

OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee (POC)
Meeting Summary
June 24, 2015
12 PM EST, Conference Call

Yolanda Becker, MD, Chair
Sue Dunn, RN, BSN, MBA, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on June 24, 2015 are summarized below and will be reflected in the committee's next report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. Meeting summaries and reports to the Board are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.

Committee Projects

1. Proposal to Increase Committee Terms to Three Years

The committee was presented the proposed final bylaws language for consideration and vote as follows:

7.2 Standing Committee Chairs

Committee Chairs inform the OPTN president and the Executive Director of the activities of their Committees and report to the Board of Directors upon request.

The treasurer of the OPTN serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee. The vice president, with approval of the Board of Directors, appoints the Chair of the other standing Committees.

Chairs and Vice Chairs of the standing Committees have the following terms:

- The Patient Affairs, Ethics and Transplant Administrator Chairs and Vice Chairs serve three year terms.
- Other Chairs and Vice Chairs serve two-year terms.

The vice president may appoint one or more Committee Chairs for a one-year term so that a staggered rotation is achieved. Committee Chairs may be appointed to consecutive terms. Chairs will serve an additional 1-year term as an *ex-officio* member of the Committee.

7.3 Terms of Standing Committee Members

The vice president appoints members of the Committees for terms of ~~two~~three years, except for ~~the Patient Affairs, Ethics and Transplant Administrators Committee Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)~~ members, who serve ~~three~~two-year terms. When appointing standing Committee members, the vice president may also:

- Appoint up to one-~~third~~half of the members of a Committee to a one-year term to achieve a staggered rotation.
- Appoint any Committee member to an additional full or partial ~~consecutive~~ term whose expertise is needed for the committee to continue its work and whose extension is supported by the regional councillor.

7.5 The Policy Oversight Committee (POC)

The OPTN will have a permanent standing committee, the Policy Oversight Committee (POC), that ~~The POC~~ will be advisory to the Board of Directors. The POC will also:

- Provide written recommendations about policies to the Board of Directors at least twice a year.
- Review and comment on research projects being conducted and published by the OPTN and the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR).
- Work in collaboration with the SRTR Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to identify and develop SRTR research priorities.

A. Composition of POC

The POC will be comprised of the Vice Chairs of ~~the organ-related and constituency~~ the standing Committees and the following other individuals as needed. ~~members:~~

- ~~1. Two public policy or public health representatives, with strong backgrounds in healthcare policy analysis.~~
- ~~2. Representatives from the public including transplant recipients, candidates, donors and their families.~~
- ~~3. Two professionals with expertise in applying research data to policy chosen by the SRTR.~~
- ~~4. Other individuals, as needed.~~

B. Ex-officio Representation

The Policy Oversight Committee will also have non-voting, *ex-officio* members from the Division of Transplantation of the HHS and the SRTR, or representatives they designate, as follows:

1. The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Project Officer for the OPTN contract.
2. The Director of the Division of Transplantation.
3. One other Federal representative to be designated by the OPTN Project Officer.
4. The Project Officer of the SRTR contract.
5. Two *ex-officio*, non-voting representatives of the SRTR, chosen by the SRTR.

~~Current members of the OPTN Board of Directors may not serve on this Committee.~~

C. POC Chair

The Vice pPresident, with approval of the Board of Directors, will appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the POC for two year terms ~~the Chair of the POC~~. POC Chairs and Vice Chairs may be appointed to consecutive terms. The POC Chair will also serve an additional 1-year term as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

D. Terms of POC

AWith the exception of the MPSC Vice Chair, all standing Committee Vice Chairs, or a representative of the Committee appointed by the Vice President, serve ex-officio on the Policy

Oversight Committee. ~~All other members of the POC serve for terms equal to their terms as~~ standing Committee Vice Chairs. POC terms begin on July 1.

The policy director made the recommendation that a couple of the changes needed to be deleted, included the “standing committee phrase in 7.5.A and 7.5.C. The committee agreed and removed that from the final version. The policy director also recommended that the suggested phrase in 7.3 “and whose extension is supported by the regional councillor” was not needed in the bylaws because this is an operational item and not a requirement in the bylaws. The committee agreed that this is not a requirement and the intent was not to give this authority to the regional councilor.

A committee member asked to discuss if the Vice Chairs are really the best people to serve on the POC. The idea to have immediate past Chairs serve was raised at a meeting in Atlanta after the board meeting, as well as the idea to let each committee appoint its chosen POC representative. The chair said that this is the kind of thing that could come back in public comment and we should specifically ask for input in the public comment proposal about that topic. The committee liaison agreed to add that specific request for input to the public comment proposal. A number of committee members agreed that this proposal was ready to go as is but we should solicit input about the best person to serve on the POC.

A committee member also commented that there was a tremendous amount of work involved in being on both his committee as well as serving on the POC. And perhaps the best idea is to have the former Chair serve. If we consider this post public comment and decide to make this change, would it have to go out again for public comment?? Using the past Chairs is a really interesting idea as a way to garner the expertise and knowledge.

The Chair requested that we add this as an item to our agenda at our in-person meeting in September.

The committee voted unanimously (11-0-0) to approve the bylaws language with the removal of the regional administrator phrase and the work “standing in 7.5.A and 7.5.C as follows:

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Upcoming Meetings:

- August 10, 2015 Conference Call, 3:00 PM EST
- September 28-29 In-person Meeting, Chicago, IL