

**OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee  
Meeting Summary  
November 12, 2015  
Conference Call**

**Sue Dunn, RN, BSN, MBA, Chair  
Jennifer Milton, BSN, CCTC, MBA, Vice Chair]**

*Discussions of the full committee on November 12, 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 voted (18-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain) to approve a small change to the proposal policy language. The small policy language changes allows ex-officio Chairs to vote as a members of the Committees. The proposal will go to the Board of Directors Meeting on December 1-2 for approval on the consent agenda.

**Committee Projects Pending Implementation**

**2. None**

**Implemented Committee Projects**

**3. None**

**Review of Public Comment Proposals**

**4. None**

**Other Significant Items**

**5. Updates on Potential Multi-Organ Project Work Plan**

At the Septmeber 29, 2015 POC in-person meeting, the POC recommended that any multi-organ project be sponsored by the OPO Committee, instead of the POC. The Committee viewed itself as an oversight committee, and thought leading a project of this size and complexity sets the wrong precedence about the purpose of the POC. During the September meeting, consensus in the Committee was gained about the priority and complexity of any multi-organ project. POC asked UNOS staff, along with OPO Committee Leadership, to build a potential project plan and present it at the next POC meeting on November 12, 2015. The potential project plan needed to address the following four problems:

- Lack of medical criteria and assessment of medical need in Policy 5.8
- Lack of specificity for allocation order when there are multiple eligible multi-organ candidates
- Vague and unclear rules for multi-organ allocation beyond the local level
- Ethical questions exist regarding current multi-organ allocation policies

During this November 12, 2015 POC meeting, UNOS staff presented potential work plans after meetings with OPO Committee Leadership. The POC agreed with the work

plan that the multi-organ issue would be divided into multiple smaller projects. The Committee came to consensus on the following three smaller projects:

- Policy 5.8 multi-organ clarifications – address any quick fixes, small changes, or clarifications to the existing policy
- Ethical principles of multi-organ allocation – practical advice regarding multi-organ transplants vs. single organ transplants, and certain organ combinations vs. other combinations
- Substantive changes – address the full complexity of which combinations to tackle, possible medical eligibility, and potential safety nets

The Committee then discussed the timeline for the smaller projects. The Committee did not want any new multi-organ projects to interfere with the progression of the Simultaneous Liver-Kidney (SLK) proposal through its next round of public comment. The POC reached consensus that the substantive changes to multi-organ allocation could not happen until the ethical implications and any clarifications to existing policy occurred. The Committee came to consensus and suggested to UNOS staff and the OPO Committee that the Ethical Implication project and the Clarifications project move simultaneously to the POC for new project review during one of its future meetings.

The two potential projects will be reviewed by POC at its new project review in January 2016. The Ethical Implications project will be sponsored by the Ethics Committee and the Clarifications project will be sponsored by the OPO Committee.

#### **6. Opportunity for Feedback on the Committee Portfolio Report (Draft)**

The POC discussed and delivered feedback on the new draft Committee Portfolio Report. The purpose of the report is for committee leadership to update their committee on the overall strategic alignment of projects, including all committee work. The POC members, Vice Chairs for Committees, are the organizational strategic alignment link from the POC back to the committees. The report will give committees transparency as to how their work fits into the complete portfolio. The Committee gave the following feedback:

- More explanations as to the meaning of charts and graphs
- More explanations as to the relationships of all the visuals
- Fewer acronyms
- Visuals that represent collaborating committees
- More level of effort explanation
- Projects sorted by committees
- Education for committees on how to use report effectively

#### **Upcoming Meeting(s)**

- December 10, 2015, Conference Call, 12-1 p.m. ET
- January 14, 2016, Conference Call, 4-5 p.m. ET
- January 21, 2016, Conference Call, 12-1 p.m. ET