

**Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes
FY 2022 – November 17, 2021 – Webex**

Present: Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Daniel Harrington, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Nicholas De Lay, Dr. Jennifer Bailey, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Meena Bhattacharjee, Dr. Linh Bui, Dr. Nachum Dafny, Dr. Rashedah Ekeoduru, Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Assaf Gottlieb, Dr. Arif Harmanci, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Kurt Kasper, Dr. Alan Myers, Dr. June Sadowsky, Dr. Dharini van der Hoeven, Dr. Vaunette Fay, Dr. Carole Mackavey, Dr. Omobola Oyeleye, Dr. Seth Stephens, Dr. Eric Jones, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Yun Xin Fu, Ms. Alainna Talton, and Ms. Angela Hayes

Absent: Dr. Nahid Rianon, Dr. Elaheh Ashtari, Dr. Craig Hanis

Absent and Viewed IFC Meeting Recording: Dr. Nahid Rianon

Ex-Officio Attendees: Dr. Kevin Morano

Guests: UT Police at Houston: Chief William Adcox, Assistant Chief Paul Cross, and Mr. Ray Gerwitz, Executive Director and Deputy Chief Security Officer

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

I. CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Cameron Jeter, IFC Chair FY 2022

Dr. Cameron Jeter, IFC Chair FY 2022, called the meeting to order at 11:34 AM and polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for October 20, 2021. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved, as presented.

Dr. Jeter advised the membership that we were now recording the monthly meetings of the IFC. If members cannot attend a meeting, there is the option to view the recorded meeting and confirm your viewing with Terrie, which will be noted in the Minutes.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kevin A. Morano, Associate VP for Faculty Affairs & Development

Dr. Morano began by acknowledging the immediate impact from our executive leadership team -after all the biscuits and “I Believe” advertisement, he shared that he started watching the show “TED.” He noted that if the membership had not seen the show (noting that he did not think he would be interested in a show about English football -but now they cannot turn it off at home), you might want to try viewing it.

As Dr. Morano explained to the membership in October, our Medical School Dean Search is still in progress. Unfortunately, we ended up not moving forward with an individual that was a primate candidate out of the first pool; however, we have had additional candidates come forward -several external candidates and one new internal candidate. All are outstanding and are currently being vetted by the standard process through our search committee. We hope to see some progress in the next several months where an appointment will be made.

In January 2022, we will be circulating the call for nominations for the President’s Scholar Awards. For those not familiar with these awards, these are the best of our best at UTHealth. These faculty are nominated for an award in teaching, research, clinical affairs, and sometimes the president adds an additional award for exceptional dedication to the institution. The call information will be circulated in January, and if you have someone you wish to nominate for one of the awards, please get in touch with the coordinator at your respective school.

TMC3 – That campus is starting to grow at this point. If you have not seen the location, you should swing by and look as the building is moving along quickly. He offered to bring pictures to the meetings from time to time.

School of Public Health – Dr. Morano has been involved in programming in the last few weeks of the new home for the School of Public Health, which will be on the South Campus that is slated to be at the corner of Old Spanish Trail and Bertner. Everything is still in the “dreaming phase” that the building will be either seven or eight floors - including at least an entire floor for wet lab space to additional floors of entirely wet lab expansion space for the University that includes a significant amount of new variable space. We have heard from Dr. Blackburn and

President Colasurdo that we are short on wet lap space and small animal space. The thought is that this space will be a start to alleviate -and certainly not the end of that journey, but a good start on future growth.

We are currently working with UT System to finalize how we will respond to the federal vaccination mandates. As Dr. Morano discussed this topic, he advised the membership that an email was just circulated, and he encouraged all attendees to read through it. The information is spelled out in that message. Dr. Morano mentioned that the COVID booster shots were opened up to the entire UTHealth family, with at least one location next to the parking garage on Fannin.

Brief discussions were conducted on the following with Dr. Morano:

- Faculty travel overseas who are slated to present at conferences:
 - There is a petition process to follow where you need to apply for permission to travel and outline what precautions you will be taking before, after, and during your stay. Click the link to visit the website and follow the directions to apply to travel: <https://inside.uth.edu/travel/international/guide-to-international-travel-requirements.htm>;
- Clarification that the booster shot is currently not required for everyone to be considered fully vaccinated to comport with the federal executive order.
- TMC3 – Any information on the amenities offered to people working on the South Campus? Dr. Morano advised that retail, restaurant, hotel space, and other options would come available within a few years. UTHealth is not building any restaurants but probably would offer similar options such as what is in our other buildings.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Subcommittees

Dr. Jeter confirmed that the IFC Executive Leadership would attend a Webex meeting with each subcommittee in December.

