

Prof. Kathleen Chard
Chair, Committee on Academic Organization and Structure
January 24, 2003

RE: College of Dentistry Review of the Task Force Recommendations for Medical Center Reorganization in the Provost Model

Dear Professor Chard:

The College of Dentistry Faculty Council held a special faculty meeting on the evening of January 15, 2003 to receive comments about the report of the Task Force on Medical Center Organization and the Provost Model. Dr. Jeff Dembo reviewed his memorandum concerning the Senate review process and spoke about concerns raised by Task Force recommendations regarding our academic mission. Following his summation, Dr. Ken Chance, a member of the Task Force, gave a brief overview of the recommendations, noting remaining concerns to be addressed upon further review. Dean Assael then commented on the implications of these changes to conducting the business of the college, especially as related to Dental Service Plan (DSP) and FUND management. He also provided an update on Implementation Committee selection and college representation on the FUND Board and the Executive Committee. The floor was then opened for questions. The faculty was also encouraged to send emails to me or another Council member if there were other issues or concerns. A recording secretary made detailed notes of the meeting.

The Faculty Council met meeting on January 23 to develop a draft report that was distributed to the faculty for comment. This report is the final outcome of this review process. There was no formal vote of the faculty.

The College of Dentistry Faculty Council voted to accept the general Task Force recommendations. However, the Council wishes to raise three issues related to the transition and implementation process. To enhance the ability of the College to participate fully in the Provost system and to promote our strengths as a full partner with other colleges to achieve the President's vision of one university, we believe the following are imperative:

1. The academic support services currently provided under the leadership of Dr. Phyllis Nash must be continued. The list of these services is beyond the scope of this report, but is extensive. It is unclear how these services will be sustained and strengthened as the Provost System is implemented. Loss or diminution of these services will greatly impair our ability to achieve our academic mission. In addition, the appointment of an Associate Provost for Academic Affairs for the Medical Center to oversee these services is imperative.
2. The College of Dentistry Dean must remain a member of the FUND Board of Directors. The College generates about 72% of total FUND revenues. In 2001- 02, these revenues supported 28.2% of College operating expenses including maintenance, computer and other equipment leases, and recruiting expenses. Obviously, these funds are vital to the success of our academic program. It is also important that safeguards be in place to promote high standards of patient care and increased productivity to sustain the FUND revenue stream.
3. The Clinical Sciences Area Committee must be maintained to recognize and affirm the differing professional cultures on campus. One of the significant challenges facing dental education is attracting and retaining highly qualified, talented young faculty members who are both academics and clinicians. Rigorous scholarship should be expected but performance must be evaluated in the context of the special demands required in professional education and patient care.

If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

E. Preston Hicks, DDS, MS, MSD
Chair, Faculty Council
College of Dentistry