

Minutes

Dental Senate Meeting October 8, 2020

**11:30 am – 12:15 pm
Online Meeting**

In attendance: Drs. E. Reichenberger (Chair), S. Lepowsky, S. Antic, M. Barndt, E. Bernstein, S. Brocke, S. Brown, I. Chen, J. Cotney, E. Dutra, P. Epstein, B. Irizarry, R. Kelly, L. Kuhn, R. Lalla, T. Liang, F. Nichols, J. Rabat, S. Ruiz, P. Rungruanganunt, T. Schmidt, A. Schuyler, J. Wagner, Y. Wang, and Q. Zhu

Guests: Drs. C. Heinen and S. Weller

The meeting was called to order at 11:31 am.

Approval of Dental Senate Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2020

The minutes from the Dental Senate meeting that took place on September 8, 2020 were approved with one minor revision.

Informational Brief Presentation of COVID Surveillance

Drs. Chris Heinen and Sandra Weller presented a proposal for surveillance testing for Covid-19 at UConn Health, which should complement diagnostic or clinical testing. The purpose is to identify positive asymptomatic cases in increased risk populations such as clinical workers or students. Similar tests are successfully done on the Storrs campus by PCR testing of pooled samples and wastewater for Covid-19.

Dr. Heinen and Dr. Weller propose a parallel task force focused on surveillance strategies to prevent outbreaks and shut-downs of our institution, patient care or research facilities. Dr. Lepowsky informed the group that administratively, these discussions with the health center have been going on for months and that the SDM is advocating for these tests on a large scale. He supports other testing modalities on a larger scale. Conversations have been taking place about alternative methodologies with testing. However, efforts should not be duplicated and in conjunction with ongoing approaches.

Dr. Lepowsky has a meeting planned with the UConn Health representatives about this specific topic.

A concern was raised regarding privacy issues and whether this testing will be voluntary or mandatory. We will continue to have this conversation and get feedback.

Discussion on the Latest Proposal of the Council of Academic Environment for SDM
Department / Division Reviews

The Council of Academic Environment has worked on a proposal for a faculty/staff/postgraduate survey. The objective of a department review is to review the needs of the department, center or division and determine the effectiveness of departmental and division leadership. The review proposal is based on existing procedures at the medical school and the survey questionnaire is adapted to the needs of the SDM.

Dr. Reichenberger discussed the process of a department review with the group. Dr. Lepowsky agrees that the need for department reviews is overdue and will need more discussions and feedback to protect anonymity of relatively small groups of respondents.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Reichenberger, PhD
Chair, Dental Senate