Faculty Tribunal Panel

Dr. Jeter announced the results of the Confidential Poll circulated to the IFC Membership for voting on the newest Faculty Tribunal Panel members. Dr. Yunxin Fu from the School of Public Health and Dr. Mya C. Schiess from McGovern Medical School are our newest members selected by the IFC to this panel. The new panel members will be provided to the Office of Legal Affairs by Dr. Morano.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

UT POLICE AT HOUSTON

*Chief William Adcox, Assistant Chief Paul Cross, and
Mr. Ray Gerwitz, Executive Director and Deputy Chief Security Officer*

Dr. Jeter welcomed Chief Adcox, Assistant Chief Cross, and Mr. Gerwitz to the IFC's Meeting. In preparation for this meeting, Dr. Jeter provided our guests with a selection of questions to consider addressing with the membership. Our guests were invited to introduce themselves, and Dr. Adcox started the discussion with the first question.

1. *What is the history of the UT Police at Houston? Who does it serve? – Dr. Adcox*

The University of Texas System implemented the police department a little over 50 years ago, resulting from the active shooter incident at the UT Austin Campus. When they opened up our operations, they combined the department in the Texas Medical Center to serve MD Anderson and UTHealth. As our faculty and students traverse both campuses and parking garages, we have a 111-camera system and one technology system for both institutions.

2. *What are the departments and services of UT Police at Houston? – Mr. Ray Gerwitz*

a. *Tell us about your classes. (<https://www.utph.org/>)*

UTPD is very prevention-focused in our police department. So many classes are around prevention safety classes on how to prevent oneself from becoming a victim up through, travel identity, theft, to active shooter -anything you can imagine in the prevention space to try and prevent harm from coming on our campus, whether that's individual or organizational. We spend a lot of time on that, but it has been a challenge in the COVID times. Many of our classes were in person and allowed one to do some things from a self-defense perspective or maybe an individualized training session where some contact was being made. Those classes have evolved into online forums, which is challenging in today's world, but we still offer these pieces of training to anyone interested in doing them. There is information on our website, and you'll hear me talk about our website a lot on here.

b. *Badge access approvals*

Mr. Gerwitz leads the team that handles the configuration of the access control system and assigns badge access to our institutional badges. We have a complex configuration of how people need to move and flow around campus. A group of individuals knows our campus. They rely upon the business owners, department heads, and often the faculty to help understand who needs access to what, and then we configure it on your badges.

c. *Bike registration*

UTPD gives lots of attention to where bikes are kept on campus and how they are protected. He advised that there is everything from what he called a bike compound on the backside of the medical school building to some bike racks monitored using video access cameras and other technologies -including the patrols that the officers do. Registration details are on the website.

d. *Lost and found*

UTPD has a database on their website that allows one to put in any location on campus and see if found property has been collected. This site helps reunite people with their property.

e. *Background checks*

UTPD performs some limited open-source reviews of contractors; their main function is to assess any flags or indicators that may come up in the background process to understand the risk it may present to the institutions. We inform leadership on the decisions that they make on whether that person is a good fit for the organization or not. So, UTPD is not a background check resource -we look at the risks that individuals, with the background findings, could potentially provide to the institutions, and we allow the leaders to use that information to make an informed decision in both hiring and promotions, contract relationships, personal safety, and escorts.

f. *Safety transportation*

We are seeing a rise in concerns regarding some of the garages and parking areas. Do not hesitate to call our operations communication center to request an escort to and from your vehicle. We receive these requests often late at night. Do not wait until you are ready to leave your office -you need to call well in advance and put in your request for the time you wish to leave.

g. *Event security*

We participate in all the events on campus, whether it is the winter event behind the school of nursing or all the different things that go on throughout campus. We look at how to protect the campus best to ensure that it is a safe event for everybody. When we look at how we will staff or participate in that special event, we have to consider that we are often operating as the protector. So at some of the special events, we set up a table to inform people about our services. We will have some of our outreach staff out there to mingle within the crowd and educate people on safety tips and our department's services.

