

Academic Affairs Subcommittee of the
Board of Directors

May 7, 2007

Minutes

Attendees: P. Deckers, R. Galvin, J. Goldberg, J. Hepworth, L. Jacobs, B. Koeppen,
L. Kosowicz, G. Maxwell, F. Nichols

Dr. Galvin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Public Comment

None.

2. Approval of Minutes - February 5, 2007 and April 4, 2007 Meetings

The minutes of the February 5, 2007 and April 4, 2007 meetings were unanimously approved. Dr. Deckers reported that a summary of events relative to the dissolution of the Department of Pharmacology is being prepared by Dr. Casey Jacob and will be shared with the Subcommittee.

3. Business Items

a. Revisions of School of Dental Medicine Bylaws

The Academic Affairs Subcommittee unanimously approved the following recommendation: **That the Academic Affairs Subcommittee recommends that the UCHC Board of Directors approve the attached proposed Bylaws for a new Dental Senate (currently Dental Council) including policies for standing committees of the Dental Senate.**

Drs. MacNeil and Nichols presented the proposed School of Dental Medicine Bylaws. The recent reorganization of the School into three departments triggered the need to rewrite the Bylaws, and it was decided to look at a new governance approach. They explained that the proposed Bylaws include a Dental Senate, which is a restructured Dental Council, the major faculty governance committee in the School of Dental Medicine, and three standing Councils on Education, Research, and Academic Environment. The Senate will consist of 24 members -- 15 from the School of Dental Medicine, 7 from basic science departments, and 2 student representatives. The proposed governance structure was approved by the Dental Council on March 5, 2007 and by the dental faculty on April 26, 2007. A question was raised regarding the relationship of the Senate to the Dean. It was

explained that the portion of the Bylaws presented today only focuses on the responsibilities of the Senate. The responsibilities of the Dean are clearly outlined in the complete document. Dr. Hepworth, who serves on the Subcommittee as the representative of the School of Medicine's Oversight Committee (OC), noted that although the two Schools have separate governance structures, there are areas of overlap, and she asked that the Dental Senate be encouraged to work with OC to find ways to formally bring the Schools together when dealing with such issues. Drs. MacNeil and Nichols agreed that this interaction is important.

b. Research Updates

Dr. Lalande presented an update on the Research Strategic Plan. A broadcast message was distributed soliciting proposals for the Strategic Plan, which is across schools and departments. Fifty-one proposals were received. Common themes were identified and the proposals were grouped into 23. After initial scoring, the number was reduced to 16, and he anticipates the final number of proposals to be around 10. After oral presentations and ranking, the proposals will be forwarded to senior administration. The evaluation criteria are significance, traction (i.e. is funding available to support the initiative), and innovation. One proposal which Dr. Lalande believes will rank high in the process is a vision for a Cell Sciences Institute at 400 Farmington Avenue. This initiative incorporates the work of the Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling (CCAM) and the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology. He explained that CCAM is a highly successful, multi-disciplinary group interested in quantitative cell biology. The Center has close to \$29 million in extramural support, most of which comes from the NIH and the NSF. The Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology has extramural support totaling close to \$23 million, much of it from the NIH, as well as stem cell funding. In the recently released fiscal year 2004 rankings for basic science medical school departments based on extramural NIH awards, the department was ranked 22 out of the 47 departments in the survey. He explained the research being conducted in both areas and the benefit of bringing these two groups together to form the Cell Sciences Institute. He believes there is even greater potential when the stem cell initiative is added. He noted that both CCAM and the Genetics Department have managed to do very well at a time when funding at the NIH has fallen quite dramatically. He believes this is a unique opportunity to bring the strongest and best funded investigators together to help grow these unique and innovative areas of research success. He also believes the Cell Sciences Institute provides

enormous philanthropic potential. Dr. Galvin agreed that this is true innovation from a new arena where the Health Center can excel and advised that the institution not delay in making a commitment and investing in these areas. Dr. Deckers added that the proposal involves scientists from multiple divisions and departments across the University and brings them together in a matrix functioning research center of excellence which will also benefit clinicians and the signature programs. Dr. Jacobs encouraged Dr. Lalande to ask for adequate resources from the State to support the initiative.

