

Dean's Council (DC)

February 19, 2007

**Minutes**

Present: Dr. Albertsen, Dr. Deckers, Dr. Ford, Dr. Garibaldi, Mr. Gillon, Dr. Gould,  
Dr. Jacob, Dr. Koeppen, Dr. Lalande, Dr. Pappano

Excused: Dr. Arnold, Dr. Kenny, Dr. Nissen, Dr. Simon

Guests: Dr. Babor, Dr. Ferris, Ms. Horbatuck, Dr. Storey, Mr. Thibeault

The meeting was called to order at 3:27 p.m.

1. The minutes of the February 7, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Drs. Eileen Storey and Ann Ferris gave a presentation on the Center for Public Health and Health Policy (CPHHP). This discussion was prompted by concerns raised by faculty and by the Oversight Committee that the Center is functioning as a Type II Center but has not been approved as such.

Dr. Storey reviewed the charge to the Center given by President Austin, the history leading to that charge, and the consideration of building a School of Public Health (decision not to pursue made in August 2006). She noted that many of the University's relationships with other agencies are dependent on individual faculty members, and the relationships do not endure when the faculty member leaves. The relationships of some faculty members with other agencies overlap with others, there is little coordination, and this is sometimes confusing to the agencies. CPHHP could coordinate these efforts, get resources for the efforts, establish doctoral training, and increase outreach opportunities.

Dr. Storey reviewed the areas that public health addresses, the core academic disciplines, the interdisciplinary competencies, and the need for this public health initiative. As an example, she noted that obesity is a problem that can't be solved with clinical care, and yet the problem will drive clinical care in years to come. She argued that insurance and universal health care debates must include the prevention/public health perspective. She sees CPHHP as a resource for our legislators and agency leaders that can assist evidence-based decisions. She also noted that public health endeavors are critical to the NIH roadmap. In order to get a CTSA, we must demonstrate community involvement and access.

Dr. Storey listed service needs Connecticut has that include information needs, community participatory research methods, development of model programs, and analysis to support (not take over and write) policy development. She described ways that CPHHP has, and can, help to meet these needs.

In closing, Dr. Storey reviewed the accomplishments of the CPHHP to date, that include:

1. Ph.D. programs that are intervention based;
2. Institute for Public Health Research;
3. Needs assessment and pilot for CHIN (Connecticut Health Information Network), with three community partners who have signed on;
4. Healthy Workplace Initiative (joint with UMASS Lowell);
5. Urban Health Partnership with the City of Hartford;
6. Prevention work group;
7. Health policy papers have been written on the subjects of drug re-importation, medical malpractice, and universal health care.

Dr. Deckers then reviewed the history of CPHHP from his perspective, including the history leading to the creation of the first signature programs.

Questions and a general discussion followed, including a discussion about the CPHHP's funding, governance, its interactions and relationship with the Department of Community Medicine, options for some faculty being partly paid by the University and partly by agencies such as the Department of Public Health, the role that Yale might play (perhaps by blocking) in some of the efforts that CPHHP might make, and the negative impact our internal politics have had on some of the plans CPHHP had been working on.

With the questions concluded, the guests left the meeting. Further discussion occurred. It was acknowledged that if the Center was approved as a Type II Center, that did not preclude it from having a different designation within the School of Dental Medicine or the University at large.

A motion was made to approve the CPHHP as a Type II Center in the School of Medicine. The motion was passed with 6 in favor and 1 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, from 4:30-6 p.m. in the Medical Dean's Conference Room, AG-078.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Casey Jacob, Ph.D.