h. KnightLine newsletter

The KnightLine Newsletter is a monthly newsletter email that you can subscribe to by signing up on the UTPD website. Safety tips, information, awareness, different things offered, and safety class schedules. Highlights are provided on what does happen within UTPD, awards by the different UTPD individuals, crime trend information, or things that UTPD wants to highlight to the university community.

i. Protection

The protection provided is usually around our border regions, presidents, different things moving around campus, and how we facilitate that movement so that it's safe, efficient, and timely for the individuals who request our service.

j. Risk Assessments

Security risk assessments are physical risk assessments. We have a team, specially trained individuals within our department. There are four members in the team that go out and perform physical security risk assessments, whether it is a building or a garage, to look for vulnerabilities and how we can mitigate the risk that release may present. Their job is to make sure that we have a safe and secure campus to the best of our capability. Many times, you will see electronic security measures as a result of these assessments, whether that's security cameras, badge readers, panic buttons, emergency devices, depending on whatever the threat is to the area. When we have some emerging incidents that we want to address, we will bring that team to look at an area to ensure that we are properly protecting the people and the assets within that area.

k. Threat to Management Team

The Threat Management Team's role and how and where they bring value is when we have an instance of workplace violence or other threats to the institution. The team serves as more or less the triage arm of addressing that threat for the institution, and they work closely with the Stop Team. The Stop Team is the behavioral intervention team on campus, which some may or may not be familiar with, that looks at how we limit the risk to the institution and individuals. They develop safety plans and go to great efforts along with their partners from Human Resources, Employee Health, and other groups on managing threats and how best to protect people during challenges. The Stop Team is recognized as a high-performing team and a great resource to the institution.

3. How does UT Police at Houston differ from the City of Houston police and MDA/UTHealth building security?

Assistant Chief Cross advised that UTPD differs greatly from HPD. UTPD is geared specifically to protect the people and the property of UTHealth Houston, MDACC, and we are a highly certified nationally recognized police department. The UTPD officers are trained more on de-escalation techniques, community service, and compassion. We look for officers with strong interpersonal skills because we deal with students, educators, and our campus environment is not like -even though we are situated in an urban setting, we are not a police department handling criminals all the time. So UTPD looks to recruit those with the skillset to deal with the campus setting.

Chief Adcox said that the UTPD operates under a combined protection model, so they have a shared purpose of prevention, preparedness, and performance improvement. UTPD is very much involved in vertical places inside of buildings. Rarely ever would you see a city police department that would control the inside of buildings. UTPD is very much in tune with the activities and what's going on -we know where we need to secure more. UTPD participates in animal care situations, nuclear safety, helps with the destruction or disposal of narcotics based on DEA issues, etc. HPD operates what we know as the prosecutor's model, which is quite different from what UTPD uses, known as the prevention model.

4. What does UT Police at Houston do to train/adapt to constantly changing needs?

Our goal is always to solve the problem, and if we have to go to a prosecutor's model, we format how we can protect ourselves by going above and beyond so that we do not have a reoccurrence. UTPD uses a different philosophy, a different protection model, for the different types of people that Assistant Chief Cross alluded to earlier. We are policing in a different environment today. Less than six percent of the almost 18,000 police

agencies in the United States are formally accredited. Less than one percent of universities' police agencies are accredited by CALEA (The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®)) like UTPD. UTPD must stay out in front of the very best practices and standards in policing. UTPD also has programs in place that make a big difference in training. For example, UTPD has a process that they call custody to care where immediately upon any interaction where we take someone into custody, the person becomes a person for care. With Mr. Floyd's murder, if they had this program in place, the situation could not have happened, as the individual would have gone from custody to care. UTPD was part of a study approximately five years ago on training and staffing. The study provided that the UTPD trained roughly twice as much as any average police department. Chief Adcox said it was critical to UTPD because our training must be proper, appropriate, and the best training possible. The training does two major things: provides muscle memory to react when needed to do the job, and it permits a bit of respite so that these officers can get some training and get off work, out of the streets, and away from some of these pressures to relax and then come back ready. UTPD is also proud to share that they have staff that travels across the country to train other police agencies. UTPD has a national and international presence in this regard too.

