

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: WebEx

Present: Marc Hansen, Eric Mortensen, Kourosh Parham, Bruce Mayer, Enrique Ballesteros, Linda Sprague-Martinez, Jennifer Cavallari

Not Present : Sanathanam Lakshminarayanan, Riqiang Yan

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes

10/26/2023

Vote to approve – 6-0-0

2. Old Business

a. None

3. New Business

a. None

4. Informational Items

- a. Discussion from Dean's Council regarding Operating Guidelines of Governance Councils - Emily Germain-Lee, as Chair of Dean's Council, joined the meeting to discuss whether the operating guidelines for the councils needed to be changed in the by-laws.

There are two issues raised 1.) the operating guidelines are different for each governance council and 2.) there is a shortage of eligible people to fill seats on councils.

The problem of making the guidelines consistent among the councils is a more long-term issue, and it was felt that the more immediate need is to address the position shortage, thus the first issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Regarding the second, there were several points noted. First, it has been difficult to fill the governance council positions. The appointment cycle varies by council with some officers ending their terms in June and some ending their terms in September which adds to the difficulty.

Many councils require that they must have a department chair and a Type II Center director – so in that case, could the guidelines be changed to be chair OR director instead of both? Does that make a difference in the makeup and the perspective of the council?

There are 5 governance councils and chairs and directors are constantly circulating on and off these councils because there are so few department chairs and Type II center directors. One possible suggestion that was raised was that a designee could be appointed by the chair or center director to meet the shortage.

There were numerous objections to this idea. One point was that the designees might not necessarily have the same perspective as the chair or director and may not know the larger picture that a chair or director would have. Secondly, the point that it is a slippery slope, in which the councils could default to designees, which would then lose the impact of the chairs and directors in the councils. It was pointed out that when they discontinued the SOM Faculty Senate and replaced it with the various governance councils the goal was to have the broadest representation of the school on these committees. Each of the different members represents an important constituency.

The general sense of the Committee was that this was a slippery slope and that service on the governance councils was an expected part of a chair's or director's responsibilities, as it is with senior faculty. It was pointed out that Clinical Council had recently discussed that several of the chairs get very limited administrative time- 2 – 4%. So, it would be best to make it clear upfront in the recruitment of new chairs and when someone is hired as a department chair or center director it needs to be clearly stated in the job responsibilities/descriptions that they must participate in Governance Councils.

The committee will discuss this issue further with Dr. Kiki Nissen at next meeting and then potentially invite Dean Liang to a future meeting to discuss these issues/make recommendations.

It was also discussed whether to invite Mary Casey Jacob and Howard Tennen to a future meeting to talk about the origins and historical perspective on the governance system? Marc Hansen will see if they are available for an upcoming meeting.

- b. Departmental Review summaries – the two reviews that came up in 2023 were Medicine and Anesthesiology. Marc Hansen is expecting to get the reports from the Dean any time now for the committee to review. 2024 will have 4 reviews – Department of Surgery, the Neag Cancer Center, the Center on Aging, and the Center for Vascular Biology.
5. Standing Monthly Liaison Reports
- a. Clinical Council – most recent meeting 11/28 – 2 positions approved, faculty member in Department of Ophthalmology and Department of Psychiatry- both 95% clinical, Productivity report - \$13.3 million revenue last month, \$49 million total revenue for the year
 - b. Dean’s Council – Dr. Liang did a presentation, the task force for the LCME is being set up for a review in 2 years, requests to participate in self-surveys will be distributed, trying to secure space on UConn Hartford campus for recruitment in 2026, the administration is asking faculty to put more of their time into grants to offset block grants.
 - c. Education Council – most recent November meeting Kristine Thatcher talked about the survey of the medical students, in general things are going well, the basic sciences are doing ok but they tend to be below the national media in satisfaction, red flag issues like negative interactions, harassment, discrimination are below the national average and have subsided from higher rates two years ago
 - d. Public Issues Council – no report
 - e. Research Council – the major issue is the idea of investigators from outside institutions are publishing ads for clinical trials that are not approved by our insitutional IRB, the question is what does the institution do about that? Should it be pushed onto the chairs?

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 am

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2023
8:30 a.m.