

THE M.D. ANDERSON ALUMNI AND FACULTY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES of STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 10, 2008
Main Building, 4th Floor, Conference Room B4.4351
11:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Yvonne Bazunu (ex-officio)
Anne Bettinger
Dr. Bloom
Dr. Chandra
Melanie Dujka
Jonathan Earle
Dr. Fanning
Dr. Gallick
Dr. Haynie
Alma Hernandez (ex-officio)
Dr. Freireich
Jakmica McKinney (ex-officio)
Sharon Pepper
Jennifer Price (ex-officio)
Dr. Tomasovic (ex-officio)
Courtney Vogelsang

ABSENT:

Ivone Bruno
Dr. Candelari (ex-officio)
Jennifer Collins (ex-officio)
Dr. Deavers
Dr. Handy
Dr. Kanojia
Dr. Kumar
Dr. Matney
Dr. Rios
Dr. Strong
Dr. Ueno
Dr. Walter

A. Review and approval of Minutes of previous meeting

Dr. Bloom opened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. She requested that 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, Dr. Bloom introduced the newest member of the Steering Committee, Dr. Jonathan Earle, Clinical Fellow in the Department of Molecular Genetics Pathology

Subcommittee Membership and Activity – Dr. Elizabeth Bloom

Discussion of the various subcommittees dominated the meeting and the following are the details by program:

- **Houston Anderson Alumni Dinner** – Sharon Pepper stated that Dr. Rios would be in attendance later in the meeting to discuss the upcoming Alumni Dinner in detail. She suggested that perhaps the other members of that particular subcommittee could assist Dr. Rios in the near future by providing input for the event.

- **Alumni Recognition Tribute/Development** – We are pursuing a new fund raising campaign, working with the Development Office to attract donors in various ways. In addition, we are having an alumni tribute display built to acknowledge donors. Sharon Pepper solicited assistance on this subcommittee and Dr. Tomasovic suggested that the subcommittee include a representative from Medical Graphics to review all graphic designs before implementation.
- **Distinguished Alumnus Award and Lecture** – Dr. Freedman, with his retirement, recently relinquished his duties as chair of this subcommittee and therefore, a new chair is being sought. Several suggestions of suitable faculty members were made and it was agreed that Dr. Tina Fanning would invite Dr. Diane Bodurka of Gynecologic Oncology to serve as chair.

Sharon mentioned that in the current nomination cycle, we had received five nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Some Committee members felt that was not a sufficient number and suggested we extend the deadline for nominations to January 31. It was also suggested that perhaps not enough E-mail was being sent out and that we should target department chairs specifically, in addition to members of the faculty. Dr. Joya Chandra pointed out that a more vigorous approach to soliciting nominations had been suggested once before at a previous Steering Committee Meeting.

Sharon Pepper asked for clarification from Dr. Tomasovic about adding the new Distinguished Faculty Alumnus Program to the budget for FY08-09. He confirmed that we are not required to seek approval from any other administrative office before adding it to the budget.

- **International Affairs** – Dr. Tomasovic suggested we interface with Extramural Programs (Dr. Kendra Woods) when having any subcommittee discussions about future plans for piloting alumni chapters and the proposed international alumni web pages. Perhaps Dr. Woods' staff can provide some assistance and information.
- **Mike Hogg Award and Lecture** – The activity of this subcommittee was not addressed as no subcommittee members were present. Dr. Ferid Murad is the 2008 Mike Hogg Awardee who will deliver a lecture on Tuesday, June 10.
- **Trainee Excellence Awards** – Sharon reported that the subcommittee is actively working on the current cycle of awards and the new online application process was used for the first time.
- **Trainee Research Day 2008** – Plans are underway for the trainee event formerly known as Trainee Recognition Day. Sharon Pepper announced that this year the poster session will be reformatted so it will be an interactive poster contest and posters will be presented by invitation only. Students of the School of Health Sciences will compete for prizes in their own category for the first time.
- **Trainee Seminar Series** – This seminar is hosted by trainee groups (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows). The subcommittee is at work planning for the visit of Jorge Cham, Creator of PhD Comics, who is delivering a lecture on May 2 entitled "The Power of Procrastination."
- **Community Seminar Series** - It was reported that the March seminar on Complementary and Integrative Medicine was cancelled and the entire series has been discontinued due to low attendance relative to the cost of hosting each event. Discussion followed about offering some

type of alternative and it was suggested we could perhaps record and offer web based seminars. Another suggestion was to have Dr. Mendelsohn act as host of a Q&A session. A Committee member reiterated that the original purpose of this seminar series was to help foster some good will between our institution and community physicians. Several ideas were suggested, including inviting community physicians to sit on an advisory committee, offering a dedicated phone line for referring physicians to access M. D. Anderson physicians, as is done in the Leukemia department. Yvonne Bazunu of Physician Relations pointed out that *myMDAnderson for Physicians* was created for that purpose and is actively pursuing greater enrollment in the community.

C. Old Business

D. Other

Book on History of M. D. Anderson Cancer Center – Dr. Tomasovic informed the Committee that a historian is writing a comprehensive history of M. D. Anderson that will be published in 2009 by Johns Hopkins University Press. Dr. Tomasovic negotiated a 30% discount for all alumni members and is looking for a mechanism for verifying membership for orders of the book.

Alumni Merchandise For Sale – Dr. Joya Chandra inquired about the status of ordering alumni merchandise that had been discussed at a previous meeting. Dr. Tomasovic explained that the institution is in the process of creating a more robust online purchasing system for institutional merchandise. Once it is completed, it should make it easier for us to proceed with our plans for online sales of alumni merchandise.

E. Adjourn

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