

School of Dental Medicine Dental Senate
June 6, 2008 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M. by Dr. Frank Nichols, Chairman of the Dental Senate. There was a quorum present.

I. New Business

First item of business was the Health Center Research Strategic Plan. The other item that needed initiation was the process of an election of membership to the Academic Environment Council. This Committee is elected from the Dental Senate, four SDM faculty members and two basic science faculty.

The Education Council chairman is Dr. Reza Kazemi and the co-chair is Dr. Ellen Eisenberg. Dr. Nichols explained the composition of this committee and stated the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will be split because the title no longer exists. Drs. Steven Lepowsky and Arthur Hand will serve on this committee because their relative activity as respective Deans falls under this purview. One Department Head is needed to serve on this Committee; Dr. Thomas Taylor has agreed to be that person.

This Committee's immediate activities will be to review the appeals procedures for post graduate students and the ongoing curriculum review from two years ago. They will be looking at student surveys on courses, clinical teaching and extramural rotations. When students go to any off-site clinical rotation they will review that rotation before the end of their fourth year using an anonymous black board survey instrument that was set up last year. This is necessary to monitor any potential issues that may come up during the year. It is also a means by which the Senate can determine whether we need to modify the curriculum to make it more efficient.

Dr. Nichols sent a letter to each of the three department heads concerning either the existing clinical post graduate fellowship programs or programs that are being planned. Orthodontics is bringing in a number of post graduate fellows that are getting experience in clinical orthodontics at a level beyond what an undergraduate exposure would be. This education falls under the purview of the Senate and therefore the Education Council should review these programs. Senate has not received an outline for the post graduate clinical fellowship program in Orthodontics, a formal proposal should be reviewed.

Dr. Nichols indicated that Senate members who are currently serving on the Research Council Committee. This Council not only reports to the Senate but also to Dr. Susan Reisine who is the Associate Dean for Research and is a member of this committee as a Department Head. This Council does not only report to the Dental Senate but also to Dr. Reisine with recommendations for Health Center research programs and strategic issues.

Health Center Research Strategic Plan was recommended to come before the Senate. The primary issues of the Research Council had been the details of the recruited twenty-five individuals. Location of their laboratories was not outlined.

The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research Laboratory Policy - This policy is not complete by review of the Research Council. The council will work issues out with Dr. Marc Lalande. They need to discuss the reprogramming of human and whether this constitutes stem cell research. This policy will be reviewed and returned to Senate for discussion and recommendation.

The Academic Environment Council is to be elected from within the members of the senate. Dr. Nichols will follow a two step process including a nomination ballot followed by an election ballot. This committee consists of four faculty members from the SDM dental senate and two basic science senate members. The Academic Environment Council will be asked to review the Alleged Misconduct in Research Policy. This document was circulated through the medical school and was reviewed and discussed by the Dental Senate Steering Committee last week. Steering considered this policy to be obsolete. There were a number of issues, some of them being that it names the Executive Vice President position does not exist anymore. There were additional comments relative to wording, definitions and what represents misconduct. Dr. Nichols forwarded Steering concerns to Ms. Iris Mauriello; she appreciated the response. Dr. Nichols explained to Ms. Mauriello that because it has to be revised by committees in the School of Medicine this will provide the Academic Environment Committee time to review it.

Dr. MacNeil commented that one important accomplishment we could do this year would be to make an effort to communicate better with the correlated council of the Medical School. It has been problematic synchronizing issues that need to be addressed between the two schools. If communication through both chairs could be done then it would improve things here. Dr. Nichols said that ultimately that is what they would like to do. Dr. MacNeil felt it would be beneficial to add this linkage at the very beginning to the agenda.

Dr. Nichols said one related issue is that President Hogan and Provost Nicholls have been very active coming to UCHC to address the faculty. They shared their ideas on unification to make the aspects of what we do here coordinate with Storrs activities, such as research and educational programs. As Provost for the entire university system excluding the law school, he will oversee some activities that are important to Health Center faculty such as grievances. This represents a fundamental change the governance from that which existed in the past.

