

Educating
Aggie
Docs
in Bryan/
College Station

Community Connection

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LETTER FROM CAMPUS DEAN

As the expansion of the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine in Bryan-College Station continues and as more physicians are joining the faculty, the roles and responsibilities of being a physician faculty member of the College of Medicine in this community are rapidly evolving.

Historically, physician faculty in Bryan-College Station participated in the academic mission to varying degrees. For some, the faculty appointment meant predominantly the preceptorship of second-year students. For other physicians, it meant participation in certain fourth-year medical student electives. For a few, the faculty appointment was largely symbolic, and not representative of any meaningful interaction or expectations between the college and physician.

The meaning of being a College of Medicine physician faculty member in Bryan-College Station is changing, as it must. With so many physicians making a commitment of time, expertise

and enthusiasm in teaching third- and fourth-year medical students and in other academic endeavors, the faculty appointment carries more robust and tangible substance. Symbolic faculty appointments which are not supported by meaningful contribution or effort on the part of the physician faculty have no place within the college.

Over time, a mutual commitment must develop between the College of Medicine and faculty members, with shared loyalty to the missions of excellence in patient care, teaching, and research. A faculty member should expect that the college will provide the resources required to achieve academic excellence, support the faculty member's academic development and foster a collegial culture of academic medicine. The College of Medicine should expect that faculty will represent the college with the highest skill and professionalism, should be loyal to the values of the college and will demonstrate tireless commitment to students and trainees. These shared commitments and

expectations ultimately create value—this is the value that comes with a faculty appointment in the College of Medicine.

Along with the increased rigor of mutual commitment comes increased rigor of documentation. National accreditation standards and good stewardship compel a complete packet of supporting documentation of education, training and background for all faculty members. While currently being applied to new incoming physician faculty, existing faculty should also expect to be required to update their documentation materials and participate in review of their titles and departments, as existing faculty appointments are reviewed and brought up to current College of Medicine standards.

Fundamentally, appointment to the faculty of the College of Medicine in Bryan-College Station is a shared, two-way commitment between physician and college to excellence in patient care, teaching, and research.



Jonathan A. Friedman, M.D.
Associate Dean – Bryan/College Station Campus



TEXAS A&M
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Faculty Appointment: Process, Flow Chart, Guidelines & Documentation

Initial Appointment Process

1

Each Campus Dean will gather all the necessary and primary information on the prospective faculty member in a timely and accurate fashion.

2

Each Campus Dean will communicate with the chair of the department in which the prospective faculty member will be appointed. Campus Dean letters recommending appointment shall reflect mutual agreement with the department chair.

3

Each Campus Dean will forward the prospective faculty appointment information to the Office of Academic Affairs.

4

The Office of the Dean will review the appointment information.

5

At the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting all new prospective faculty appointments will be voted on for approval by the COM Executive Committee.

6

The Office of Academic Affairs will enter the faculty appointment information into the faculty database.

7

Following approval by the COM Executive Committee, the appointments will be forwarded to the HSC President for final approval.

Annual Appointment Process

1

Each Campus Dean will notify the Office of the Dean when faculty leave or are no longer considered COM clinical faculty.

2

In March, the Office of the Dean will distribute a list of all faculty members by clinical campus to the Campus Dean.

3

The Campus Dean will verify that the faculty list is up-to-date and accurate, and faculty are meeting appointment criteria. This will be accomplished through department chairs (Temple Campus), residency program directors (Corpus Christi Campus), or through clerkship site coordinators (Bryan-College Station Campus and Round Rock Campus).

4

The COM Executive Committee will vote to reappoint the individual faculty members at the June meeting.

5

The Office of the Dean will verify and update the faculty database.

