



SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN
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SVM Community Council – charge letter

Rationale: Goal 5 of the School’s Strategic Plan recommended the establishment of a Community Council as a tactic to produce sustained ideas to promote principles of community, improve human welfare, and enhance diversity and inclusion.

Charge: The Community Council (CC) shall consist of faculty and staff to reflect the full range of employment within the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) including the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) and other major academic or service units, such as the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System. The CC will include student and other trainees representing veterinary medical students, graduate students, and postdoctoral trainees. The Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Programs serves as an ex-officio member without vote. A VMDO Analyst will provide the administrative support and implementation. The Dean’s Cabinet (DC) will select CC members. In selecting members of the CC, the DC will consult with appropriate representative groups such as the Academic Council, Faculty Executive Council, and Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA). CC member terms will consist of a 2-year term with eligibility for a subsequent 2-year term. Initial appointments may be staggered to allow for continuity. CC members will elect a Chair of the Council for a 1-year term with eligibility for a subsequent 1-year term of service.

The CC shall be responsible to identify and promote activities, programs, and ideas that:

- Foster mental health and wellness and promote and reward a working environment of trust, respect, loyalty and collegiality
- Promote principles of community through clear and visible shared values that bring people together by valuing contributions to all aspects of the school’s mission
- Encourage dialogue and communication across all groups to highlight collaboration and identify common topics of interest
- Enhance diversity, inclusion, and multicultural activities, programs, and awareness of faculty, residents, staff and students
- Organize community building activities within normal work hours (e.g., social events, common projects, group work-collaborations, recreational activities)
- Promote community projects across the school to encourage engagement among groups focused on common causes
- Create outlets of communication for all school stakeholders using a variety of methods, channels, and forums (e.g., tea times)
- Encourage community building activities (e.g., social events, common projects, group work-collaborations, recreational activities)
- Promote community projects across the school to encourage engagement among groups focused on common causes
- Identify resources to educate or assist the SVM community on issues such as happiness and generosity, work-life integration, mental health and wellness, and diversity, inclusion, and equity.



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Reporting, Operational Processes, and Implementation: The CC will report regularly to the Dean's Cabinet on issues related to implementation and execution of community based activities, programs, and ideas to enhance or achieve the CC mission and charges. The CC will also communicate outcomes and activities in regular SVM Strategic Plan updates and other School-wide communication channels. The CC should create operational guidelines to assist in the scheduling of meetings, minutes, documentation of activities, member selection, communications, etc.

Thank you in advance of your consideration to serve on this council

Michael D. Lairmore
Dean and Distinguished Professor