Drs. Frank Nichols and Casey Jacob were asked to attend a unification meeting at Storrs. The idea for this meeting was to look at overlaps between the Dental Senate, the equivalent of what exists with the Medical School and the University Senate to determine whether sufficient justification exists to add faculty members from UCHC to the University Senate. Since the University Senate's primary charge is to oversee the undergraduate education programs of the main campus, election of a Dental Senator to the University Senate does not appear to be justified. During this meeting, other academic overlaps of interest were discussed; mainstreaming of students from Storrs to the DMD program, collaborative research and graduate education are important linkages.

The other areas that were discussed were primarily related to research and multidisciplinary research activities. There could be dual representation to the appropriate body for making advisory recommendations and other policy related decisions. The budgetary issues between the two campuses were discussed concerning maximizing efficiency of shared facilities or research projects is needed. This will be discussed in greater detail. Dr. Peterson said that in the past we had the two bodies convene on an ad hoc basis when there was an important issue that warranted joint discussion. He suggested that the two bodies be scheduled to convene once per year to highlight the past and address future issues of the Health Center. Additional joint meetings could be scheduled as needed. Dr. Nichols felt that perhaps this type of discussion may be appropriate. With respect to the Research Council, it is critical that Dr. Lalonde, an important representative of this committee, be present at the Research Council meetings.

Regarding the Research Strategic Plan the Research Council has signed off on it and is forwarding it to the Dental Senate. Dr. Nichols asked for a motion to accept this plan, Dr. Meiers made the motion and Dr. Kuhlberg seconded. Discussion followed. The Research Council had concerns about the lack of an implementation plan for the recruitment of the new faculty identified in the proposal and the lack of a plan for the physical location of the new faculty recruits. These two recommendations were forwarded to Dr. Lalonde. Dr. Nichols asked the Senate for their concerns on this document. Dr. Peterson discussed pages 8 and 9 of the document and said there is appropriate linkage in one of the major areas on Immunology and Inflammation relative to both schools and the cross-cutting science. On page 10, the Cancer Center and Aging are on a different mode than other programs but Dr. Peterson suggests highlighting the SDM piece in the Cancer Center in the first paragraph where it lists the other Schools of Excellence. Dr. Peterson has discussed this with Dr. Runowicz and proposes this as a modification. Dr. Peterson motioned to make this an amendment to add the SDM to the first paragraph, last sentence. Dr. Meiers seconded the motion. The amendment and original motion were unanimously approved and this modification will be forwarded.

The last item for today is the Accreditation Self-Study. Dr. Nichols contacted Dr. MacNeil a week ago offering support for reviewing elements of this document. The timeframe for the submission is the end of July. We will need to review these documents this month. There will be a full faculty meeting on June 17 at 5:00 P.M. to review the document. (Note: This meeting was subsequently rescheduled for June 24th, 2008). These documents will be circulated electronically and Dr. Nichols asks that they are reviewed quickly. Dr. Michael Freedman is editing the document and it should be ready at the end of next week. Dr. MacNeil said that some of the chairs of these standards had real challenges to obtain information from faculty. We need to have consistency with these standards. Dr. Nichols said at the last site visit there was an academic discipline-related issue on information about student activities in the clinics yet that information did not appear to be accurate. This caused some concern among the site visitors. Therefore we need to carefully review the document for problems. The structure of this self-study is almost identical to 2001 with no major changes to the accreditation standards. Therefore, faculty should be able to find their areas very quickly to review and respond. Dr. Nichols said after the faculty meeting and approval of the document it might be a good idea to have the Dental Senate and the Education Council review it even though we cannot modify anything before it is printed. It would probably be reviewed during the late summer or early fall.

Dr. MacNeil commented about the Research Strategic Plan that there have been many discussions on the positions. It will not be approved until Senate knows specifics as to how those positions will be funded. The BOD needs to approve this and will ask for a budget explanation on how this will be accomplished over the years.

Dr. Peterson noted the Bioinformatics component which there is a long standing gap. He asked Dr. MacNeil if the management of the growth of the biostatics component is being managed separately from this plan. Dr. MacNeil said the discussion now involved the Provost and centered with the CTSA application. We need to be stronger in a biostatic quota of applications. The discussion is what that plan would be for the biostatistics faculty, either here or at Storrs but certainly shared at both campuses. Dr. Peterson suggested relaying this to Dr. Lalande. Dr. Nichols will contact him.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.