Dr. Lalande also provided an update on the stem cell initiative. UConn received close to \$12 million as a result of this initiative. There will be another request for proposals later in 2007. There is still \$80 million available over the next eight years to support human embryonic stem cell research in the State. The new facility at 400 Farmington Avenue is being renovated to house the stem cell institute and must be a world-class facility that reflects the quality of research being conducted there.

c. Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Dr. Koeppen provided an update on the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), an infrastructure linking basic science research with clinical research and moving that research into practice to impact the clinical care of patients. The three major purposes for the award are (1) to assist institutions to create a uniquely transformative, novel, and integrative home for clinical and translational science; (2) to train the next generation of multi- and interdisciplinary investigators; and (3) to promote the application of new knowledge and techniques to patient care. The Health Center was the recipient of a planning grant, which will be submitted in October 2007. It will be an integrator of UConn research programs (basic science, T1 research, clinical trials, T2 research, and the research strategic plan). It will also form partnerships within the community, which will not be limited to our affiliated hospitals but will include groups such as ProHealth. Key functions of the CTSI include development of novel clinical and translational methodologies; pilot and collaborative translational and clinical studies; biomedical informatics; design, biostatistics, and clinical research ethics; regulatory knowledge and support; participant and clinical interaction resources; community engagement; translational technologies and resources; research education, training and career development; and evaluation of performance and key metrics specific to the Health Center. He was asked about the response from the community hospitals.

He explained that letters of invitation were sent to the CEOs of Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC), the Hospital of Central Connecticut (HOCC), and the Hospital for Special Care. He has received positive responses from CCMC and HOCC.

d. Legislative Updates

Ms. Lombardo, government relations liaison for the Health Center, presented the following legislative updates:

- 1) During the legislative session, it became very clear that the Governor and the General Assembly were looking to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) as areas of focus for direct medical care. A proposal that would place UConn residents into FQHCs, thus providing a direct link to the School of Medicine, has not yet been funded. Dr. Galvin encouraged Ms. Lombardo to continue to pursue support of this proposal and to perhaps work with the Department of Public Health on this initiative.
- 2) A proposal to develop a community-based medical residency, which would have placed one to two residency rotations in FQHCs, was not included in this budget.
- 3) The Appropriations Committee's proposal fully funds the academic gap in FY 08 and FY 09. It also provides \$5 million in each year to help address the disparity in fringe benefit costs between John Dempsey Hospital and other hospitals. It also includes an increase in Medicaid reimbursement for all medical providers statewide. Ms. Lombardo indicated that the goal now is to maintain this level of support.
- 4) The Appropriations Committee has also included in the appropriation for the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) \$400,000 to study the Health Center's hospital replacement plan and to provide the General Assembly with a bed needs analysis for the region.
- 5) Attorney Rubin provided an update on the State Code of Ethics. All employees of the University are subject to this code. Some provisions in the Code are problematic for the University. She explained that the Ethics Commission functions as a barrier between State employees and employees of private industry. However, this presents problems for faculty who are

encouraged to have relationships with the private sector to develop and commercialize new technology. Therefore, a bill has been proposed exempting the University from these provisions and allowing us to decide as an institution when there is a conflict and when it is appropriate to conduct outside work. The legislature has asked that more oversight be included in the bill. As a result, semi-annual internal audits for compliance will be conducted. The bill has been receiving a lot of support and will go to the Senate this week.

Dr. Deckers formally thanked Ms. Lombardo and Attorney Rubin for their efforts on behalf of the institution. Dr. Galvin added his personal thanks as well.

e. Schedule of Meetings for 2007/2008

The schedule of meetings for 2007/2008 was reviewed. The Committee agreed to schedule a meeting in August or early September to act on consent items.

4. Consents

Dr. Galvin recused himself from this portion of the meeting since he was one of the faculty members being recommended for promotion. The recommendations for School of Medicine/School of Dental Medicine appointments, promotions, reappointments, tenure awards, and sabbatical leaves were then unanimously approved.

Dr. Hepworth noted that there were two recommendations for appointment at senior rank which had not been reviewed by the School of Medicine's Senior Appointments and Promotions Committee. She asked the Subcommittee to be aware of this in order to avoid routine circumvention of the promotion system.

Dr. Deckers noted the importance of Dr. Maxwell's plans for sabbatical leave, and the important contribution it will make to the stem cell initiative. During his leave, Dr. Maxwell will develop teaching modules on stem cells that address both scientific and ethical issues. These modules will form the basis for instructional materials for use upon his return.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce M. Koeppen, M.D., Ph.D.