

Dean's Council (DC)

March 17, 2008

**Minutes**

Present: Dr. Albertsen, Dr. Deckers, Dr. Fortinsky, Dr. Jacob, Dr. Koeppen, Dr. Loew, Dr. Nissen, Dr. Pappano, Dr. Simon

Excused: Dr. Arnold, Dr. Egan, Mr. Gillon, Dr. Gould, Dr. Lalande

Guests: Dr. Bruder, Dr. Dworkin, Dr. Hepworth, Dr. Kuchel

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. Appointment of Dr. Evelyn Lynch as Professor (in residence) of Pediatrics

Dr. Dworkin, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, and Dr. Mary Beth Bruder, Director of the Center for Disabilities, presented the request to approve the appointment of Dr. Evelyn Lynch as Professor (in residence) of Pediatrics based on non-academic grounds. Dr. Jacob explained that Dr. Lynch's nomination was reviewed by Dr. Tennen, Chair of the Senior Appointments and Promotions Committee (SAPC), and Dr. Watkins, liaison to the SAPC. They both suggested that the nomination be presented to the DC for approval on non-academic grounds.

Dr. Dworkin explained that the Center for Disabilities is a freestanding unit at the Health Center directed by Dr. Bruder. Members of the Center hold academic appointments in the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Bruder then provided background information on Dr. Lynch, who has had a long history in higher education as both a faculty member and administrator. She was awarded the rank of Professor in 1983 and has since held senior appointments at other institutions largely based on administrative roles and functions (Provost, Assistant Dean, Dean, and President). Dr. Lynch has been volunteering with the Center since last winter. Her main role is supervising two federally-funded projects. Other responsibilities will include grant writing, research, and service. Her appointment as Professor is indicative of the role she is playing in the Center and reflects the positions she has held over many years. Dr. Deckers clarified that Dr. Lynch's appointment is dependent upon the continued availability of grant funds and would end when grant funds are no longer available.

Following discussion, Dr. Lynch's appointment as Professor (in residence) was approved with one abstention. It will now go to the Academic Affairs Subcommittee of the Board of Directors for approval.

2. Proposal to Create a Type II Center on Aging

Dr. Koeppen explained that the School of Medicine Bylaws vest the DC with review and approval of the formation of Type II centers. He further explained that Type II centers span multiple departments and report directly to the Dean. Dr. Kuchel then presented his proposal to approve the Center on Aging as a Type II center. The Center on Aging was established in 1986 with the endowment of the Travelers Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology. One of the conditions of the endowment was that the Center have a presence at both campuses. Branches did exist at both the Health Center and Storrs, but later in the 1990s, there was a divergence of the branches, which he is now in the process of rebuilding. Since 1986, Center on Aging faculty have generated over \$30 million in external research funding. Dr. Kuchel provided examples of linkages between the Center and other departments and programs and provided an update on the Center's current activities, including visiting professorships, grant applications submitted and funded, collaborations with other departments, and clinical and research partnerships. Although the terms "Type I" and "Type II" centers did not enter the School of Medicine Bylaws until 1994, Dr. Kuchel noted that the Center on Aging has functioned as a Type II center since its inception. Dr. Deckers agreed. Dr. Kuchel believes formal designation as a Type II center will ensure that existing relationships between the Center, the Division of Geriatric Medicine, the Department of Medicine, and the School of Medicine will retain a format that has proven to be remarkably successful over the last 22 years.

What prompted his request for official approval at this time was a meeting held in December with President Hogan and the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine deans, department heads, center directors, and Council/Senate members to discuss academic and clinical transformation and possible administrative reorganization. Because of the Center's status as a Type I center, they were not represented at the meeting. Dr. Kuchel is concerned that exclusion from future events such as this could jeopardize the Center's ability to continue fulfilling its mandate and mission.

Dr. Kuchel believes that designation as a Type II center will provide the following benefits -- continued success at obtaining external funding; continued ability to maintain a national profile; continued capacity to exert an institutional impact which spans across disciplines, administrative units, and campuses; better alignment of the Center's operations with the current School of Medicine Bylaws; and strengthening of academic and clinical linkages. If not designated a Type II center, one of the risks is ineligibility for funding from organizations such as the Reynolds Foundation, which requires that "The individual(s) responsible for the project must be sufficiently empowered within the institution as evidenced by inclusion as an active participant in

the dean's council ..." According to the current Bylaws, only Type II center directors can be nominated and vote for center representatives on the Dean's Council.

Dr. Kuchel discussed his proposal with Dr. Palmisano, Interim Chairman of the Department of Medicine. It was clarified that Center faculty will hold faculty appointments in one of the major departments, and the educational program will reside in the Department of Medicine.

Following discussion, designation of the Center on Aging as a Type II center was approved with one abstention.

The meeting adjourned was at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 21, from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Walker Academic Affairs Conference Room, AG-070.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Donatelli