5. *What are the boundaries of your jurisdiction?*

Chief Adcox advised that UTPD's jurisdiction is where UT System owns, operates, and leases property. So, we have jurisdiction in over 64 counties in the state of Texas, whereas HPD, for example, would only have jurisdiction for the counties in which the city of Houston sits. UTPD also has full authority of the education code and the Board of Regents' Rules. The Board of Regents' Rules is, in many fashions, law. So, for example, you have to provide identification when you are on campus, and that is a Board of Regents' Rule. If you are walking on the street, you would not have to provide identification. So, there are some nuances in our level of authority and how we differ from HPD. But at the end of the day, UTPD's priority, focus, goal, and livelihood depend on UTHealth and everybody associated.

Assistant Chief Cross noted that although UTPD differs from HPD, the two organizations work together quite a bit, and they team up for intelligence information about crimes. So, UTPD stays in touch with HPD daily; however, UTPD is more service-oriented than the typical HPD police department. UTPD seeks officers who have a high level of education, so the officers are comfortable in an academic environment.

6. *What are the crime rate differences between your jurisdiction and surrounding areas?*

Everybody who lives in Houston proper knows a high crime rate in the Houston region. Assistant Chief Cross said he wanted to assure the attendees that we are way safer than Houston proper. He provided a few statistics:

- Since August, our campus reported 18 vehicle-related situations; but in the two-mile radius around the TMC campus, HPD reported 655 incidents.
- Since September, we reported violent crimes on our campus of 2 robberies and 0 aggravated assaults; in a two-mile radius of the TMC campus, HPD had 58 robberies and nearly 100 aggravated assaults.

Assistant Chief Cross said that he wished we had a bubble around our campus. UTPD wants patients and visitors to our campus to feel comfortable because they are working extremely hard to keep all the high crime activities outside and off our campus. Unfortunately, we have to deal with crime instances, and we have to be super careful when we leave our homes to come to campus. UTPD will do everything we can to protect everyone while you are here.

Chief Adcox reiterated that everyone needs to be careful. When living in one of the top 10 cities by population (as reported to the FBI over the past two years), Houston has been number one in property crime and violent crime. And that's not a good place to be, but that's the life that we live. And that's where we are located in the TMC. We have lots of programs on protecting yourself during the season and what to do when you are off-campus to reduce the potential for being a victim. It's not just about being on campus; we truly want to ensure that everyone (employees, students, and patients) is safe. So, we will do whatever we can in that respect.

7. *Tell us about the history of the Jeanne Clery Act and what events must be reported. Specifically, how do events about which we receive emails differ from other Jeanne Clery Act events in the annual report?*

The Act started up in 1986 and is a federal law in response to a tragedy at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, where a young college freshman was victimized while on campus. Her parents strongly advocated with the federal government to create a law that would compel universities to disclose their crime stats. Back then, nobody knew how safe or unsafe a campus was because it did not have to tell anyone what was occurring on their campus. So, they passed a law called the Clery Act. That Act requires institutions of higher learning, through the Department of Education, to make their campus aware of what crimes are happening on their campus and, more importantly, probably notify them whenever there is a threat to the campus. So, two notifications are contained within the report. One is called the timely warning, and the other is called emergency notification. The difference is that an emergency notification is a real credible, immediate threat to the campus. You would see things like a robbery has just occurred here/an assault has just occurred there, and the perpetrator may still be on campus. We are trying to notify everyone very quickly to take safety precautions if they are on campus, and this individual may choose them as the next victim. The next piece would be what the federal government calls timely warning, designed around a pattern, trend, or something happening on campus. We must let people know about vehicle thefts, burglary of motor vehicles, thefts of catalytic converters, and things trending upward so that people can take the appropriate steps to protect their property and protect themselves in response to that trend. A certain set of crimes are attached, such as murder, aggravated assault, robbery, sexual assault, burglary, arson, auto theft, staff hate crimes, and law offenses. So, they are looking at how the campus authorities notify the campus for people to protect themselves. The annual report is the annual safety report that brings all the stats together and informs our community on what Assistant Chief Cross was referring to earlier. How many times have we had burglaries and motor vehicle thefts occur on campus this year? So, it ties everything together and allows people who want to review that report to understand safety and security on college campuses and any campus that has students on it. Because we have students here, the Clery Act requires us to follow the Act.

