

2017 Faculty Senate Voter Guide Questionnaire



Candidate for: Secretary, Bradley McConnell

College: Pharmacy

Department: Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Years at UH: 9-years (since 2008)

Years on Senate: 4-years (since 2013)

Please provide a brief description of your activities in the following areas for the past five years.

Service (including Faculty Senate):

Dr. McConnell is committed to professional and academic service that is also integral toward supporting the University's mission to be a nationally competitive public research university. In particular, Dr. McConnell has had the privilege to serve on a number of University, College, Department and National academic activities. These activities include, in part, the following: University: Faculty Senator (FS), FS – Graduate & Professional Studies Council (GPSC), FS – Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC), FS – Faculty Affairs Committee's Travel Policy Subcommittee Chair, FS – Community & Government Relations Committee (CGRC), and Genomic Core Faculty Advisory Committee; College: Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Chair, Pharm.D. Accreditation – Standards for Organization & Administration Accreditation Subcommittee Chair, Research Committee, Scholarship and Student Affairs Committee, Faculty Awards Committee, and Budget Advisory Committee; Department: Cardiovascular Faculty Search Committee Chair, Doctoral Program Review – Pharmacological and Pharmaceutics Self-Study Administration & Resources Sub-Committee Chair, Graduate Education Committee (GEC), and Faculty Evaluation Committee; National: American Heart Association's (AHA) Basic Cardiovascular Section (BCVS) Programming Committee, American Physiological Society's (APS) Translational Physiology Interest Group (TPIG) Programming Committee, American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics' (ASPET) Cardiovascular Division (CVD) Selection and Programming Committee.

Overall, Dr. McConnell's goal is to continue to be an important contributor towards the University, College, Department, and National activities and thus significantly contribute toward the mission of the University through *teaching, research and service*. In 2015, Dr. McConnell was the recipient of the UH College of Pharmacy Faculty Award for Excellence in Service. In 2016, Dr. McConnell also graduated from Provost Short's Cougar Chairs Leadership Academy (CCLA), a University of Houston leadership and professional development year-long program.

Scholarship/Research:

Dr. McConnell's research focuses on cardiac and skeletal muscle function in both normal and disease conditions. Specifically, the projects in Dr. McConnell's laboratory focuses on the genetics, physiology and pharmacology of muscle function with the hope to better understand cell communication — the signaling pathways — involved in normal and pathophysiological conditions. With an increased understanding of cell signaling mechanisms, it is Dr. McConnell's and his research team's goal to discover new therapeutic strategies to restore and/or enhance function during heart and skeletal muscle disease. Specifically, Dr. McConnell's research team studies (a) the characterization of scaffolding proteins (A-kinase Anchoring Proteins; AKAPs) in β -adrenergic receptor (β -AR) and local subcellular signaling; (b) the development of reprogrammed progenitor cells to form mature cardiac cells and engineered heart muscle for cardiac repair following a myocardial infarction (i.e. heart attack); and (c) the development of a gene activation system and delivery strategy to treat peripheral artery disease (PAD)-like induced skeletal muscle atrophy.

Dr. McConnell's research is currently supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health's (NIH's) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) "*Scaffolding Protein Interaction Network Regulates Cardiac Cell Signaling*" and "*Molecular Mechanism of Dilated Cardiomyopathy*" as the principal investigator as well as grants from the NIH's National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) and the American Heart Association (AHA) as co-investigator. In addition, he has authored and co-authored numerous articles in leading journals, as well as serving as a reviewer. Dr. McConnell's research and scholarly activity has been nationally recognized; which has led to appointments of Fellow of the American Heart Association (F.A.H.A.) and Fellow of the American Physiological Society's (F.A.P.S) Cardiovascular Division.

Teaching:

Dr. McConnell has made a commitment to become "the best teacher-scholar possible." He continues to achieve this goal through innovative educational approaches and by conducting novel research in order to provide a well-executed integration of both education and research. Dr. McConnell aims to develop future leaders who are curious and engaged in intellectual inquiry, who can think critically and communicate effectively, and who will have a keener understanding—if not a full-fledged passion—for the STEM fields.

Dr. McConnell teaches in both his college's Pharmacy Doctorate (Pharm.D.) professional program and his department's Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical (Ph.D.) graduate programs. In the Pharm.D. program, he currently teaches in *Organ Systems Life Sciences II* (PHAR 4421) and the *Skills Lab - Organ Systems Life Sciences II* (PHAR 4251). In the Ph.D. program, he currently teaches in *Cellular Pharmacology* (PCOL 7350) and is the course director and teaches in *Cardiovascular and Renal Pharmacology* (PCOL 6462) and *Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Seminar* (PCOL 6180). Although the College of Pharmacy is a professional college and does not offer degrees to undergraduates, Dr. McConnell seeks to include undergraduates in his laboratory research, and is also actively involved in various undergraduate programs, such as the Honor's College and the selection of Tier One Scholars. In

2016, Dr. McConnell was the recipient of the UH Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

What are the three (3) most important issues you would like to see addressed by the Faculty Senate next year?

- (1)** To foster the University's role in enabling educational resources and access to STEM, arts and healthcare to both within the university community as well as the local surrounding community.
- (2)** To support the University's mission in promoting basic and applied research and scholarship excellence to undergraduate, graduate and professional students and trainees.
- (3)** To continue to promote shared governance with the University's administration in promoting excellence in scholarly and creative activities, teaching effectiveness, and professional and academic services.