

Minutes

Dental Senate Meeting

March 10, 2020

11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Dental Dean's Conference Room, AG012

Present: Drs. E. Reichenberger (chair), D. Bayarsaihan, S. Brocke, S. Brown, I. Chen, R. Clark, P. Epstein, R. Kelly, L. Kuhn (ex officio), S. Kurup, T. Liang, P. Maye, F. Nichols, E. Ress, and Y. Wang

Excused: Drs. S. Antic, M. Brown, J. Cotney, E. Dutra, A. Gopalakrishna, R. Manley, P. Rungruanganunt, T. Schmidt (ex officio), A. Schuyler, L. Song, J. Wagner, and Q. Zhu

Guests: Dr. R. Lalla and S. Lepowsky

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.

Welcome to New Members and Announcements

Dr. Reichenberger took a moment to introduce the new members of the Dental Senate welcoming Dr. Dashzeveg Bayarsaihan, Clinical Science Department alternate senator in Reconstructive Sciences, Dr. Robert Clark, Basic Science Department alternate senator in Immunology, Dr. Peter Maye for the Center for Regenerative and Skeletal Development, Dr. Seema Kurup for Oral Pathology, Dr. Stefan Brocke for Immunology and Dr. Stacey Brown for Community Medicine and Health Care. There is an open senator spot vacated by Dr. Jackie Duncan, who is now in an administrative role and cannot serve on the Dental Senate. Additionally, there are two openings on the Dental Senate Steering Committee.

We are currently working to revise the bylaws of the Dental Senate. Dr. Reichenberger is collaborating with Dr. Eric Bernstein on these revisions. The Attorney General's office had reviewed them and provided several comments and suggestions. Once these are incorporated, a draft will be brought back to the Senate for further discussion.

Approval of Dental Senate Meeting Minutes

The Dental Senate Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2020 were approved as submitted.

Vote on Not Implementing CONNcept in July 2020

Dr. Lepowsky met with the Education Council and made the request to reverse the July 2020 implementation of CONNcept. There had been a lot of work with the CONNcept working group and a vote in the Education Council to move forward with implementation was supported by the Senate. However, through discussions with the working group and the different divisions, it became apparent more questions need to be addressed. Faculty

resources and faculty calibration were two of those areas. The working group is still looking at portions of CONNcept that could be implemented in a future model for the SDM.

The Senate voted unanimously to discontinue the implementation of CONNcept in July 2020.

Discussion with Interim Dean Lepowsky

Dr. Lepowsky addressed several areas of concern among SDM faculty. He agrees that the faculty should be informed of budget plans. Currently, Dr. Lepowsky and John Brigada have the preliminary information on the upcoming budget and should have more financial information by the end of the month to share with faculty.

Prior to Dr. Lepowsky's dean appointment, there were two open administrative faculty positions. The first, Associate Dean for Graduate Research and Training, was filled by Dr. Aditya Tadinada. SDM funds were not used to fund this position. The second position is no longer going to be filled. Additionally, the funding for three leadership positions to take over previous duties of Dr. Lepowsky came from the Provost's office. There are also several positions being filled whose search has been ongoing including one in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, two in Pediatric Dentistry and one in Prosthodontics.

The SDM is running positive to a deficit budget and UConn Health is also doing well financially year to date. Relative to budget, we are in negotiations with the CFO to make investments for equipment needs. Dr. Lepowsky has reached out to the department heads.

A discussion about the profitability of evening clinics took place. While not profitable, per se, according to data from ADEA, our clinic is either the most or second most efficiently run clinic in the country. Everything we do, we do to lose less money than most other dental school clinics and having evening hours is part of this. Because of the payer mix in evening sessions, there is a smaller loss. It should be noted, however, that the data are somewhat skewed because there are more resident than student clinics during evening hours. There are no plans at this time to eliminate evening hours in the clinics.

The SDM is working on strategic planning under the leadership of Dr. Tadinada (Master of Dental Sciences program), Dr. Bernstein (education), Dr. Dongari and John Brigada. An all faculty meeting is planned for later this month.

Miscellaneous Items

In the midst of the COVID 19 crisis, there is a possibility of moving to online learning. There has been some preliminary guidance coming out of the Provost's office and meetings are taking place daily. Academic Affairs has a working group across the entire university. Another group is working on clinical operations. Dr. Bernstein is drafting communication and is reaching out to course directors to plan for distance learning. We are looking at calendars to shift pre-doc courses.

We are currently maintaining urgent care under specific criteria and permitting appointments that don't create an aerosol. We currently have an inventory of approximately 2 ½ weeks' worth of masks. We are looking at ways to reduce our mask use while still being OSHA compliant and Dr. Jackie Duncan will discuss the options that are available.

Front desk staff know the script when there is a patient with Corona virus symptoms. Logistics is doing a great job ordering from different vendors to keep us stocked. Is it possible that we will run out? Yes, but we have contingency plans in place.

In the event that there is a suspected Corona virus patient, a protocol is in place. There is also messaging in our phone system.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Reichenberger, PhD
Chair, Dental Senate