

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: WebEx

Present: Marc Hansen, Sanathanam Lakshminarayanan, Enrique Ballesteros, Bruce Mayer, Jennifer Cavallari, Riqiang Yan, Linda Sprague-Martinez

Not Present: Eric Mortensen, Kourosh Parham

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes

a. 9/28/2023

Vote to approve - 6-0-0

Old Business

b. None

2. New Business

- a. January Meeting – 2024 Departmental and Center Reviews – at least 4 – 5 reviews coming up. HDI was supposed to be reviewed last year and it was postponed. The by-law requirement is that all the centers and departments must be reviewed every 7 years. We can discuss the process with Dr. Sprague-Martinez since she is new to the position. Oversight sets up the parameters of the reviews and Dr. Nissen is the person who must implement the reviews. We want to maintain the 7-year cycle but with the pandemic throwing everything off, there has been some leeway.
- b. Jennifer Cavallari fielding suggestions to change the wording of the review process and criteria for the Academic Merit Plan – which would be for AY 24-25.

3. Informational Items

- a. Welcome to New Member: Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez, new Director of the Health Disparities Institute. She will be replacing Dr. Pedro Mendes on this committee. There was a conflict because Dr. Mendes was a liaison on the Research Council but now needs to be a voting member.
- b. Discussion from Dean's Council regarding Governing Committee Liaisons- there is a shortage of chairs for the governance councils. The Dean's Council raised the issue at their most recent meeting that the Oversight Committee needs to explore a change to the by-laws that will allow vice chairs or designees as appointed by the directors and chairs to be on councils in their stead. How do we put the language into the by-laws to allow that? Dr. Nissen will be at the January Oversight Meeting to talk about the potential of a change to the by-laws.

There needs to be consistency amongst governance councils with some exceptions i.e. the Dean's Council does not have a quorum which was intentional.

It will take at least a year for anything to be introduced to the by-laws, but it is important to start working on it now

Question from Bruce Mayer – has there been an instance recently that has spurred this change? There apparently has been some questions raised about the inconsistencies, we will have all of the chairs of the councils come to future Oversight meetings to discuss - particularly the need for designees to serve on the councils because of the shortage of chairs and directors.

Is there precedent for having designees on committees or would this be a new era? There is an example of Dr. Kiki Nissen serving on several committees as Dr. Liang's designee. In that limited sense there has been precedence. There has been a reduction/consolidation of Type II Centers which has diminished the number of directors, causing this shortage. There are five Type II Centers and there are six committee governance structured councils and Dr. Laurencin is going on sabbatical as a Type II Center director, which will soon increase the shortage.

The decision of who can be a designee needs to be made. You cannot designate someone who is less than senior faculty – no junior professors. It needs to be defined and it should not just be a way for directors and chairs to shirk their responsibilities – there is an obligation for being in a senior position. Future discussions will be held on this at the Oversight Committee meeting in December and the January meeting where Dr. Nissen will be present to hash out language for a potential change. There is a lot of overlapping responsibilities and the by-laws have remained unchanged on this subject for the last 20 years.

Task: Dr. Hansen will put together a list of all the differences between councils to reference when reviewing potential changes to the by-laws.

4. Standing Monthly Liaison Reports

- a. Clinical Council – Dr. Kourosh Parham - not present, no report
- b. Dean’s Council – Dr. Marc Hansen.

The council discussed the matter of revising the by-laws regarding the governing committee liaisons and agreed to a future meeting with Dr. Nissen on the matter.

- c. Education Council – Dr. Bruce Mayer

The council met last week, major business item was Dr. Angus discussing GME Reports, surveys, quality checks and the bottom line is that the majority of residency and fellowships are at or above national means, there are a few programs that need some work and remediation action plans have been created.

- d. Public Issues Council – Dr. Enrique Ballesteros

The council met on Monday 10/23/23. Dr. Jeff Hines, Chief DEI Officer went over the SCOTUS decision on Affirmative Action and the consequences it will have on the Medical School Admissions process. Focused on the fact that you are no longer able to make an admissions decision on race or ethnicity. Student applicants can indicate their race/ethnicity in personal statements, but the admissions department cannot indicate that information in the data profile for that applicant. The overall message was that UConn is committed to diversity and equity initiatives of the institution while also following the legal parameters for admitting students.

- e. Research Council – Dr. Riqiang Yang

The council talked about the new lowered fringe rate benefits, the need to increase spending of grant money that departments are sitting on as encouraged by the legislature - IOV submissions from non-UCHC investigators, the need for standardization of other sites that use IRB and post it on our website. NOTE: Dr. Hansen will go back to being the liaison for the Research Council

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 AM

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting -

No meeting in November - the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving

The proposed date for the next meeting is the 2nd Thursday of the month. December 14, 2023 8:30 a.m.