

December 3, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

The Gainesville and Jacksonville Faculty Councils are pleased to present to you the COM constitution which is an excellent example of shared governance (joint effort of faculty and administration).

“Shared governance in the academic mission of the University is collaborative participation of administrators and faculty in the decision and policy making process. The purpose of shared governance is to provide avenues for University improvement and productivity through the creation of a partnership based on mutual respect and collaboration. Each academic unit shall have a representative faculty body (with leadership elected by the faculty) that acts on behalf of the faculty and is charged with developing, implementing, and overseeing shared governance in collaboration with administration.” as stated by the University of Florida Faculty Senate/Presidential Joint Task Force on the Implementation of Shared Governance Structure Report.

The University of Florida has embraced shared governance as a means to improve the University and our own College of Medicine. In 2006, the College of Medicine appointed a Shared Governance Task Force. Over the course of the last 12 months, the Task Force has worked closely with the Faculty Councils on the Gainesville and Jacksonville campuses to write a Constitution for the College of Medicine.

The Faculty Councils on both campuses enthusiastically endorse this constitution.

Dr. Bruce Kone, Dean of the College of Medicine and Dr. Robert Nuss, Dean of the Regional Campus in Jacksonville strongly support the constitution.

The Constitution is now ready for a faculty vote of approval. The Constitution will become active after a majority of the Faculty (50% plus one of all of the Faculty) has approved the document (not a majority of those voting). For that reason, an abstention is functionally a vote against approval. So, the Faculty Councils and the Deans’ Offices will be actively seeking your participation in voting – either “yes” or “no”. We ask that all faculty carefully review the proposed Constitution and submit your vote. From December 4, 2007 – January 31, 2008, on-line voting will be available to you through the following link:

For additional information and background, we encourage you to access the UF COM Faculty Council web page: Gainesville: <http://www.med.ufl.edu/work/fc/> Jacksonville: <http://www.hscj.ufl.edu/medicine/fc/default.asp>. If you have questions, we and your faculty council representatives are available.

We thank you for your commitment to shared governance.

Most sincerely,

Rebecca R. Pauly, MD  
President – Faculty Council Gainesville  
University of Florida College of Medicine Faculty Council

Martin Northup, MD  
President – Faculty Council Jacksonville  
University of Florida College of Medicine Faculty Council