

Bylaws of the Basic Sciences Faculty Steering Committee

I. Preamble

On May 4, 1987, the faculty of the basic sciences departments of the Duke University School of Medicine met as a whole and voted to establish and elect a Faculty Coordinating Committee for the Development of the Basic Sciences. The Coordinating Committee was charged with drafting a plan for the reorganization and development of the basic sciences departments. The Coordinating Committee's report, which was approved by a vote of the basic sciences faculty on October 9, 1987, furnished the blueprint for subsequent development and faculty governance in the basic medical sciences at Duke Medical Center.

In adopting the Coordinating Committee's report, the basic sciences faculty replaced the Coordinating Committee with a permanent body of elected faculty representatives, the Basic Sciences Faculty Steering Committee, which serves as a faculty senate for the basic sciences. The job of the Steering Committee is to ensure that faculty opinions are ascertained, articulated, and voiced in all debates and decisions involving the interests of the basic sciences faculty.

II. Membership of the Faculty Steering Committee

The Faculty Steering Committee for the Basic Sciences shall consist of one member from each basic sciences department and one member from each section that has at least four tenure track faculty members in addition to its chairperson. Any tenure track faculty member with a primary appointment in a basic sciences department or section, other than the chairperson of that department or section, is eligible to be nominated and elected as its representative to the Faculty Steering Committee. In Basic Science departments where the number of tenure track faculty represents less than 50% of the total faculty, non-tenure track faculty members from that department are eligible to serve as its representative to the Basic Sciences Faculty Steering Committee.

In the event that a department or section ceases to exist, its representative to the Faculty Steering Committee shall continue to serve as a member of the committee at large until the next election of representatives to the Faculty Steering Committee. A member of the Steering Committee who becomes a temporary or interim chairperson of a department or section may serve out the remainder of his or her term if a majority of the other members of the Steering Committee vote to allow this. A member of the Steering Committee who is appointed to serve as the permanent chairperson of a department or section shall resign from the Steering Committee and be replaced by the alternate representative from that department or section, following the procedures in these by-laws governing the resignation of representatives to the Steering Committee.

III. Election Procedures

Members of the Steering Committee are elected to two-year terms. One cohort of its members shall be elected in odd-numbered years and the remainder in even-numbered years, to ensure continuity. The two cohorts shall contain the same number of representatives, or as close to the same number as possible.

Members of the Steering Committee shall be elected by vote of the entire basic sciences faculty on the first Monday in May of every year. During the first three months of a year in which the term of a Steering Committee member is due to expire, the faculty of the department or section represented by that member shall meet to nominate three candidate successors, who shall be chosen by a secret ballot. The current Steering Committee member shall help to count the ballots, verify the eligibility and willingness of the three nominees, and forward their names to the

presiding officer of the Steering Committee on or before the first Monday in April. That officer shall devise a ballot listing all the nominees for each department and see to it that one copy is distributed to each member of the basic sciences faculty at least one week prior to the date of the election. Faculty may vote for one nominee from each of the departments listed. For each department or section, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes from the entire basic sciences faculty shall become the representative to the Steering Committee. The second- and third-place candidates shall become first and second alternates respectively, and shall succeed in that order to the Steering Committee in the event of the resignation or indisposition of the elected representative. If and when it becomes necessary to choose additional alternates, they shall be elected by the faculty of the department or section they are to represent.

A presiding officer of the Steering Committee shall be elected by a majority vote at the committee's first meeting following each annual election, and at any other time following the resignation or indisposition of the presiding officer. Members who are acting chairpersons of departments or sections are not eligible to preside over the Faculty Steering Committee.

IV. Duties of the Faculty Steering Committee

It shall be the responsibility of the Faculty Steering Committee for the Basic Sciences to consider and make proposals to the Medical Center administration regarding all aspects of education, faculty development, faculty research and teaching activities, and other functions of the Medical Center involving the basic sciences faculty. The Steering Committee will also serve as a conduit for the transmission and dissemination of ideas and issues between the Medical Center administration and the basic sciences faculty. The Steering Committee will undertake to survey faculty opinion and form faculty committees when necessary to meet these responsibilities. Individual members of the committee are expected to keep the faculty of the departments and sections they represent informed on all matters of consequence that come before the committee.

The Faculty Steering Committee shall serve as a committee on committees for the basic sciences faculty. In that capacity, it shall nominate faculty to serve on standing and ad hoc committees in the Medical Center and present these nominations to the administrative officer empowered to form the committees in question. Administrators are of course free to consult any faculty they wish on an individual basis, but should seek nominations and approval from the Faculty Steering Committee in all situations where the opinions of a faculty member are to be construed as representative of basic sciences faculty opinion. It is expected that an administrative officer will not appoint basic sciences faculty representatives to standing advisory committees without seeking nominations from the Faculty Steering Committee. The administrative officer may suggest nominees to the Steering Committee if he or she so wishes. If the faculty nominated by the Steering Committee are unacceptable to the administrative officer, he or she should return to the Steering Committee to seek additional nominations.

Except in emergencies, it is expected that all major plans and decisions of the Medical Center administration that significantly affect academic affairs will be submitted to the Faculty Steering Committee so that it can solicit and articulate faculty views before those plans and decisions are implemented or submitted to the university's president or Board of Trustees. The presiding officer of the Steering Committee will see to it that the faculty's views are represented to the administrators or trustees of the university when proposals involving the Medical Center are presented to them for their consideration.

The Faculty Steering Committee shall be responsible for scheduling, announcing, and presiding over a general meeting of the basic sciences faculty of the School of Medicine at least once annually during the spring or fall semesters of the academic year. At that meeting, the presiding

officer of the Steering Committee will report to the faculty on the committee's deliberations and actions during the preceding year. The chief administrative officers of the Medical Center and the School of Medicine shall also be invited to attend this meeting and present reports on matters of faculty concern for open discussion.

- V. Procedure for amending the Basic Sciences Faculty Steering Committee bylaws
Bylaws of the Basic Sciences Faculty Steering Committee may be amended by a majority of those members of the basic science faculty present at a meeting of the Basic Sciences Faculty Steering Committee, provided that the text of any proposed amendment has been circulated to the members of the basic sciences faculty at least two weeks prior to any such meeting.