

Minutes

Dental Senate Meeting June 4, 2019

**11:30 am – 12:15 pm
L6053**

Present: Drs. E. Reichenberger (chair), H.L. Aguila, S. Antic, I. Chen, J. Cotney, J. Duncan, A. Gopalakrishna, R. Kelly, L. Kuhn, E. Natarajan, T. Schmidt, and J. Wagner

Excused: Drs. J. Agar, M. Brown, E. Dutra, P. Epstein, S. Gordon, T. Liang, R. Manley, F. Nichols, J. Picuch, E. Ress, A. Schuyler, L. Song, R. Stevens, Y. Wang and Q.Zhu

Guests: Dr. A. Dhingra, E. Eisenberg, R. Kazemi, and S. Lepowsky

Meeting was called to order at 11:35 am.

Activity Reports from Councils and discussions

Council on Academic Environment by Dr. Ajay Dhingra

Dr. Ajay Dhingra spoke to the group about department reviews. The SDM currently does not have departmental reviews. UConn Medical School currently reviews departments every seven years. The SoM Faculty Affairs office and 2 SoM Departments generously provided review guidelines and actual reviews to the Academic Environment Council. The Council has adapted the SoM review guidelines to the needs of the SDM. The objective of a departmental review is to review the effectiveness of the Department Head, faculty, space, staff and strengths, weaknesses and needs.

Department reviews are triggered by the Dental Senate and the Dean will initiate the review process. The department head will have approximately one year advance notice.

The three major components of the department review will be a self-study by the department, an anonymous survey for department members to voice their opinions or concerns and a review committee to conduct interviews of department members (faculty, staff, students/residents) and evaluate the self study. A full report will be prepared and provided to the Dean and an executive summary will be available for the public.

The self-study by the department in a ten month time frame. The Dean will receive the document two months in advance of the department interview. The charge of the committee is to provide a comprehensive evaluation and recommendations. The results will be transmitted to the Dean's office or a designee.

One word of caution came from the group regarding the timing of the implementation with regard to the upcoming accreditation. Additionally, it was noted that one department does not currently have a department head.

Council on Research by Dr. Robert Kelly

The Research Council has discussed several topics over the past few months including post-award grant support. The department of Reconstructive Sciences has been helped tremendously, however, other departments are also in need of this support. The Research Office is currently in the process to avail this system to the entire SDM.

Another topic that was discussed was the need for a science grant writer.

A third item that the Research Council is looking into is the culture of peer review for grants before submission. Dr. Aguila, from the Medical School, has organized a system of peer review at the SoM. He and his reviewers have reviewed grants from every discipline and from different levels of faculty from senior to junior. The School of Dental Medicine is looking into adopting a similar system.

Council on Education by Drs. Reza Kazemi and Ellen Eisenberg

The Education Council's mission is to oversee the development, modification, evaluation and effectiveness of educational programs whether there is room for development or whether a course should be eliminated if necessary. They make recommendations to the Dental Senate for final approval.

Some of the initiatives that the Education Council has worked on in the past include MDelta curriculum implementation, policies related to Financial Aid and PeopleSoft and CONNcept. Drs. Eisenberg and Kazemi put together a comprehensive document outlining concerns and giving suggestions about moving forward with the CONNcept model. There are a number of elements that still need to be ironed out. It was noted that there is some time sensitivity relative to when the class returns.

Due to time restrictions of this meeting, we did not have the opportunity to fully discuss the suggestions made regarding the implementation of the CONNcept model. As a result, an email vote on the recommendation of the Education Council was adopted. The Dental Senate voted to in favor of the recommendations of the Education Council regarding the implementation of CONNcept with 18 Yes, 2 No and 2 Abstain.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Reichenberger, PhD
Chair, Dental Senate