

Minutes

Dental Senate Meeting April 14, 2020

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

Present: Drs. E. Reichenberger (chair), Dr. S. Lepowsky, S. Antic, D. Bayarsayhan, S. Brocke, M. Brown, I. Chen, R. Clark, J. Cotney, E. Dutra, P. Epstein, A. Gopalakrishna, R. Kelly, L. Kuhn, S. Kurup, R. Lalla, T. Liang, R. Manley, P. Maye, F. Nichols, E. Ress, P. Rungruanganut, A. Shuyler, L. Song, J. Wagner, and Q. Zhu

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.

Approval of Dental Senate Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2020

The minutes from the Dental Senate meeting that took place on March 10, 2020 were approved with revision.

Vote on Two Items from Education Council Items

Use of Electronic Devices

Dr. Lepowsky shared new language relative to policy on electronic devices in classroom settings. There is a policy statement already in place, but the proposed version includes multiple devices. The Curriculum Management Committee revised the language and it was approved by the Education Council. It must now be reviewed by the Dental Senate and voted on.

A comment was made regarding who will determine if the student is in fact engaging in misuse of electronic devices. There has been no discussion on who would make the determination in specific cases. The main concern is when faculty and other students are distracted by a student engaging in online shopping or games, for example.

Another comment was raised regarding concerns about false accusation and students not being able to defend themselves from these accusations. In the event that a student is accused of electronic device misuse on UConn Health equipment, there is the ability to audit the device. The bigger challenge is if the student is engaged in a game, for example, local to the computer.

A question was raised about the requirement to report if a student sees another student violating the policy. The honor code is not bound to all policies and this policy does not meet the threshold of an honor code violation.

With one person abstaining from voting, the remaining members of the Dental Senate voted to approve the revision of the language of the policy.

Temporary Elimination of Requirement for Completion of Part I and Part II of the National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE)

As of 2004, a requirement for graduation and licensure is successful completion of parts I and II of the National Board Dental Examination. In light of the current Covid 19 pandemic, testing centers are closed and are not likely to open until June 2020 if not later. If we maintain the current policy, there would be several instances of students not meeting graduation requirements, through no fault of their

own. Therefore, we have put in a request to temporarily suspend the requirement. As of Friday, 70% of dental schools (which also had this as a requirement) in the United States have also temporarily suspended this requirement. The suspension will be effective only for the class of 2020. This should not affect the students' ability to start residency programs, but a student will have to successfully pass the examinations at some point in order to qualify for a dental license in any jurisdiction.

The group unanimously accepted the temporary suspension of the requirement to complete parts I and II of the NBDE in order to graduate.

Discussion with Interim Dean Lepowsky

Dr. Lepowsky provided updates regarding the Covid-19 impact on SDM operations to the group:

We are actively communicating with CODA and a decision was made to postpone our upcoming accreditation site visit to 2023. The Oral Surgery accreditation site visit is delayed to 2022. We have provided CODA with our updated policies on distance learning and are waiting on additional guidance.

Currently, we are engaging only in emergency clinical activities along with limited Oral Surgery appointments. We are also providing basic tele-dentistry. A faculty working group has been established to look at tele-dentistry including the use of video, not just by phone. This methodology is not only useful during the pandemic, but potentially could be used going forward as a new educational tool.

We have been having regular WebEx meetings with students and are communicating to each class with frequent emails. We are encouraging residency directors to do the same. There will be an all faculty meeting scheduled next week to discuss impact on the curricular calendar. Currently, there is no clinical activity through May 1st, but this is being reviewed and re-evaluated. We will follow guidance from the state and the university.

From March 16th to April 12th, we have seen a reduction in gross charges of approximately \$1.1M. For that same time period, net revenue is down \$829,000. Compared to last year, we are down 8,000 visits. Contract-related revenue is \$114,000 down. We lost just under a million dollars in one month which equates to approximately \$54,000 per day. This is consistent with other dental schools across the nation. UConn Health and the Board of Directors are aware of these losses. There may be state and federal funding in order to help close the gaps and we are monitoring our finances closely.

The University of Connecticut has announced a hiring and spending freeze. While this does not apply to UConn Health, there will be careful monitoring of spending. We are still able to hire faculty as we had planned and spend as we need. A meeting with the Provost and President acknowledged that certain exceptions can be made.

Miscellaneous Items

The floor was opened up for questions and concerns.

- While we have a good amount of gloves in stock, other PPE is in high demand including N95 masks and face shields.
- We will be beginning discussions with a working group to come up with a plan for the resumption of activities and determine how robust the supply chain will be for PPE, disinfectant and other crucial supplies.

- Vendors have communicated with us that normal deliveries of goods are expected to resume in the next couple weeks, but regular clinical activities will not resume until we are adequately protected.
- We are averaging 25 emergency patients per day. Many of these patients are assisted over the phone. An adjustment was made to the number of providers helping with emergency services. Back up residents are available in the event of an increased influx of patients.
- We are not currently aware of any physical updates to the operatories that might be needed, but our layout of the dental clinic is similar to other dental schools. We are in close communication with ADEA and ADA and are anticipating potential revisions to policies and procedures going forward.
- There is a national shortage of Covid-19 tests and right now there is no plan in place to test every patient, but this may be a point of discussion in the future.
- The CDC has not come out with a recommendation for providers to wear N95 masks for every dental procedure. For procedures that create an aerosol, it is recommended that the provider wear an N95 mask and face shield.
- Considering that we temporarily suspended the requirement for students to successfully pass the NBDE, if a residency has a similar requirement, is it within their purview to lift a requirement within the division? Yes, but it needs to be communicated to administration so that administration can inform CODA.
- The next Dental Senate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2020. There will be voting for Steering Committee, Dental Senate chair and co-chair.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Reichenberger, PhD
Chair, Dental Senate