

May 20, 2010

To: University Senate

From: Senate Planning & Review Committee
Frances Jackson, Chair

Re: School of Medicine Proposal for the M.D. Degree

SPRC met on May 11, 2010. This meeting was scheduled at the request of the Senate to see if some of the issues raised in our previous SOM report could be resolved. The following were the key issues under discussions:

1. SOM Senate representation. Currently, the SOM constitution would allow a Beaumont physician is not full-time at OU to represent the SOM on the University Senate. SPRC found this to be unacceptable.
2. The role of the SOM Faculty Assembly is another key issue. A number of key committees, including the Curriculum Committee are listed as reporting an Associate Dean, not the SOM FA. Such a reporting structure is not justified by LCME criteria and does not reflect the governance culture at OU.
3. The powers of the Dean of the SOM to appoint a large number of SOM Committees and the Chairs of those committees.
4. The process of physician appointments to the SOM has not be fully described in any document given to SPRC.
5. A fifth concern is the need for some assurance that the pledges of support (financial) for the SOM will be honored.
6. International student admission is not described and no plans for admitting international students have been made.
7. The Constitution of the SOM needs to include a time-line by which faculty will elect their own committees and committee chairs.

Discussion

Linda Gillum attended the meeting as a representative from the SOM. Her responses to the above issues were as follows:

1. The SOM has gotten the message about Senate representation. Only OU-paid faculty will qualify for the position of SOM Senator.

2. The SOM understands that the role of FA and the issue of shared governance is a concern of the Senate. They are working to make sure the shared governance culture of OU will be reflected in the governance of the SOM.
3. Currently, there is no time line or deadline date for SOM faculty to elect their own committee members and Chairs. This is a continuing issue that was not resolved at this meeting.
4. The SOM Committee on Appointments and Promotions will more fully develop the process for awarding faculty rank and status to Beaumont physicians. This committee is one of a few that are elected by the faculty. Dr. Gillum also stated that consistent with the titles at OU, Special Lecturers will be removed from tenure/tenure-track consideration.
5. In terms of concerns about the finances, Dr. Gillum stated that these issues were addressed in the Affiliation Agreement between Beaumont and OU. She stated emphatically that approving the MD Degree would pose no risk to OU.
6. The SOM has no plans to admit international students. SPRC is content to let this issue drop.
7. The issue of which committees would report to the SOM FA was not resolved to the satisfaction of SPRC. It was not clear from the meeting which committees would report to the SOM FA and which would continue reporting to various SOM administrators. There was no agreement to add a timeline to the SOM constitution that would indicate at which point all SOM committees and chairs would be elected by the faculty.

One major area of concern to SPRC is a statement made by Dr. Gillum that the SOM intends to have bylaws which will address some issues raised by SPRC. SPRC was not relieved to hear this. Currently, the Senate constitution does not address the bylaws of its constituent bodies. It is our strong recommendation that the bylaws of all constituent bodies be reviewed to ensure they don't contain any provisions that rightly belong in the constitution and that the bylaws of the SOM will be reviewed as part of this process.