Employee Council General Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2007  
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Rita Ann Rollins Room, School of Public Health, 8th Floor

**Member Attendees:**  
Adiri, Yaffa  
Clawson, Margaret  
Hinson, Katherine  
Ndubuizu, Iruka  
Worthy, Robin  
Ali, Yasmin  
Derry, Michael  
King, Linda  
Sheldon, Linda  
Asherman, Laurie  
Engelhardt, Matt  
Long, Nina  
Stewart, Glenda  
Blackmon, Melissa  
Garrett Bell, Jamila  
Luehrs, Karen  
Varnado, Margie  
Chebat, Patricia  
Goetz, Betty  
Murray, Margaret  
Woods, Tracy

**Alternate Attendees:**  
Doherty, Susan  
James, Jonetta

**Excused Absences:**  
Ashley, Sharon  
Howard, Marsha  
Morgan, Sian  
Shema, Judy

**Welcome**  
President Iruka Ndubuizu welcomed all members to the meeting and introduced today’s speaker-Dr. James W. Curran, Dean, Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) and Director, Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)

**Dr. James W. Curran**  
Dr. Curran began by telling us about his background. He was with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 24 years mainly working on AIDS research. He became Dean of the RSPH in 1995. He is Director of CFAR which is the largest Center in the world with over $55 million dollars in research funds and 7,000 patients. Two of the most common drugs used to treat AIDS were developed through CFAR at Emory.

He then went on to tell us about the RSPH. It was established in 1990 and was the first new school at Emory University in 72 years. They have students from over 37 countries and 47 states. The students speak more than 55 languages. Currently the school has 150 students working outside the USA doing practicum or thesis work. Minorities make up 40% of the student body and is considered very diverse. The school’s focus is on the health of the population rather than the health of the individual. Prevention is the key principle taught in the RSPH.

The RSPH is a graduate institution with degrees in the following:

**Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)**  
Behavioral Sciences  
Biostatistics  
Environmental and Occupational Health  
Epidemiology  
Global Environmental Health  
Health Education  
Health Policy  
Health Services Management  
Global Health  
Masters International Program (with Peace Corps)

**Distance Learning: Career MPH**  
Prevention Option  
Healthcare Outcomes  
Applied Epidemiology
He then went on to tell us about the new RSPH Building. This new 9 story building will consist of 190,000 sq. feet and will provide additional space to allow the school to increase the number of faculty as well as to enhance the school’s doctoral program. Construction will commence in May 2008.

When asked how the RSPH was incorporating the University’s strategic themes, Dr. Curran went on to explain that the RSPH is working toward, as always, the international goals of the University through research and work with the CDC, CARE, WHO and other international and national agencies. He also went on to explain how the school works with the university to enhance the work climate as well as work-life balance, by working closely with FSAP and HR on marketing and surveying the Emory community.

Old Business

Minutes from the 11/14/07 Meeting were approved as written.

Kathleen Brennan, Treasurer, was absent and no treasurer’s report was given.

New Business

Betty Goetz, Historian, gave a brief history of the School of Public Health. Her notes are attached.

Robin Worthy, working with the Red Cross has scheduled the first blood drive for February 29th in the Rita Ann Rollins Room-RSPH 8th Floor. This blood drive will be jointly sponsored with RSPH and posters will be ready by the next meeting.

Prior to breaking up into caucus the topic of Staff Fest was discussed. An impromptu poll was taken to see who liked it the way it currently is and who did not. Suggestions were asked for as to how it should be changed. Some of the suggestions were: make it later in the day and everyone go home after; have 2 food lines so it moves faster; make it University staff only (this was a big issue to which most were in favor). As a result the suggestion box committee will be looking into staff recognition programs as a whole and any suggestions should be sent to Matt Engelhardt via e-mail.

Caucuses-

Membership (Chair Laurie Asherman): Make sure people are signing in and that if you are going to be absent that you e-mail Laurie and not Iruka.

Communications (Chair Katherine Hinson): Website is in progress. Themes for town hall were discussed.

Special Interest (Chair Matt Engelhardt):

Benefits: PCORE is putting forward a proposal in collaboration with the Council for staff renewal leave and will forward to the Council for review. Iruka indicated that she was not aware of the said collaboration.
Career Advancement: Continuing to look into career ladders and evaluations. Working on a vehicle to create tools or a tool kit to assist employees in promoting themselves.

Suggestion box group: Discussed Staff Fest alternatives - Six Flags, Stone Mountain Park, etc. No one is really happy with what is going on. There must be a better way to show staff appreciation and they will be looking into that.

Next meeting: January 16, 2008 in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Room 201
Emory’s role in public health dates back to the continuation of providing medical care to the indigent population through Grady Memorial Hospital which was provided by Atlanta Medical College before its merger into Emory University in 1915. The advent of a program focused on public health can be traced to the attempt to control malaria in rural Georgia. Robert Woodruff enlisted the assistance of Emory physicians and scientists in establishing a research and treatment center at his Ichauway Plantation in Baker County in southwest Georgia.

In 1958 Robert Woodruff purchased land adjacent to the Emory campus and gave it to Emory to donate to the federal government to persuade them to relocate the fledgling CDC from downtown Atlanta to the Emory area. This initiated the close partnership between Emory School of Medicine and the CDC. Through the 60’s and the 70’s Emory recruited adjunct faculty from CDC for their rapidly growing Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health program. Emory focused in a curriculum leading to a master of community health degree, a program which dealt with practical issues such as vaccinations and containment programs to begin to eradicate dreaded diseases such as smallpox and polio. This distinguished it from other highly academic public health programs which were somewhat isolated from the actual practice of public health. The first students were admitted to the program in 1975. The program which catered to midcareer professionals and offered additional courses at Morehouse College, Georgia Tech, Agnes Scott, Georgia State and other divisions at Emory. There were six students in the first graduating class, and classes remained small and ran a deficit through the 70’s.

In 1982 the Department of Community Health offered a part-time position to Dr. Eugene Gangarosa who had created a similar program at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon, but was forced to flee Lebanon due to civil war. Dr. Gangarosa recruited additional adjunct faculty from CDC and increased fourfold the number of courses offered. By the mid-80’s, the program was no longer running at a deficit.

In the late 1980’s, still as a division of the School of Medicine, space was leased from the new American Cancer Society headquarters, now known as the 1599 Building. The division became the School of Public Health in October, 1990 – the first new school added since the dental school merged with the University in 1944. Enrollment soared, and within five years the Rollins School of Public Health moved into the Grace Crum Rollins Building, named for its generous benefactor. The Rollins family has given an additional $50 million to the school which will allow it to more than double its present space. The building will occupy the present parking lot behind the nursing building and will have a connecting walkway from the existing building.