

Dean's Council (DC)

December 2, 2008

Minutes

Present: Dr. Fortinsky, Dr. Gould, Dr. Koeppen, Dr. Kuchel, Dr. Nissen, Dr. Pappano

Excused: Dr. Albertsen, Dr. Egan, Mr. Gillon, Dr. Lalande, Dr. Laurencin, Dr. Simon,
Dr. Wolfson

Guests: Dr. Hepworth, Dr. Jacob, Dr. Jacobs

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

1. The minutes of the October 20, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Dr. Koeppen explained that the purpose of today's meeting is to begin the process of reviewing the Department of Traumatology and Emergency Medicine review report. Drs. Nissen and Gould, the Dean's Council's primary and secondary reviewers, will present their report, followed by Dr. Lenworth Jacobs, Chair of the Department. Dr. Casey Jacob explained that Dr. Laurencin has decided to not attend these meetings because he thought his presence might inhibit discussion. However, he welcomes recommendations from the Council on department and center reviews.

Dr. Nissen summarized the review report by the following categories -- quality of the faculty, research, teaching, clinical service, mentorship, and the Chair. The department supports two residency and two fellowship programs, all of which received positive feedback from students and trainees. Some faculty interviewed felt they did not have enough protected time to carry out their commitment to the medical school and residency program in the area of teaching and scholarly activity. In addition, some of the residents felt there could be more mentorship and research opportunities in the Emergency Medicine Program. The department has developed the Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) course, which teaches surgeons advanced techniques in the care of trauma patients and is recognized locally and nationally. They have also developed simulation training for medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty which was noted for its impact on education, its potential for research, and contributions to safe patient care. The department has very little federally funded research, most of which is done by a few senior faculty. Faculty participate in clinical services in the emergency rooms at Hartford Hospital and John Dempsey Hospital and in a toxicology and wound healing center. The disparity in clinical hours worked by Dempsey faculty and those at Hartford Hospital was noted by the review team. In the area of mentorship, senior faculty felt supported and mentored in areas of promotion, advanced degrees, and guidance on

administrative tasks. However, junior faculty expressed a need for a better mentoring program. Finally, Dr. Lenworth Jacobs was considered an extraordinary leader who developed a nationally recognized department.

In summary, the major strengths of the department were its leadership and the simulation center. Areas needing attention include the following: additional funding to expand the Simulation Center; expansion of the Hartford Hospital and Dempsey Hospital Emergency Departments; the clinical work hours of the emergency medicine academic faculty at both Hartford and Dempsey Hospitals should be equitable to allow Dempsey faculty to be more productive with respect to teaching and research; the research efforts of junior faculty should be enhanced through mentorship and support of academic promotion; the medical students' educational experience should be standardized across all sites and outcomes measurements of educational quality developed; a core curriculum for medical students should be prepared that is updated and instituted across all sites.

Dr. Nissen noted that a non-ACGME fellowship program in acute care surgery has also been developed which trains physicians in surgical critical care and trauma. When the program was recently reviewed, there were strong concerns about the program residing in three separate areas (Surgery, Traumatology and Emergency Medicine, and Dempsey Hospital). She also noted that there has been some talk about moving traumatology out of the Department of Traumatology and Emergency Medicine and into the Department of Surgery. Dr. Gould noted that combining emergency medicine and traumatology was one of the department's strengths because it allowed treatment of the traumatized patient across the entire spectrum. It was decided to ask Dr. Jacobs about both of these issues when he joined the meeting. It was also noted that the department has already begun to address some of the issues raised in the report, such as promotion and mentorship.

Dr. Jacobs joined the meeting at 5 p.m. After Dr. Koeppen explained the process, the committee began asking questions. When asked about traumatology being moved out of the department and into the Department of Surgery, Dr. Jacobs indicated that there are no plans to do so. He was then asked about the acute care surgical fellowship program. He explained that the program trains general surgeons to respond to emergent inpatient care. The program is a work in progress that will take 5-10 years to play itself out. It will reside in the Department of Surgery. He was asked how the department was addressing the issue of mentorship and promotion of junior faculty. He explained that the department has created an electronic database for faculty records of academic productivity. It is the faculty member's responsibility to populate their individual records, and the data is then validated. It was noted that one of the community hospitals currently has medical students assigned to their

emergency room but no residents. Dr. Jacobs explained that at that particular site, residents were removed because they were not receiving a good educational experience. However, once the site demonstrates that they are willing to invest the necessary resources for education, residents can be reassigned. Medical students are still at the site, and one of his faculty members provides oversight of their experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Walker Academic Affairs Conference Room, AG-070.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Donatelli