

## Minutes

### **Dental Senate Meeting**

**May 12, 2020**

**11:30 am – 12:15 pm**

**Online Meeting**

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

Excused: Drs. R. Lalla and T. Schmidt

Meeting was called to order at 11:31 am.

Approval of Dental Senate Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2020

The minutes from the Dental Senate meeting that took place on April 14, 2020 were approved with revision. Two members need to be added to the list of participants. A typo needs to be corrected.

### Electronic Voting Mechanism

Online WebEx meetings are becoming a new normal and there is a need for anonymous electronic voting. There is an option for voting that the Faculty Affairs office of the School of Medicine uses, but it does have limitations. Blackboard has an option for voting as well as a system called “Poll Everywhere,” a subscription service. Once an electronic voting mechanism is in place, Senate members can vote for the open positions.

Elaine is working with Nancy Sennick in IT and exploring options. In terms of voting in blackboard, Eric Bernstein is the content expert. He has experience with voting through blackboard. Other dental schools use “Poll Everywhere” and have found it easy to use. Voting using this service is free up to 25 members, but due to the size of the Dental Senate, it would be necessary to subscribe.

Several members of the Dental Senate have terms ending in 2020. However, all have agreed to continue to serve on the Senate until 2023. Regarding student and resident representation on the Senate, Eric Ress has graduated and Raquel Manley will be finishing her residency this year. Congratulations to both. An election for new student and resident representation will need to be held and those new members of the Senate will have voting rights. We should be able to hold an election for student and residents on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Resuming Clinical Activities in the School of Dental Medicine

While there is no formal roadmap, we do have groups of faculty working on plans to resume clinical activities and they meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning. These groups have representation from all disciplines as well as AAUP. We also have a task force looking at PPE. It is reasonable to declare resuming normal clinical activity on June 1<sup>st</sup> although UConn Health is looking at middle of next week.

Eric Bernstein continues to work on academic schedules to accommodate the shift to online learning. We want to resume normal activities, but we need to do so in a way that is safe for all involved.

We are monitoring financial losses in terms of record keeping and pursuing external funding when possible.

Several weeks ago, SDM submitted a report to CODA regarding distance learning. It has been received and accepted as written. A separate report for Predoc and all residency programs is being compiled and will be sent to the President's office for review and signature. This report will be submitted to CODA on Friday.

We are engaging with other dental schools in the US and Canada to find the best practices. We recognize that different states have different parameters so it might not be applicable to us.

We have been purchasing as much PPE as possible, especially face shields. Many options are not ideal because of loupes and lights and things.

An all faculty meeting will be scheduled within the next week.

The floor opened up to questions.

Q: What is the status of PPE in terms of availability?

A: We won't finalize plans to resume normal clinical activity until we have adequate and appropriate PPE including masks, face shields, gowns, etc. We need to have minimum of 45 day supply on hand and know that an ongoing supply is possible.

Q: Do we have a negative pressure room?

A: There are a number of spaces that can be neutral or negative pressure. Currently, the only guidance we have seen is that treatment of Covid-19 positive patients needs to take place in a negative pressure environment.

Q: What about asymptomatic patients. Will all patients tested prior to dental treatment?

A: The discussion of testing and who needs to be tested is ongoing. Tests are not currently universally available. There are many committees working on these

questions. Some of the answers we will find depend on resources. It is known that as dentists, we are at risk, but we do have to face the new normal and adapt. As a school we have a bigger challenge in terms of scalability.

Q: How do we as a school move forward with common areas?

A: The health center's facilities department is actively working on this. There might be some places that are off limits. We are looking at work flows, how things are moving.

Q: Is health center screening and testing everyone? Is the antibody test being used?

A: We need to understand that there is a difference between screening and testing. The ADA has a tool kit for screening. Testing, however, is different and we don't have a clear decision made yet. The SDM is not going to be instituting testing protocol that has not been vetted by the health center.

Q: What kind of masks are there?

A: We have two different types of masks: one is for general use and the other is the N95 mask. You may see different models of the N95 mask. Some N95 masks need to be fit-tested. There are also a few N95 masks out there that don't require fitting. Dr. Duncan is working with Logistics on this. We have also looked at some KN95 masks, but are not necessarily confident in them.

Q: According to a recent message from the health center, research labs are supposed to be more active next week. Some of the post docs don't have access to masks. Where can they go to get a mask?

A: As labs get the green light to resume activity, there will be a process for the PI to acquire the appropriate number of masks for those working in the lab. We have reasonable availability of general masks that we acquire through the warehouse. It was suggested that this topic be brought up at the next all faculty meeting and perhaps at a smaller group meeting targeting researchers.

Q: Are the labs resuming activity on May 20<sup>th</sup>?

A: There was an approval process for critical lab procedures like care of animals, etc., but now we are looking at more general activity. There has been some guidance from Research office. Dr. Lepowsky will discuss with Dr. Lalla about scheduling a separate WebEx for research faculty to have a more focused discussion.

Q: If the scheduling of patients isn't resuming until June 1<sup>st</sup>, what is the expectation of residents?

A: It is up to the discretion of the program director. It's program to program management issue.

Q: There is a model from the University of Washington that suggests testing a patient 72 hours prior to their aerosol generating appointment. Is this a model we will follow?

A: We have reviewed these guidelines and are reviewing and considering other models as well.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Reichenberger, PhD  
Chair, Dental Senate