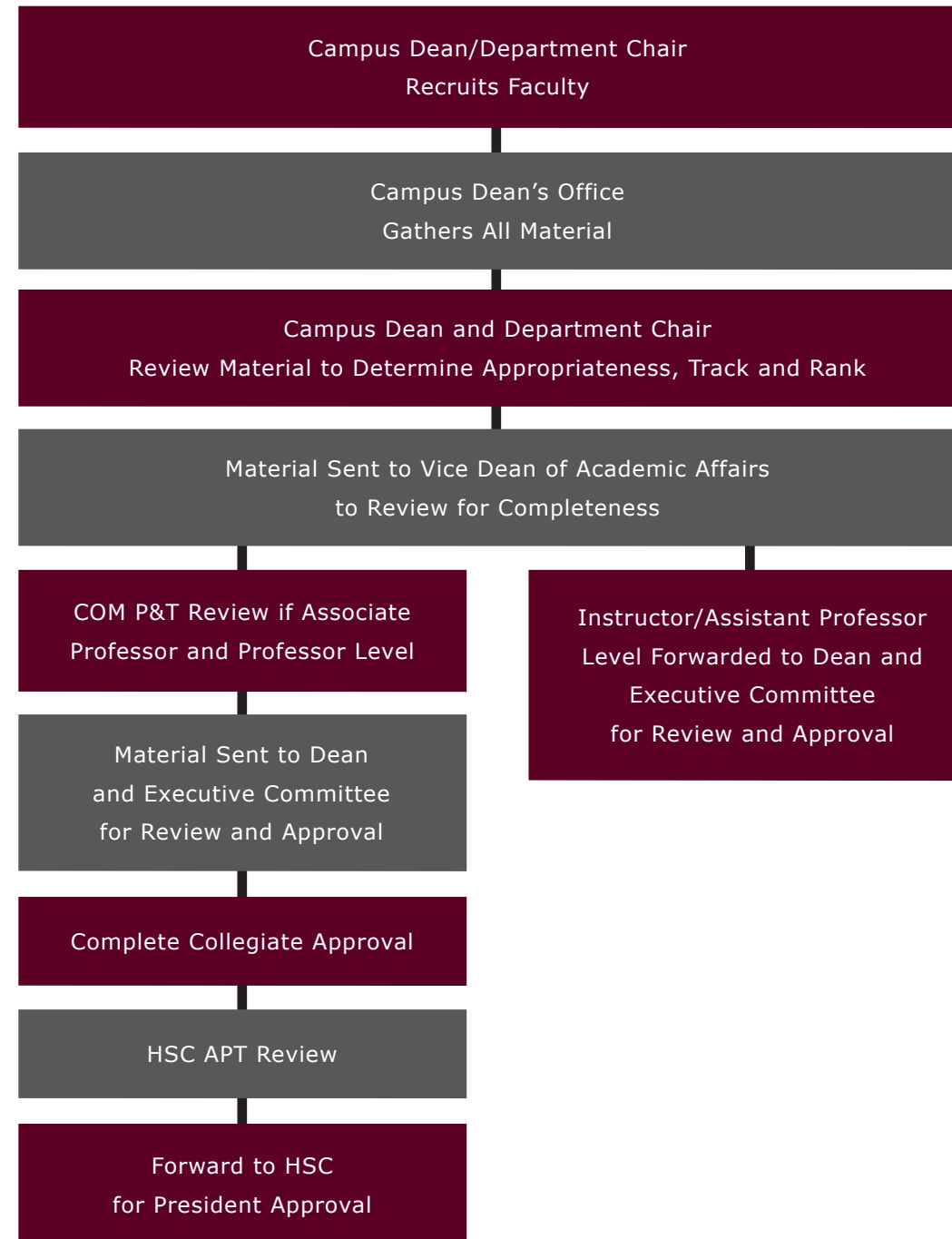
6

The Office of the Dean will distribute faculty appointment certificates in September of each year to all clinical faculty with a one year appointment from September 1 to August 31.

7

The updated list will be transmitted to the HSC Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Faculty Appointment Flow Chart



Faculty Appointment Guidelines

for Principal/Non-Principal Faculty

Principal Faculty

Principal faculty may hold the rank of:

- Professor
- Associate Professor
- Assistant Professor

To be considered for a principal faculty appointment, a faculty member must make significant contributions to the HSC's academic mission in at least one of the following areas:

- Education
- Research
- Professional service outside the institution, such as service on national/international professional organizations, government service, etc.

Non-Principal Faculty

Non-principal faculty may hold the rank of:

- Clinical Professor
- Clinical Associate Professor
- Clinical Assistant Professor

Non-principal faculty appointments are for those individuals who contribute to the HSC mission through part-time or voluntary participation in education and/or research, and do not meet any of the criteria listed for the definition of principal faculty.

Faculty Appointment Documentation

Increased rigor of documentation is required for all faculty appointments – new appointments and reappointments. This ensures compliance with all accrediting bodies and improves record keeping.