Chief Adcox added that the Methodist Hospital, Memorial Hermann Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital -and most of the TMC organizations- have no requirement to let anybody who works there, or in their facilities, or on their campuses know about any crimes. Often, it looks like there is more crime going on with us than in these other institutions, and that is not the case. We are an open book; we are transparent; we comply with the Clery Act, and we will continue to do so. Some institutions take chances, and they do not feel that the Department of Education will audit them because they do not have an athletic program or something that brings higher insight to the victimization of students or whatever. Chief Adcox advised that he can assure all that UTPD does their very best to comply with that federal law, and that is why you are getting those notifications. Again, if something represents that it is serious or perhaps can be a continuing threat, we will put out a timely warning because we are required to do so by law.

Assistant Chief Cross added that sometimes you might see a crime noted on a timely warning for a past week. Once we receive the information on the complaint from the reporter who tells us this happened last week, then we put it out for several reasons: (1) in case it is a pattern like the Chief just alluded to; and (2) we are required by federal law to do so. So, I wish we could put out every time we make an arrest; it seems we put out all the bad news, but you never hear all the arrests made.

8. *We've read about many burglaries of motor vehicles lately (and the heroic arrests and recovery of the Lexus). Are crime rates up?*

Our crime rates are up. This response is tied to the earlier answer. While we adapt in our personal lives as we respond to COVID personally, professionally, on campus, etc., from a crime perspective as a police department, the criminals also adapt. What they know is that we are all sitting at home now. So, residential burglaries are down, but unfortunately, vehicle burglaries are up because they have to look for an opportunity. The opportunity now is within the parking garages in the parking lot because we are all sitting at home so they cannot burglarize our houses. So, it is just a shift in how things move across as the criminals adapt, and we adapt our mitigation strategies to address them. While they are up, as Assistant Chief Cross has already

indicated for our campus, they are very significantly trailing and under what the surrounding community is experiencing right now.

9. *Tell us about your success stories.*

Assistant Chief Cross advised that they have arrested quite a few people for all attempts in our garages. One of the biggest success stories we had recently was one evening, an employee at the UT Professional Building garage was robbed at knifepoint, and the perpetrator was able to take off. We could track her phone in her purse taken by the perpetrator through her sister's phone. The perpetrator went to the Metro train, and we followed that train downtown and were able to arrest the perpetrator and get her purse and laptop back. And so that was a situation where we were able to catch the perpetrator, and that happens quite often; you do not hear about it. But that was one of the major situations at the UT Professional garage. As you probably heard, we recently arrested four juveniles at the Pressler garage at MD Anderson when they stole a woman's car at gunpoint. So we are out there in these garages trying to be as vigilant as possible. We also have to control the streets because perpetrators are looking to victimize our employees, students, and property. So, it is a delicate balance, and we are out there as best as possible. When you all report what you see, as our eyes and ears, it helps us tremendously. Often the police do not solve crimes as much as citizens and communities solve crimes by reporting what they see. So, we thank you so very, very much.

Chief Adcox seconded Assistant Chief Cross's comment that it is the community that we serve together with, and this engagement makes you safe. It makes a difference between HPD or TMC Police or us. There was a woman employed at MD Anderson that we understood was sexually assaulted in the exterior parking lots that we found out about a day later. We started looking into it, put out the information, and then caught the same guy trying to assault another student the next day across from UCT in front of the bank. We built the case, got a confession from the individual, and the individual is now in jail. We found out through the case that this individual got in trouble in San Antonio, he went to jail, and when he got out, they put him on a bus and sent him to Houston. He is here, and we got him off the streets. The point is that if it had been left up to HPD, it might not have been assigned for another week and who knows what might have taken place or how long it would have taken to catch him. Also, TMC was unaware that this situation happened in their lot -until we told them about it. Any crimes at these institutions, we jump right on it, and stay on it. We had crimes where we busted people on these auto thefts. We helped by working with HPD's auto thefts task force. It was our information, our suspects, and our actual investigation, particularly around our adeptness with social media, that we could develop some suspects. And from that, there were warrants served and trackers put on cars. It turned out that it took down an auto theft ring that involved 50 different criminals sending cars worldwide and selling them with those false paper license plates. The Chief wanted the attendees to know that UTPD has a full investigation team behind the scenes. Even though fingerprints are not considered in cases, UTPD sends fingerprints off to the special labs because anyone who victimizes anyone on this campus, we promise you that we will go the extra step. You will not see that in the police departments because they are just overwhelmed, but here, we will take care of everybody on campus.

