**COSW Minutes**

August 26, 2011

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**Present**: Nancy Barr, James Brown, Valerie Casey, Sherry Duffy, Susan Duncan, Pamela Feldhoff, Jeanne Guerrero, Andrea Gobin, Robert Goldstein, Brenda Hart, Marcia Hern, Shirley Hardy, Dawn Heinecken, Casia Horseman, Sharon Kerrick, Nancy Knadler, Sharon LaRue, M. Cynthia Logsdon, Kenyatta Martin, Missi Moutardier, Gale Rhodes, Mordean Taylor-Archer, Nancy Theriot, Tammi Thomas and Martyna Warren, and Georgette Moore **Guest**: Kenny Brown, Wayne Hall, Dean Edward C. Halperin, Mrs. Sharon Halperin

**Absent**: Laurie Ballew, Sam Connally, Barbara Hanger, Ann Larson, David Owen, Mary Karen Powers, Kathy Pendleton, Margaret Pentecost, Melissa Long Shuter

**Chair Update**: Valerie reported that President Ramsey asked the COSW to assist A&S with recruitment of tenure track faculty. The COSW will sponsor three (3) junior women faculty to attend the Purdue Pre-Tenure Conference for Women in September. Valerie contacted Dean John Ferré, Dean Tracy Ells and Dean Connie Braden asking that they recommend women faculty to attend. COSW sponsorship will cover registration and travel expenses using UofL's per diem rate, up to $500. So far A&S Dean John Ferré has recommended Professor Latrica Best of the Pan African Studies Department, who expressed interest in the sponsorship and is registered to attend.

Also reported:

* Introduction of new Commissioners present: Missi Moutardier and Sherry Duffy
* Pens and Handbooks were presented to new members;

**Committee Reports**

**RRR**: Pamela Feldhoff reported that the RRR committee had met and worked on goals. They plan to finalize within the next two week.

**Communication**: The COSW promotional video was viewed today. Jeanne reminded everyone that it is a draft. Any comments regarding the video should be sent to Jeanne or Georgette. It was suggested that Bridgett Pregliasco’s attendance at the HERS Conference be included. Also,

* **COSW Newsletter** available online;
* **Elder Care**: Information regarding Elder Care is now available on HR’s Get Healthy Now website;

**CODRE**: CODRE Chairman James Brown reported that CODRE is just getting organized under new leadership. He and Vice Chairman, Charles Sharp met with the President and Provost during the summer. CODRE has received budget information and he and Georgette are working on finalizing details for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

**Staff Senate**: Nancy Knadler reported that the Staff Senate had elected new officers for the 2011-2012 year. Elected officers are: David James, Chair; Dhiane Bradley, Vice Chair and Lisa London, Secretary/Treasurer. The Staff Senate will hold their retreat on Sept 12, 2011.

**PEACC**: Sharon LaRue highlighted events on the PEACC Calendar (handouts distributed).

**Hospital Merger**: Dean Edward C. Halperin attended the COSW meeting and addressed the Commission on the following questions (see attached).

**Announcements**

* The Women’s and Gender Studies has a new location: 3rd Floor Stevenson Hall.
* Mary Karen Powers, Director of the Women’s Center and long-time member of the Commission was presented a plate from the COSW. In her absence, the plate was accepted by Susan Duncan who read a statement prepared by Mary Karen.

**Adjourned** – The General meeting adjourned for breakout session. Commissioners were invited to meet in the Alumni Rotunda to meet new members and talk with Dean Halperin. Refreshments were available.

COSW Questions for Dr. Halperin

1. I would like to know the status of the UofL SANE Nurse program which is under the UofL Hospital. Previous to the merger, victims of sexual violence were able to get emergency contraception at the time of the incident. Due to the Catholic restriction for use of Emergency Contraception, how will victims of violence receive this service?
2. What alternatives to merging with a catholic hospital corporation under the control of bishops have been investigated? Surely other options were investigated. What were they and why were they judged to be unacceptable? Related question: why is there a need for a merger? If there is a need, why were options other than merging with a catholic entity not investigated and reported to the public?
3. Given that Catholic doctrine dictating women's reproductive rights is not static, what happens if/when there are changes to that doctrine that negatively impacts the availability of women's medical care at the hospital? How will the hospital accommodate those changes? More important, have specific baseline criteria for women's health care at UofL hospital been established that would nullify the merger if they cannot be maintained?
4. How does the merger affect pharmacy services at the UofL hospital, particularly the availability of contraceptives and medical abortives (RU486)?
5. Through much of academic year 2010-2011 Dean Halperin spoke to medical school faculty & students and raised serious questions about the merger.  This summer his message has turned about one hundred eighty degrees and he now supports the merger.  Why?  What has changed to alleviate all his previous concerns?
6. Full page ads from CHI UofL-Jewish in Sunday's paper extol the financial benefits of merger.  Like any merger of business entities, merger produces advantages--eliminating unnecessary duplication, combining some office, getting more efficient single management.  And there will be a huge infusion of money into the merged entity---reports ate in the hundreds of millions, two hundred million to the medical school, from CHI.  Why is CHI wanting so desperately to put so much money into the merged entity?  What is CHI getting?
7. UofL-Jewish pledged that Roman Catholic ethical-medical directives will be observed to the fullest.  Roman Catholic directives are not, like the Ten Commandments, found in the Bible.  US Bishops have put together a summary, but Roman Catholic teaching also includes various letters and statements from Popes, Congregations in Rome,, etc.  And Cardinal George from Chicago has recently stated the bishops' support for the Bishop of Phoenix who excommunicated a sister at whose hospital an abortion was performed to save a woman's life--because Roman Catholic teaching is whatever the local bishop says it is when he says it. The merged hospitals would be subject to whatever the person who happened to be bishop of Louisville or Lexington happened to say that day. How will consistency of care and opportunities be maintained in the merged hospitals with a bishop in charge?
8. Much attention has been spent on tube-tying in connecting with a C-section & that is one real issue.  But there are many issues--in cancer trials on pre-menopausal women and many on men two contraceptives are required.  Can the Cancer Center require contraception if Catholic teaching forbids any use of contraception?  And of course we all remember the Terry Sciavo case--Terry's parents were advised by a Catholic to insist that life-preserving procedures be continued.  What of end-of-life issues?
9. This is a real situation that happened to a friend of a friend: Many years ago when she was pregnant with her 4th child, she and her dr. decided upon a tubal ligation a few weeks or months after the birth and it was scheduled. Instead of a normal vaginal birth, she required an emergency C-section so she asked to have the tubal done right then and the dr. said that was the best time to do it - so she wouldn't need another surgical procedure. In a specific situation like that, how would it be handled at University Hospital? Would that dr. be allowed to do a tubal at that point? If so, how does that work within the rules of Catholic teachings applied to reproductive health? If not, how can it be justified as good medical practice to do 2 procedures instead of 1?