr. Kanojia
Jakmica McKinney (ex-officio)
Sharon Pepper
Jennifer Price (ex-officio)
Dr. Walter

ABSENT:

Dr. Bloom
Ivone Bruno
Anne Bettinger
Dr. Chandra
Dr. Deavers
Dr. Gallick
Dr. Kumar
Dr. Matney
Dr. Rios
Dr. Strong
Dr. Tomasovic (ex-officio)
Dr. Ueno
Courtney Vogelsang

A. Review and approval of Minutes of previous meeting

In Dr. Bloom's absence, Sharon Pepper opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. She requested the Steering Committee review the minutes of the last meeting and the minutes were approved.

B. New Business

Before beginning with the first agenda item, Sharon Pepper explained to the Committee that she would facilitate the meeting due to Dr. Bloom being ill and would not be in attendance. It was noted that since the Chair was not present and we did not have a Chair-elect, then the Committee would not be able to vote on any issues that might arise. Sharon then introduced the newest member of the Steering Committee, Dr. Diane Bodurka, Associate Professor, in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology.

Dr. Bodurka agreed to replace Dr. Freedman as chair of the Distinguished Alumnus Award Subcommittee.

Distinguished Alumnus Award 2008 – Dr. Diane Bodurka

Dr. Bodurka reported that the nominees for the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award were as follows:

Soren Bentzen, Ph.D.
Roberto Gottlieb, M.D.
Melissa Hudson, M.D.
Tomio Inoue, M.D., Ph.D.
Jin Soo Lee, M.D.
Maria Elena Martinez, Ph.D.
Jatinder Palta, Ph.D.
Moshe Talpaz, M.D. (deemed ineligible because he's only been away from MDACC 3 years)

Dr. Bodurka stated that the subcommittee unanimously selected **Dr. Soren M. Bentzen** as the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dr. Bentzen was in the department of Biomathematics from August 1987 – July 1988 at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. He gained expertise in mathematical modeling and statistical issues relating to radiotherapy.

Dr. Bodurka or another subcommittee member will attend the March PRS meeting to present the Alumni Association's nomination and to seek approval.

Chair Elect Nominations – Sharon Pepper

Sharon informed the Committee that the Chair-Elect position is open and needs to be filled. She will send a call for nominations to the Steering Committee before the next meeting. The Committee members may nominate themselves or someone else.

Report from Subcommittees – Sharon Pepper

It was agreed upon in the previous Steering Committee meeting that the various subcommittees would meet individually to discuss any pertinent issues and report what was discussed in those meetings. The subcommittees are as follows:

- Alumni Relations/ AACR & ASCO / Houston Anderson Alumni Dinner
- Alumni Recognition Tribute / Development
- Distinguished Alumnus Awards
- International Affairs
- Mike Hogg Award
- Trainee Excellence Awards
- Trainee Research Day
- Trainee Seminar Series

The following subcommittees reported:

Distinguished Alumnus Award – Dr. Diane Bodurka

Dr. Soren Bentzen was selected as the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient.

International Affairs – Sharon Pepper

Sharon stated that this subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Chandra and they are scheduled to meet the following day and will report their status at the next steering committee meeting.

Trainee Excellence Awards – Dr. Charles Walter

Dr. Walter reported that the Trainee Excellence Awards subcommittee is in the process of reviewing applications. He voiced his concern over the current system of reviewing applications, stating he would like a better mechanism for sorting them and streamlining the review process.

C. Old Business

iTunes University – Sharon Pepper

Sharon informed the Committee that the institution is implementing iTunes University, which is a mechanism for placing audio or audio/video clips on the Web via pod cast. It has already been proposed that the Alumni and Faculty Association have its own 'community' on the institutional site, and so suggestions will be solicited of the Committee for what content to place in the alumni area.

Alumni Tribute Display – Dr. Candelari

Dr. Candelari announced to the Committee that the Alumni Tribute Display that has been planned for three years has finally been assigned a space. The display will be housed on the 1st Floor in the new Pickens Academic Tower. The Alumni Tribute Display was developed to recognize alumni members who have donated a minimum of \$20,000 and to honor the recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Awards.

Several members of the Steering Committee will be placed on the tribute display when it is built. They are Drs. Grady Saunders, Adan Rios and Mahesh Kanojia.

Dr. Candelari suggested that the Steering Committee host a reception for the unveiling of the Alumni Tribute Display.

Community Seminar Series

Dr. Walter inquired about why the Community Seminar Series was cancelled in the previous meeting. Sharon Pepper informed Dr. Walter that in the meeting prior to that it was decided that if Dr. Frenkel did not have the event on his calendar we would cancel the event. Sharon explained further that she spoke with Dr. Frenkel's assistant in December and was informed that he in fact did not have the event scheduled, therefore the Committee agreed in January's meeting to cancel the Community Seminar Series.

Dr. Walter responded by stating that he also had contacted Dr. Frenkel regarding the seminar and that Dr. Frenkel informed him that he was unaware that the seminar was cancelled and he was still interested and willing to be a part of the seminar.

It was agreed that since Dr. Frenkel had been contacted by Dr. Walter and had expressed a willingness to participate, that we should proceed with hosting that particular seminar on Complementary and Integrative Medicine sometime in this year, although it would not necessarily be part of the Community Seminar Series. This topic will be placed on the next month's meeting agenda for further discussion.

D. Other

E. Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.