Faculty appointments are initiated by the office of the campus dean. The following documents are required in the faculty appointment process:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Official Transcript (UME)
- Copy of Current Medical License
- Copy of Board Certificate
- Verification of Post-Graduate Training

Teaching Family Medicine in the Brazos Valley

By: Mark English, M.D., Family Medicine Clerkship Director

Family Medicine is as synonymous to Brazos Valley health care as the relationship between the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine and a quality education. Pulling all of these elements together during the past year has resulted in a first class educational experience for the students and an improved level of health care for residents of the Brazos Valley.

Medical students spend six weeks with us during the Family Medicine block, during which they spend four and a half weeks in a Family Medicine clinic seeing outpatients, one week seeing hospitalized patients and two half days per week in lecture, workshops, simulation centers, etc. One of the strengths of our rotation is the opportunity to have direct one-on-one relationship with our faculty.

In the summer of 2007, the College of Medicine began a pilot project utilizing the Family Medicine department, along with Pediatrics and OB/GYN, to begin teaching clinical medicine to students here in the local community. Our department was filled throughout the year with some highly adventuresome students who helped us mold an excellent educational experience that is becoming a model for other sites



Third- and fourth-year medical students completing clinical rotations in Bryan-College Station kick off the academic year.

throughout the college. We were fortunate to be so strongly supported by our Temple colleagues who have been teaching students for more than 30 years and developed a student-friendly, efficient infrastructure. By utilizing the local resources and strengths available to us here in the Brazos Valley, we have been able to help revise the program and improve the family medicine experience for students.

Summer 2008, our faculty began taking on the responsibility of delivering all of the workshops, lectures, and simulation exercises that had been previously delivered in Temple. We have seen tremendous early success for our students due to the outstanding support of our faculty. Physicians at the College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency (previously known as Brazos Family Medicine Residency) spent countless hours with our students in the St. Joseph Regional Hospital setting, while the College Station Medical Center's Emergency Medicine faculty helped direct the students in the Simulation Center. Additionally, the faculty at the Scott & White Clinic not only served as preceptors for the students, but helped deliver practical lectures and workshops

focusing on "common things occurring commonly" in family medicine.

We have also been blessed that in addition to our current educators, physicians have been coming out of the woodwork to get involved in teaching these students. While the local clinical training program ramps up, our initial student numbers have been limited. However, we anticipate hosting more and more medical students in our community, allowing them to receive the "hands-on" practical experience we pride ourselves on providing. That said, we will increasingly need to tap more of our valuable community resources over the next few years.

We are pleased that all the preliminary student reviews have been overwhelmingly positive and that they have been performing exceptionally well on their examinations. The Family Medicine department is honored to have the opportunity to teach these medical students, and we are excited about the future of the department and the College of Medicine as we strive to educate the best doctors and care for the residents of the Brazos Valley.

Contact Us

Jonathan A Friedman, M.D.
Associate Dean
3201 University Drive, Suite 410
Bryan, TX 77802
Phone: 979-776-5208

Becky Richards
Administrative Coordinator
3201 University Drive, Suite 410
Bryan, TX 77802
Phone: 979-776-5208
richards@medicine.tamhsc.edu

Danielle Dickey
Lead Campus Coordinator
2801 Franciscan Drive
Bryan, TX 77802
Phone: 979-845-1805
dmdickey@medicine.tamhsc.edu

Family & Community Medicine
Director: Mark English, M.D.
Coordinator: Teri Musia
108 Reynolds Bldg.
tsmusia@medicine.tamhsc.edu
(979) 845-7829

Internal Medicine
Director: Richard Dusold, M.D.
Coordinator: Shandala Terry
2801 Franciscan Drive
Bryan, TX 77802
smterry@medicine.tamhsc.edu
979-845-1805

Obstetrics & Gynecology
Director: William Price, M.D.
Coordinator: Nancy Sheffield
2801 Franciscan Drive
Bryan, TX 77802
sheffield@medicine.tamhsc.edu
979-845-1805

Pediatrics
Director: Betty-Ann Svendsen, M.D.
Coordinator: Nancy Sheffield
2801 Franciscan Drive
Bryan, TX 77802
sheffield@medicine.tamhsc.edu
979-845-1805

Psychiatry
Director: Richard DeVaul, M.D.
Coordinator: Rachel DeLeon
2801 Franciscan Drive
Bryan, TX 77802
deleon@medicine.tamhsc.edu
979-845-1805

Surgery
Directors: Bruce Hoak, M.D.
David Parrent, M.D.
Coordinator: Rachel DeLeon
2801 Franciscan Drive
Bryan, TX 77802
deleon@medicine.tamhsc.edu
979-845-1805