10. *When should we call UT Police at Houston? (examples of emergencies and non-emergencies)*

If you witness a serious incident where life and death are on the line, you want to call 911. We have a relationship with HPD, where we will also respond when you dial 911. We will respond with HPD to take care of that serious incident. If it is not an emergency, you should call 713-792-2890. We want you to trust your instincts; call us if something does not feel right. We will look at it no matter what time of day it is, how serious it is, or how you feel about it. Nothing is too small, and every bit of information you can provide will help us.

11. *What can faculty do to help UT Police at Houston?*

Your advocacy and your partnership in working with us help spread the word of communication, education, and awareness. We need information reported to us so we may respond. We need to work with you to partner with our community to make a safe and secure community for all of us. It takes a village.

Questions:

- *Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives have had renewed emphasis lately across TMC institutions. Has UTPD at Houston made any changes to its diversity, equity, and inclusion training over the last 1-2 years?*

Chief Adcox advised absolutely; it is something that they have been working on long before it became popular in the literature. It is critical -that's common sense. Sixty-five percent of UTPD are minorities. We are one of the first institutions in the nation to sign up for what's called a 30 by 30 pledge. That's a national initiative out of New York University Law School to bring more women into policing. You may not know this, but women make up only 12-13% of police departments, and only 3% are made up of women leaders. So, that is a shame. The 30 by 30 pledge is to have 30% of our recruits be women by 2030 -and UTPD will surpass that because currently, over 20% of our active commissioned police officers are women.

Assistant Chief Cross said that on the gender 30 by 30 initiative, it has been proven repeatedly through survey statistics that women have fewer complaints by citizens; they are less likely to get suspended or get involved in shootings. We certainly want to increase the number of women we have in our department. Further, Assistant Chief Cross said that every officer was trained through human resources on unconscious bias through the Chief's spearheading initiative last year.

Chief Adcox said they initiated a Community Partnership Council with UTHealth and MD Anderson members. If anyone is interested in participating in that Council, they meet every quarter on Friday at Noon. UTPD can continue to get input from the members to tell us what is important and work together on the issues. We have had several health professors continuing to participate in some weapons demonstrations because it is important for us to let everybody know that the police department has tools. What is the Taser? What is a teaching purpose? Some of our faculty members fired the Taser to see how it worked. We have worked in the school of nursing and taught some prospective nurses how to de-escalate and got them to where they have been through the Crowd Prevention Institute (CPI) program. If you are interested in joining the Council, please call Ms. Claudia Garcia at 713-563-7794 or email utphoutreach@mdanderson.org.

Chief Adcox thanked Dr. Jeter on behalf of himself, Assistant Chief Paul Cross, and Mr. Ray Gerwitz for the opportunity to spend time and relay information to this Council.

Dr. Jeter thanked the guests stating that her intent and hope for their time with the IFC membership was to provide a venue where UTPD at Houston could display and describe their many successes to allow the attendees a chance to be in awe and thankful for their work. UTPD has gone far and above in its work and dedication. We are humbled to hear of the lengths that UTPD will go to protect individuals at MD Anderson and UTHealth that they have never met -but treat us with respect and as family, and we are extremely grateful. The attendees provided collective applause (Webex emojis) and thanks to our UTPD heroes.

Chief Adcox said that the attendees were the heroes producing the medical providers for tomorrow and solving today's problems, and UTPD is deeply appreciative.

Dr. Jeter thanked the membership for their participation in the chatbox. The comments in the chatbox expressed how our police officers are such accomplished professionals that know their field with a level of expertise that rivals -or even goes beyond, our personal goals for expertise in our academic and research endeavors.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Jeter

School Campus Reports

The campus reports were provided and are made a part of these minutes.

Cizik School of Nursing

Dr. Carole Mackavey

15 years, 348 Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates improving health care

- The 348 alumni of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Cizik School of Nursing at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) serve as chief nursing officers, informatics

experts, nurse practitioners in various roles, deans of other nursing schools, and in a host of other leadership positions from the bedside to the boardroom.

- “I’m not a Texan by birth, but I know what is important to Texans. They like to be the first, and they like to be the biggest,” said Professor Emerita Joanne Hickey, PhD, ACNP, FAAN, the architect and founding director of Cizik School of Nursing’s DNP program.

