

Minutes

Research Council Meeting April 9, 2019

**11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Dental Dean's Conference Room, AG012**

Present: Drs. R. Kelly (chair), S. Brocke, I. Chen, C. Lottinger, L. Kuhn, F. Nichols, and E. Reichenberger, and T. Schmidt

Excused: Drs. Hansen, Lalla and T. Vella

Meeting was called to order at 11:31 am.

Approve Minutes

The minutes of the Research Council meeting on February 5, 2019 were approved as submitted.

Administration of Summer Research Programs

There is still some confusion about the process for students applying for summer research. Dr. Tadinada offered some clarification on the subject.

For the most part, the program is laid out well. There have been some changes this year and they were explained to the students at discussion hour. The process is sending an email to all paid faculty to see who is interested in mentoring students. The students then can see what kind of research faculty is doing and reach out to those faculty that are agreeable to mentoring and develop a proposal. We very rarely turn a student away in the event a proposal needs work. We will offer advice in order to make a better project.

The big change in the process is how many students we will take this year. We are matching the medical school in terms of the amount of the stipend offered to dental students. The Dean decided that that the number of awards will be restricted which means fewer students will be funded and awards will be more competitive.

An email was sent to faculty explaining the key factors of what is expected of both the faculty and the students. Similar emails have been sent for the past couple years.

Does it make sense for a dental student to receive a \$3,000 stipend for an eight week summer research experience? For medical students, the \$3,000 stipend covers the cost of entering the lab, but additionally the student is required to complete a capstone project which can take over a year to finish. Dental students do not have this same requirement. The selection process will be competitive and only high quality research proposals will be funded.

It is only between year 1 and 2 that the dental student has a 8-10 week block of time available to them to dedicate to summer research. They are fresh out of a proposal writing course and this is the best time. Philosophically, should students get \$3,000 for an 8 week experience? Students have been satisfied with a lower stipend in the past. The difficult part to reconcile is how far can we expect dental students to go in just 8 weeks? Should part of the stipend be used to cover attendance of a conference, such as the AADR?

Dr. Tadinada indicated that mentors are requested to write a proposal that is doable in 8-9 weeks. The bulk of the work needs to be completed in this timeframe because there won't be time after that.

A question was raised regarding whether stipends can cover the cost of a student attending a conference. The Dean will be working on a standard operating procedure on this topic.

As it exists at the moment, a student has a time allowance of about 25 days for approved travel to conferences. APC gives clearance to the student for travel.

If a student is not selected to receive a stipend, they can still be mentored and participate in research day.

Resident Research Funding

There may be a need to develop resources for DMD/Masters students. If we want to make anything competitive, it should be the residency research.

It would be helpful to get the summary report from the faculty retreat that took place on February 20th. A takeaway from the retreat was that faculty would like to be more "in the know" about happenings within the dental school. Once we have a clearer picture of what is going on with research funding, a message should be disseminated.

Every year between November and December, Dr. Tadinada hosts a seminar lunch and learn to present the options. Residents see their choices and submit a letter of intent. In the future, it would be helpful to have this information including proposal guidelines, a rubric, etc., available on a website. The new Dental Communications Manager may be able to assist in the creation of this website.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kelly, DDS, PhD
Chair, Research Council