

Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes – FY 2025
October 23, 2024 | Via Zoom

Present: Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Kurt Kasper, Dr. Debbie Cline, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Ryan Vahdani, Dr. Barbara Orlando, Dr. Andrea Taylor, Dr. Julie Gutierrez, Dr. Yonca Korkmaz-Ceyhan, Dr. Daniel Harrington, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Lisa Cain, Lauren Moran.

Absent: Note – Accurate attendance for this meeting is unknown due to lack of access to the Zoom meeting details.

Ex Officio Members: Dr. Kevin A. Morano, Senior Vice President of Academic and Faculty Affairs, and Dr. Lisa D. Cain, Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs and Development.

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Lauren Moran

Guests: Ryan Awar, Manager, IT Security

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Ross Shegog, IFC Chair FY 2025

- Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Ross Shegog
- Approval of Minutes
 - Ross Shegog requested approval of the previous meeting minutes.
 - Kurt Kasper moved to approve the minutes.
 - Andrea Taylor seconded the motion.
 - The minutes were approved.
- Leadership Transition
 - Ross Shegog acknowledged the outgoing chair, Bethany Williams, and welcomed Kurt Kasper as the new chair for the next year.
 - Appreciation was expressed for the contributions of past leaders.

II. Announcements

Dr. Lisa Cain, Associate VP for Faculty Affairs and Development

- Dr. Cain congratulated Dr. Shegog and Dr. Kasper on their new leadership roles.
- Dr. Cain also thanked Dr. Williams and Dr. Harrison for their past leadership.
- New members were welcomed and thanked for their participation.
- Regents Outstanding Teaching Award
 - Dr. Cain announced the nomination of two individuals for the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award: one from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and one from the School of Public Health. Neither of them won the award.
- Reminder that President's Scholars Awards are due November 25, 2025.

III. Guests

Dr. Ross Shegog

- Ryan Awar, Manager, IT Security:
 - National Cybersecurity Awareness Month: "Secure Our World"
 - Ryan Awar discussed the importance of cybersecurity and the initiatives being taken to enhance security measures. He emphasized the theme of "Secure Our World" for National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Awar highlighted various strategies and best practices for maintaining security, including the importance of strong passwords, regular software updates, and awareness of phishing

scams. He also mentioned the ongoing efforts to improve the organization's IT security infrastructure and the need for continuous vigilance to protect against cyber threats.

- Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktaş, Professor, McGovern Medical School
 - UT System Board of Regent's Rule on Presidential Selection
 - Gurur Biliciler-Denktaş discussed the **Presidential search** process, emphasizing the importance of following the regents' rules. They mentioned that the system must adhere to specific guidelines, including forming a committee for the Presidential search. Gurur highlighted that the Faculty Governance Institute of the Institution determines how three faculty members will be chosen for this committee. The Inter-Faculty Council (IFC) will select these faculty members, who should be at the Associate and Professor level.

IV. New Business

Dr. Ross Shegog

- Ross Shegog introduced new business topics, recognized attendees, and appreciated the presence of experienced personalities. He honored Dan and thanked Bethany for the slides.
- Ross introduced the Inner Faculty Council (IFC) as an advisory body on faculty governance and academic affairs, representing all schools and conveying information to the administration. He discussed the structure of faculty life, including onboarding, research, teaching, service activities, promotion, work-life balance, and retirement, emphasizing the IFC's role in enhancing quality of life.
- Ross highlighted the importance of shared governance and the faculty's role in education and policy formulation.
- He emphasized the importance of having a central location to store information and convey it upstream to the administration and the President

V. Unfinished Business

Dr. Kurt Kasper

- By-Laws will be finalized and rolled out with markups for the next meeting.
- The IFC will entertain concerns and feedback.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Ross Shegog

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2024.

Submitted by Dr. Yasmin Chebaro on November 20, 2024.