Día De Los Muertos Ofrenda

- Día de los Muertos is a celebration of life and death. The concept is that during Nov. 1 and Nov. 2, the border between the spirit world and the real world is dissolved.
- An altar was set up on the first floor to honor loved ones passed. People brought pictures and items as a remembrance

Graduate School of Biomedical Science

Dr. Nicholas De Lay

Native American Heritage Month

This month to celebrate Native American culture, history, and contributions to society, GSBS is hosting a “Jeopardy” game for all GSBS students and alumni. Three answers are presented online, and contestants must provide the questions for those answers. More information can be found here:

<https://files.ctctusercontent.com/0bec6f59201/202895b1-4e08-4f78-9d05-d03c819285f7.pdf?rdr=true>

Día de los Muertos

To commemorate the day of the dead, GSBS set up an ofrenda (altar) in GSBS commons from Nov. 1-2, where students, faculty, and staff were able to place photos, notes, and/or belongings to honor the lives of loved ones that have passed. A picture of the altar can be found here: https://scontent-hou1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t39.30808-6/fr/cp0/e15/q65/251505557_10166216673090647_4547928594063887371_n.jpg?_nc_cat=110&ccb=1-5&_nc_sid=da1649&_nc_ohc=aPQHROrF8gEAX8q_fti&_nc_ht=scontent-hou1-1.xx&oh=93f9c738c0fd0aed810fc776cb7e09b1&oe=61991DD

Sex differences in Covid-19 outcomes

Two GSBS faculty, Louise McCullough, M.D., Ph.D., and Fudong Liu, M.D., M.S.N., in the Department of Neurology, received a \$3.7 million grant to discover the “mechanisms that contribute to long-term consequences of Covid-19 infections, and how they differ in men and women”. More information can be found here.

<https://gsbs.uth.edu/news/story?id=39c13768-3d6b-49b1-8040-b710bc790d11>

McGovern Medical School

Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder

- The Faculty Senate conducted discussions on COVID-19-related burnout and resilience; and
- Discussions conducted regarding the Taskforce on Mental Health/Resilience building.

School of Biomedical Informatics

Dr. Kirk Roberts

- SBMI and SPH have been jointly awarded a \$10 million training grant as part of the Public Health Informatics & Technology (PHIT) Workforce Development Program. The program, led by Dr. Susan Fenton at SBMI and Dr. Eric Boerwinkle at SPH, will work with eight minority-serving institutions in Texas--Huston-Tillotson University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M International University, The University of Texas Arlington, The University of Texas El Paso, The University of Texas Permian Basin, and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley—to collectively train students as well as public health, clinical, and health academic professionals using an interdisciplinary approach in public health informatics and technology.
- Many SBMI faculty attended the AMIA Annual Symposium earlier this month, the first in-person meeting of the biomedical informatics community since the pandemic’s start. SBMI students won a Distinguished paper award, two doctoral consortium awards, and Professor Zhongming Zhao was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics; and
- SBMI announced its annual faculty awards. Dr. Assaf Gottlieb won the Teaching Award, Dr. Licong Cui won the Research Impact Award, Dr. Cui Tao won the Mentoring Award, and Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer won the Leadership Award.

