

Minutes of Dental Senate Steering Committee Meeting
2019-09-17

Present: Drs. Ernst Reichenberger, Hector Aguila, Paul Epstein, Dean Sharon Gordon, I-Ping Chen, Easwar Natarajan and Frank Nichols

Absent: /

The meeting was called to order by the Senate Chair. Dr. Reichenberger reviewed the members of the Council on Research and Council on Academic Environment. Additional members are needed for both committees. Dr. Reichenberger will seek nominations for additional committee members from department heads.

The proposed plan for Department/Division reviews was then discussed. Dr. Reichenberger presented the plan to the Dean's Executive Committee last week. It was suggested that Divisions rather than Departments should be reviewed. Many Divisions have a small number of appointed faculty and it will be difficult to maintain anonymity with faculty comments. Suggestions included seeking faculty opinions for the Division and Division Head under review. It is recommended that the Department/Division policy be forwarded to the Dental Senate for comment.

The gathering of faculty survey information was also discussed. There are two areas where faculty comments are needed. The most pressing area is the upcoming accreditation review. The accreditation standards are available for determining which areas of faculty surveys are required for the self study. Additional survey questions relevant to a Division/Department review can be solicited at the same time but would not necessarily be used for the accreditation self study. The gathering of survey information should be handled by an external staff person. Anonymity may be difficult to assure but generally the executive summaries of Department reviews do not cite specific faculty comments. Also, Department/Division Heads should be afforded the opportunity to respond to concerns raised in the review process and report.

The UCONN Health Employee Engagement Survey received too few responses from the School of Dental Medicine faculty but the responses were not favorable. A new survey is needed. The Council for the Academic Environment should be charged with developing and submitting the survey questions to the Dental Senate for review and approval. Dean Gordon suggested that questions could be modeled after the Health Center survey so that the surveys can be compared between schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Reichenberger, PhD
Chair, Dental Senate