

Center Reviews

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Applies to:

Any center in the School of Medicine that has a director reporting directly to the dean or any center that has been assigned institutional resources such as space.

Reason for Policy:

Just as academic departments are evaluated when their chairs undergo five-year reviews, centers should be reviewed to determine whether or not their activities are in alignment with the institutional missions of the School of Medicine. The review will also evaluate the center's effectiveness in accomplishing its stated goals, defining and working toward a vision, and supporting the efforts of the faculty working in the center.

Definitions:

Department center: A center that does not have designated space assigned to it by the dean, and whose director reports to his or her department chair. Although headquartered in one department, a center may (or may not) be multi-disciplinary and have members from other departments or schools.

School of Medicine center: A center that is multi-disciplinary, has designated space assigned to it by the dean, and whose director reports to the dean,

Policy Statement:

Any School of Medicine center will undergo formal review every five years. At the dean's discretion, the center may be reviewed outside of the five-year cycle. Also at the dean's discretion, department centers may be reviewed jointly with the department chair who is responsible for the center. The review will follow the process outlined in SOM policy 1.413, Administrative Review and Reappointment of Department Chairs or School of Medicine Center Directors.

The dean will use the information provided from the review to determine if the center should continue operating under its current parameters, revise its mission and/or scope, become a department center rather than a School of Medicine center, or cease operations.

Procedures:

Following the review of the center:

1. If the center is to continue as an entity with a director reporting to the dean:
 - The dean and the center director will meet to define the terms to continue the center. This will include setting strategic goals for the center director for his or her next term of appointment.

2. If the center is to be discontinued or is to become a department center:
 - The dean will define the time frame for dissolving or changing the status of the center.
 - The director, his/her department chair, and a representative of the dean's office will meet to discuss the director's salary and duties, and his/her return to non-center space and the time frame for accomplishing that return.
 - Any remaining resources that the SOM previously granted to the center will be returned the School or will be used to meet specific center goals over a negotiated time period.
 - Center space will be returned to the School within a specified period of time, with due consideration given to the department that originally ceded the space to the center.

Policy Background:

Centers may be discontinued for strategic reasons, including but not limited to changes in the School of Medicine's goals, loss of center funding (such as NIH U or P awards), or the center's failure to address its goals effectively.

If a decision has been made to discontinue the center due to a loss of funding, the center may be granted a defined period of time in which to attempt to regain funding to enable it to continue. The personal funding of the director's laboratory is not equivalent to center funding and will not be considered when evaluating whether or not to continue the center.

The assignment of space to centers will be at the discretion of the dean. Space assigned to a center whose status changes from SOM center to department center will be included in the departmental total and managed under the policy Research Space Use Standards.

Related Policy:

Administrative Review and Reappointment of Department Chairs or School of Medicine Center Directors

<https://med.virginia.edu/school-administration/wp-content/uploads/sites/304/2015/11/AdministrativeReviewandReappointmentofDepartmentChairsorSOMCenterDirectorsAdmin12915.pdf>

Research Space Use Standards

<https://med.virginia.edu/school-administration/wp-content/uploads/sites/304/2015/11/Research-Space-Use-Standards-1.pdf>

Revision history:

Implemented 4/26/2007; revised 10/3/11; administrative update 1/26/15