

## Minutes

### **Academic Environment Council Meeting January 24, 2019**

**10:00 am - 11:00 am  
Dental Dean's Conference Room, AG012**

Present: Drs. A. Dhingra, K. Gupta, N. Khandelwal, B. Kream, C. Lottinger, E. Reichenberger, and H. Tennen

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

#### Welcome and General Introductions

Dr. Reichenberger welcomed the group and thanked them for their participation in the Council on Academic Environment. He invited the members to introduce themselves. The bylaws state that the term limits are three years, but there is an option to renew. The current roster is available online.

#### Vote for the Chair of the Council on Academic Environment

Dr. Dhingra was unanimously elected to be the Chair of the Council on Academic Environment. Congratulations Dr. Dhingra!

#### Charge of the Council on Academic Environment

The Council on Academic Environment is one committee of the Dental Senate. The Education Council focuses on curriculum and other changes made to education components for predoc, postdoc and grad students. The Research Council is charged with everything research. One area of focus for the Research Council presently is funding research projects for students and residents. Dr. Kream noted that there is a master list in the Graduate Office of opportunities for student research.

Mandatory department reviews are held every 7 years in the medical school. The dental school has not had department reviews in some time. The primary charge for the Council on Academic Environment is department reviews. This council can use the medical school's guidelines as a template, make modifications as necessary and bring it back to the Dental Senate for further discussion.

Faculty has commented that they are not involved early enough in the decision-making processes. This council will allow faculty to make decisions earlier.

Dr. Reichenberger will distribute via email the bylaws of the medical school and the surveys that are used. Please review and make changes/suggestions. Dr. Dhingra can

meet with Dr. Nissen to review the survey questions that the medical school currently uses.

On the medical side, there is an oversight committee led by Dr. Les Bernstein charged with making sure department reviews are completed. The major work on the reviews is done by Donna Patterson and Dr. Kiki Nissen of the faculty development office. On the dental side, it will be the Dean's office. The Dean's office will need to schedule and organize the review committee. It should consist of two members from UConn Health, at least one senior member from the dental school and at least one external member.

Once the Council reviews the necessary documents and makes revisions, the Dental Senate discusses. From there, the Dean will review and act on the Senate's recommendations. Dr. Reichenberger has three examples of department reviews that he will share with the committee.

Some items that reviewers should concentrate on when conducting a department review are the quality of faculty, clinical services, and research within the divisions and departments. Does research have the facilities they need? How do residents perceive the help they get from department and from the Dean? Is the current leadership style effective?

The next meeting of the Council on Academic Environment will take place on Thursday, February 21, 2019 from 10:00 – 11:00 am, room to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ajay Dhingra, BDS, MDS, MSD  
Chair, Academic Environment Council