

Dean's Council (DC)

May 7, 2009

Minutes

Present: Dr. Egan, Dr. Fortinsky, Dr. Koeppen, Dr. Kuchel, Dr. Lalande,
Dr. Laurencin, Dr. Nissen, Dr. Pappano, Dr. Simon

Excused: Dr. Albertsen, Mr. Gillon, Dr. Gould, Dr. Wolfson

Guests: Dr. Goldberg, Dr. Jacob, Dr. Khan

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m.

Dr. Laurencin met with Dean's Council to address their concerns regarding his proposal to establish an Institute for Regenerative Engineering, which was presented to Dean's Council on April 20. At that time, the Dean's Council noted potential conflicts of interest with the proposed Institute's reporting structure and with resource allocation issues. They recommended to Dr. Laurencin that the proposal be submitted at the University level as a University Institute reporting to either the Vice President for Research or the Provost.

Regarding the reporting structure, Dr. Laurencin indicated that Drs. Jon Goldberg and Yusuf Khan have agreed to serve as Co-Directors of the Institute. He also discussed whether the initiative should be a University-wide Institute. Because it encompasses many Health Center programs, he believes it should be a School of Medicine Institute (or Type II Center for purposes of the governance structure), which would partner with various units at Storrs on projects and programs. This arrangement appealed to the Storrs campus as well because it allows for a collaborative relationship with various units across the University without any of the existing institutes, particularly the Institute for Materials Science, being subsumed. Regarding resource allocation, Dr. Laurencin believes as Dean, he must be able to apportion resources in a fair way. He noted his involvement with numerous programs (Orthopaedic Surgery, the Musculoskeletal Institute, serving as Principal Investigator on the GCRC, and Public Health), for which he determines resource allocation. He also noted the start-up packages for faculty who came with him to the Health Center, which were determined by him and were modest. He does not envision the Institute being allocated new resources for the next two years other than funds that are already committed for start-up for the new investigators that have arrived. The proposed Institute would have a structured Steering Committee that will be working on projects and programs with the goal of harnessing funding, so he does not envision it being a resource utilizing system but rather resource producing in terms of overhead and dollars from grants. When asked why he preferred an Institute or Type II Center structure rather than a Type I Center, he indicated that funding agencies are very interested in reporting structures and lines of authority to institutional leadership.

Finally, he thanked the members for their participation in the recent Faculty Forum at which the proposed tenure salary guarantee policy was discussed. He asked DC to take feedback provided at the forum, along with their own thoughts, and provide him with a recommendation on how to proceed. Dr. Koeppen indicated that DC will seek broader input from the faculty.

After Drs. Laurencin, Goldberg, and Khan left the meeting, DC discussed the proposal. The general consensus was Dr. Goldberg should serve as the Director of the Institute. While the members thought highly of Dr. Khan as a scientist and faculty member, they believed that he should not be assigned administrative responsibilities at this point in his career. Rather, he should concentrate on the criteria he is expected to meet in order to be successful in attaining tenure. The Dean's Council continued to have concerns regarding resource allocation. They agreed to vote on the proposal with the following contingencies: Dr. Goldberg is appointed Director of the Institute; Dr. Goldberg is given a faculty appointment in the School of Medicine; note their continued concerns regarding resource allocation and state that while it is currently not possible to report to the Vice President for Research, in the long-term, as plans get underway to recruit a permanent candidate, the Institute should report to that individual. Following discussion, the Committee voted on the proposal. The vote was 4 in favor and 4 opposed. Since the Bylaws state, "In each Council, no less than a simple majority of all members eligible to vote is required to approve a motion," the proposal was not approved. Dr. Koeppen will convey the results to Dr. Laurencin.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Walker Academic Affairs Conference Room, AG-070

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Donatelli