

Academic Affairs Subcommittee  
of the Board of Directors

August 18, 2003

**Minutes**

Attendees: N. Adams, R. Berlin, A. Cooper, P. Deckers, J. Goldberg, L. Jacobs,  
C. Leonardi, M. MacNeil, G. Maxwell, P. Robinson, P. Setlow, J. Shanley,  
C. Trummel, J. Comerford, A. Hand, J. Walter, S. Weller, S. Wetstone,  
S. Whetstone, L. White

Mr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Public Comment

None.

2. The minutes of the May 5, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved. Mr. Cooper noted that Mr. Meacham and Dr. Rowe are no longer members of the Academic Affairs Subcommittee. Dr. Deckers also noted that Ms. Leonardi, Mr. Meacham, and Dr. Rowe will be replaced on the Board of Directors.

3. Final Report of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)

Dr. Deckers presented the final report of the LCME and noted some areas identified as in partial or substantial non-compliance or in transition. The School received the maximum seven-year accreditation. Dr. Deckers met with faculty concerned with each of the non-compliance or transition areas and delegated responsibility to them to have a progress report to him in six months, and again in another six months, so he can prepare a progress report for the LCME due January 1, 2005.

4. Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Institutional Accreditation

The ACGME is the organization that governs graduate medical education (i.e. residency and fellowship programs). The UConn Health Center, which has 51 programs integrated across the Greater Hartford hospitals, was awarded the maximum five-year accreditation. Nine citations were noted in the report, which Dr. Deckers feels are not onerous. Dr. Koeppen will submit a progress report by July 1, 2005 addressing these. Dr. Deckers noted that he has also asked Dr. Koeppen to work with the Graduate Medical Education Committee to determine the right number of residency and fellowship programs we should have, the right number of residents and fellows within these programs, and whether or not they are receiving a good education.

5. Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Institutional Accreditation

The School of Medicine's Continuing Medical Education Office received accreditation for a four-year period. Only one area of non-compliance was noted in the report, dealing with disclosure related to the presentation of commercially supported programs.

6. Revised Policy on Data Ownership

The revised Policy on Data Ownership was presented for information. The Councils of the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine have approved the revised policy. The new policy includes a provision allowing a whistleblower to sequester data necessary to defend his/her allegations of research misconduct. It was clarified that item #5 under Principles, which addresses ownership and access to data, also holds true if funding is through the Health Center. The policy does not distinguish between funding sources.

7. New Health Center Grievance Policy

The new Health Center Grievance Policy was presented. Dr. Deckers noted that the responsibilities of the Faculty Review Board (FRB) and the UConn Health Center Appeals Committee (UHC AC) are more clearly defined and appropriate. He also noted that the UHC Appeals Committee has the right to vote on whether they will hear an appeal, as does the Board of Directors. Dr. Deckers believes the new policy creates a logical process for faculty who might need to exercise their right of appeal.

8. Continued Discussion of 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn

a. Description of Health Sciences Education Center (HSEC) and Relationship to IT at Storrs

The primary mission of the Health Sciences Education Center (HSEC) is to develop and integrate electronic educational materials throughout the Schools' curricula and to promote and support faculty and student use of these educational technologies. Ms. White, Director of HSEC, indicated that interactions with the Storrs campus have been very limited because of the differences between the two institutions, as noted in her report. However, they continue to try to make progress in tying the two infrastructures together in order to share data between the two institutions, as well as other universities, but this is in the infancy stage.

The importance of rewarding faculty in the area of education was noted. Our current faculty are aging, and many will soon be retiring. The importance of recruiting new faculty who are expected to teach and who are capable of learning this new educational system was stressed. The importance of allowing faculty the time to attend the training provided by HSEC was also noted.

Dr. Deckers noted that as part of UConn 21<sup>st</sup> Century, \$55-65 million will be allocated to the Health Center for improvements in information technology.

b. Description of Shared Programs and Collaborations Between UConn Health Center and Storrs

As requested at a previous Subcommittee meeting, Dr. Koeppen prepared a listing of shared programs and collaborations between the Health Center and the Storrs campuses. Dr. Berlin noted some additional collaborative interactions. An ongoing training grant sponsored by the Health Center's Department of Pharmacology and the School of Pharmacy at Storrs has been reasonably successful. Another area of common interest is computer science and bioinformatics and the virtual cell project. Finally, there are genetics studies being done at the Health Center and at Storrs, which complement each other. These will be added to the list provided by Dr. Koeppen.

c. Education and Student Services Space Needs

Dr. Koeppen prepared an extensive listing of educational space needs, as well as a plan and time frame for how UConn 21<sup>st</sup> Century funds can meet these needs. It was noted that this listing is subject to change. Also, as noted in Dr. Koeppen's document, construction of the new research building is critical to meeting these educational needs. One of the key projects is freeing up space in the academic building to allow creation of a student center. The student center would consolidate admissions, student affairs, the Health Career Opportunity Program, the bookstore, the student lounge, student study space, and a fitness center. It was suggested that we try to determine whether the anticipated time line in accomplishing these activities will impact faculty or student recruitment.

9. Endowed Chairs - Annual Reports

The Annual Reports for the Endowed Chairs in Infectious Diseases/AIDS Research, Transfusion Medicine, and Human Genetics were presented for information. These reports will also be forwarded to the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees.

10. Approval of the Elimination of the Departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology and the Creation of a New Department of Molecular and Structural Biology

The Academic Affairs Subcommittee unanimously approved the following recommendation: **That the UCHC Board of Directors recommends that the Board of Trustees approves: (a) The creation of the Department of Molecular and Structural Biology in the School of Medicine, (b) The closing of the Department of Biochemistry, and (c) The closing of the Department of Microbiology. These actions would take effect October 1, 2003.**

The above recommendations were presented to and approved by the Dean's Advisory Committee in June 2003. All faculty members in the Departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology, with one exception, have agreed to transfer into the new department. Dr. Weller noted that the official name of the new department has not yet been decided. She also indicated that the teaching that is done to medical students and in the graduate programs will not change drastically as a result of this reorganization.

Dr. Deckers also reported that human geneticists within the Department of Pediatrics have transferred into the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology, creating a Division of Human Genetics within that Department. These individuals will hold secondary appointments in the Department of Pediatrics.

11. Renaming of the Department of Physiology to the Department of Cell Biology

The Academic Affairs Subcommittee unanimously approved the following recommendation: **That the UCHC Board of Directors approves the renaming of the School of Medicine Department of Physiology to the Department of Cell Biology to become effective October 1, 2003.**

Dr. Berlin explained the rationale for renaming the Department of Physiology. A major reason is that it is felt that a Department of Cell Biology will be more attractive to candidates when recruiting a future leader in this area. The mission and academic programs of the department will remain the same.

12. Consents

a. School of Medicine/School of Dental Medicine - Appointments, Tenure, Promotions, Reappointments, Sabbatics

The recommendations for appointments, tenure, promotions, reappointments, and sabbatic leaves for the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine were unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Deckers, M.D.