

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2003
RESEARCH BUILDING AUDITORIUM
(Approved 9/25/03)**

PRESENT: Areen, Bates, Clarke, Cleary, Danielson, Davis, Glazer, Haramati, Hauser, Iglarsh, Lamiell, Larsen, Lightfoot, Little, McFadden, S.J., Moscovitch, J. Murphy, J. O'Donnell, Owens, Richmond, Sedmak, Shad, Sistrunk, Tilden, J. P. Walsh, S.J.

The minutes from the May 14, 2003 Faculty Senate meeting were approved unanimously.

The slate of appointments of Medical Center faculty to Medical Center and University committees, proposed by the Medical Center Caucus, was approved unanimously.

The recommendations of the Grievance Code Review Committee were distributed, for discussion and approval at the September meeting.

Professor Haramati introduced Dr. Daniel Sedmak, the new Executive Vice President and Executive Dean of the Medical Center, who made a few remarks about his beliefs and goals for the Medical Center and the University, and answered a question from the floor.

Professor Haramati introduced the main topic for discussion, MedStar's decision to close the cardiac surgery unit at GUH. He noted that the Medical Center Caucus sent a letter to President DeGioia (distribute to the Senate) expressing its concerns regarding the decision, and briefly summarized a letter he had received from President DeGioia (distributed), which appears to have been written before he had received the letter from the Caucus.

A long and lively discussion ensued. Opinions were expressed regarding the Medstar-GU partnership. Questions regarding the rationale behind the decision were raised, and attempts at answers were provided. Questions regarding the impact of the decision on teaching, research, and LCME accreditation were raised.

Dr. Sedmak described MedStar's plans for avoiding such a situation in the future, and indicated that he is convinced the process will change.

The question of the irreversibility of the decision was discussed, and how President DeGioia and the Executive Committee were reacting.

Questions were raised about the economic effects of the decision on the Medical School and on the University; will it save Medstar money, but cost the University more money over time? Professor Davis asked Dr. Sedmak to investigate this issue, and he agreed to do so.

It was proposed that the Senate send a letter to President DeGioia and the Board of Directors expressing our concern that there has been a serious breach of the obligations of one of the parties to the Academic Affiliation Agreement (AAA) between Medstar and GU.

It was also suggested that we look further into legal redress.

The following motion was passed unanimously:

“The whole Senate endorses the letter from the Medical Center Caucus and requests direct, specific responses from the President on those issues.”

Professor Davis agreed to check with Counsel Jane Genster (University Counsel) about the seeming failure of MedStar to honor the requirement of 90 days notice, as required by the AAA. He also volunteered to work with Dr. Sedmak and Christopher Joyce (Treasurer) with regard to the issue of the cost of the decision to the University.

Another motion was made:

“The Faculty Senate requests that the Administration supply us at the earliest convenient moment with a satisfactory explanation of the time frame specified in the Academic Affiliation Agreement under which rules of this kind can be made effective, and whether or not in these circumstances the Academic Affiliation Agreement has been satisfied, and if not, what is proposed to remedy this problem.”

Professor Davis stated that basically, the rough idea of this motion is that we are asking the University to give its opinion as to what review period was required by the AAA before such a decision would be final, and any other aspects of the AAA that might not have been upheld, and what remedy the University planned to take. A reply is requested before expiration of the 90 day notice period. Professor Davis agreed to draft a ‘more gracious wording’ of this motion. This ‘amorphous motion’ was passed unanimously.

Dr. Sedmak reiterated that his primary concern is to represent the academic interests of the Medical School and the University.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

RBF/jhg