

Faculty Council

Richard Pavao, MD, Chair

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Rajani Sadasivam, PhD, Vice Chair

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FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2021

INVITEES/ATTENDEES

<u>Officers/Rules Committee</u>	<u>Voting Members-</u>			<u>Non-Voting Members-</u>	
Pavao, Richard (Chair)	Abramo, Kristin	Francis, Michael	Peterson, Craig	Abbott, Mary	Lane, Mary Ellen
Sadasivam, Rajani (Vice Chair)	Aronowitz, Jesse	Garwood, Elizabeth	Peterson, Kenneth	Berryman, Jennifer	Lanzillotti, Patricia
Ahn, Mary (Secretary)	Blehar, David	Hamar, Benjamin	Reboldi, Andrea	Chakrabarti, Parth	Larkin, Anne
	Bolon, Daniel	Ionete, Carolina	Slosar-Cheah, Magdalena	Collins, Michael	Linstedt, John
	Botkin, Naomi	Kamil, Syed	Song, Jie	Dickson, Eric	Luzuriaga, Katherine
	Carlisle, Anne	Korostelev, Andrei	Trivedi, Meghna	Fain, James	Maki, Kristen
	Cataltepe, Oguz	Long-Bellil, Linda	Walker, Amy	Florence, Roxanne	Mandrekar, Pranoti
	Chin, Emily	Michas, Maria	Wessolosky, Mireya	Flotte, Terence	Mattocks, Kristin
	Chu, Sherman	Moore, Phoebe	Wolfe, Scot	Gottlieb, Amy	McMaster, Erin
	Dick, Karen	Munro, James	Wylie, Falgun	Gustafson, Michael	Piorun, Mary
	Faustina, Misha			Harnois, Deborah	Popkin, Joel
				Hayes, John	Vitello, Joan

Dr. Pavao called the meeting to order

STANDING REPORTS

Chancellor Update

Chancellor Update

Dr. Collins announced that there was a Diversity & Inclusion event earlier in the week in celebration of Martin Luther King Day where Dr. Linda Long was presented with the 2021 Chancellor's Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion. She has been a terrific supporter of all of those with disabilities for years and it was great to recognize her. During the MLK Annual Tribute, Dr. Collins announced the investment of millions of dollars targeted at increasing faculty and student diversity, addressing bias and racism in the curriculum and ensuring our staff hiring represents the faces of our community.

Dr. Collins announced the establishment of a vaccine equity task force chaired by Provost Flotte. The task force was established to assure that the issues of equity and vaccine distribution are front of mind to all of us when so many people are wanting to get the vaccine.

Dr. Collins announced that Worcester is going to receive a large vaccination site. UMMS is going to partner with St. Vincent and Worcester State University to provide the vaccinations at that site. This is in response to the Op-ed about the creation of a vaccine corps and there are over 1,000 people now who are volunteering to be a part of this initiative. Our colleagues at Commonwealth Medicine are working with the city, St. Vincent & Worcester State to provide that service right here in Worcester. The East Boston Neighborhood Community Health Center received thousands of doses of vaccine and have requested vaccinators to give them. There have been calls from some other sites asking for the same thing. There are over 500 students from the nursing school, medical school and grad school who have asked to be a part of the vaccine corps.

Dean/Provost Update

Dr. Flotte announced there was a communication about COVID-19 vaccine availability that went out earlier in the week. Dr. Flotte clarified that some medical school personnel, specifically the residents, dual employed clinical faculty, students and a few others who fit into phase 1 did get the vaccine through UMass Memorials allotment. The medical school did not receive the vaccine directly. Now that we are moving into phase 2, UMass Memorial is focusing on patient groups. We are not anticipating medical school personnel to be invited for vaccination unless they were overlooked in phase 1. Dr. Flotte is advising people who are eligible to be vaccinated according to the state's guidelines, to pursue vaccination through their personal health care providers or through public vaccination sites.

Dr. Flotte reminded Faculty Council that there is no hard evidence that being vaccinated will prevent you from being an asymptomatic carrier of the virus. Even in the small sampling through the surveillance program we are seeing asymptomatic positive people who have been vaccinated. The UMMS campus is going to continue with masking and social distancing until there is either evidence to the vaccine status being relevant or to low prevalence in the community.



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AGENDA ITEM

Information Technology Update: Dr. Corvera

Dr. Corvera gave an update on the ITC. Presentation here.