

Minutes of Dental Senate Steering Committee Meeting  
August 20, 2019

Present: Drs. Ernst Reichenberger, Hector Aguila, Tom Taylor, Paul Epstein, Dean Sharon Gordon and Frank Nichols

Absent: Easwar Natarajan

The meeting was called to order by the Senate Chair. Dr. Reichenberger announced that Patchnee Rungruanganunt will replace Dr. Agar in the Senate.

The meeting was devoted to the agenda for the next Dental Senate meeting in September. The following items were discussed:

1. The revised School of Dental Medicine (SDM) Bylaws are being reviewed by Health Center legal counsel. Following this review, the Dental Senate will evaluate and vote on the revised SDM Bylaws.
2. The revised Bylaws include a Departmental Review Policy which has been reviewed by an *ad hoc* committee of Senate representatives and two Division Chairs. The Senate will review and eventually vote on policy after revisions and after it has been reviewed by the Dean and the Executive Committee of the SDM. Dean Gordon suggested interfacing with the Medical School in order to share resources. Information Technology may be used for developing and implementing faculty surveys for departmental reviews. It was recommended that the Department Review Policy should be reviewed next by the Dental Senate.
3. The Education Council has approved changes to the Academic Integrity Board and is recommending that it be forwarded to the Dental Senate for approval. The Medical School has already approved the changes.
4. If time permits, the proposed Research Grant Review Policy will be discussed by the Dental Senate. This is a policy to provide for junior and senior investigators a process to have grant applications evaluated by faculty of the SDM and UConn Health. The Research Council has heard a plan for this process and agrees that it should be supported. Faculty mentoring in research is a major goal of this Policy.
5. Dean Gordon is urging the Dental Senate to look at our current process for evaluating research productivity and space allocation. Such a process should be first evaluated by the Research Council. Dean Gordon needs a contemporary evaluation for the purpose of making timely decisions about space allocation particularly for new faculty hires.

6. Dean Gordon also indicated that she will be organizing a future retreat for the purpose of strategic planning in research. This is in line with the announcement by our new University President who is proposing to double spending for research. Dean Gordon would like expansion of clinical research through the development of teams of investigators.
7. Regarding the UConn Health faculty satisfaction surveys recently conducted by the institution, Dean Gordon would like a group to evaluate the survey results specific to the SDM. Finally, Dean Gordon indicated that the Masters in Science program should be evaluated by the Education Council and the Dental Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.