School of Dentistry

Dr. Alan Myers

- Faculty Senate is in the process of establishing 2021-2022 goals, such as:
 - Spearheading another push to garner interest in forming a Women’s Faculty Forum at UTSD (a previous attempt, unfortunately, received dismal participation).
 - Supporting development of a Universal UTSD Calendar, which is predicted to be a boon for all faculty, staff, and students at UTSD.
 - Improve faculty onboarding process to ease the transition of new faculty into their new position. Dr. Sadowsky is leading this campaign.
 - Providing support for junior and less-experienced faculty with mentoring on manuscript and grant writing.
 - Working to provide much-needed administrative support for school-wide committees.
- Major efforts by the Dean’s office are underway to secure funding for a brand-new student center which will greatly benefit our students and free up space for constructing a new Pediatric Dentistry clinic. Pediatrics will be moving from their current off-campus location to the UTSD building, in which they will occupy the current student area.
- Strategic Plan has been signed off by President Colasurdo and is soon to be published.
- UTSD celebrated commemorated the Mexican cultural holiday Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) from November 1-2, 2021. A traditional ofrenda was on display for viewing on the 4th floor near Alumni Circle during the commemoration.
- The Fall Faculty Assembly was held on November 2nd, 2021. In addition to updates by Dean Valenza, updates on COVID-19 on campus (and across Texas), philanthropy data (uptick in giving!), research achievements, climate survey, and Faculty Senate were provided by various individuals. Dr. Cameron Jeter also presented the vision for IFC.
- November 5th, UTSD held “Give Vets a Smile.” UTSD hosts this event that offers free urgent, palliative, therapeutic, and/or preventive dental care to US Military Veterans each year. Preliminary feedback suggests it was a huge success and benefited many Veterans. A detailed report will follow in next month’s Campus Report to IFC.
- UTSD provided an opportunity for students and employees to send a personal note (“thank you gram”) along with a 5” mini gratitude pie to someone they are thankful for. Pre-ordering of pies ended on November 5th, 2021.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - Annual Student Research Showcase on December 2nd, 2021 – Dr. Antonios Mikos (Louis Calder Professor of Bioengineering & Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Rice University), a leader in biomaterials and tissue engineering, will be the keynote speaker. Originally, Dr. Rena N. D’Souza (Director of National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research, NIH), an alumnus of UTSD, was slated as keynote speaker, but due to COVID 19-related travel restriction, she was unfortunately not able to attend. However, the school is overjoyed to report that Dr. D’Souza will visit the campus next Fall and serve as the keynote speaker (date to TBD).
 - February 24th, 2022 (Full-day Spring Faculty Assembly) – A major focus will be a final report from our New Models team that is working to shape the future of our school in regards to modernizing curriculum, advancing clinical teaching and assessment, and space needs. A second major focus will be discussion and feedback on the most recent UTSD Faculty Climate Survey that ultimately will highlight major areas of need to improve the working environment at UTSD.

School of Public Health

Dr. Ross Shegog

San Antonio Regional Dean Named Editor In Chief of Prestigious Mental Health Research Journal



Jack Tsai, PhD, regional dean of the San Antonio campus and professor of public health, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the Nature Portfolio Journal’s (NPJ) Mental Health Research. Nature is a weekly international journal publishing peer-reviewed research in all fields of science and technology and has been a top academic venue for science for over 100 years. This new journal called NPJ Mental Health Research will be part of the Nature portfolio.

Fleming Center Panel – Five Easy Pieces: 5 Practical Ways to Reduce the Cost of Health Care
 November 3, 9 - 10 a.m.

Moderator:

- **Arthur “Tim” Garson, Jr, MD, MPH**, Professor of Management, Policy and Community Health at the UTHealth School of Public Health

Panelists:

- **Mark McClellan, MD, PhD**, Robert J. Margolis Professor of Business, Medicine, and Policy, and founding Director of the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, Former Administrator Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Former Administrator FDA
- **Richard Gilfillan, MD**, Founding Administrator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), Former President and CEO, Geisinger Health System
- **David Callender, MD**, President and CEO, Memorial Hermann Health System

UTHealth School of Public Health Brownsville Campus 20th Anniversary: Bringing high-quality public health education and research to the Lower Rio Grande Valley for 20 years

20th Anniversary Speaker Series
 The Impact of COVID-19 on Border Communities: Spread, Control, Diagnosis, Prevention and Research
 featuring Drs. McCormick and Fisher-Hoeh
 Thursday, March 4 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Scientists Dr. Joseph McCormick and Dr. Susan Fisher-Hoeh's illustrious careers have indicated work as "viral hunters" around the world. They are currently researchers here in the Rio Grande Valley, where they serve as professors of epidemiology, human genetics and environmental science. As the first of our 20th Anniversary Speaker Series, they will share their experience and expertise regarding COVID-19 and provide an overview of its impact and their recommendations for control, prevention and future research here on the US-Mexico border.
 For questions please contact: shoeh@utmsi.uthealthbrownsville.edu

20th Anniversary Speaker Series
 Using a community-academic framework to address maternal and child health outcomes in the RGV: the Healthy Families Framework
 Wednesday, June 16 12-1:30 p.m. CST
 Webex and dial-in available at: go.utb.edu/20
 For questions contact Isaias Rodriguez@utb.tmc.edu

SPEAKER PANEL

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20th Anniversary Speaker Series
 The elderly, diabetes and tuberculosis: Lessons from studying these vulnerable populations
 Wednesday, October 27th, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CST
 Webex and dial-in available at: go.utb.edu/20
 For questions contact Isaias Rodriguez@utb.tmc.edu

SPEAKER PANEL

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VI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jeter

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP, on January 14, 2022.

Approved by Interfaculty Council on January 19, 2021.