Sanford Cloud, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:16 am.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2 CHAIR’S REMARKS

2.1 Welcome

Chairman Cloud thanked everyone for being present at our regularly scheduled quarterly meeting, which is recorded.

2.2 Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 11, 2023 [vote]

2.3 Approval of Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting November 1, 2023 [vote]

*In one vote, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the UConn Health Board of Directors regular meeting on September 11, and the Special Meeting held on November 1, 2023.*

2.4 Subcommittee Appointment of Charlene Casamento to Finance Subcommittee [vote]

*The Board of Directors unanimously approved the appointment of Charlene Casamento to the Finance Subcommittee.*

3 CONSENT ITEMS [vote]

Items 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 were reviewed in the Finance Subcommittee held earlier today. Item 3.4.1 had been previously reviewed and approved by the Clinical Affairs Subcommittee in November.

3.1 Contracts > $1,000,000 [F]

3.1.1 Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
3.1.2 Abbott Laboratories, Inc.
3.1.3 Cochlear Americas
3.1.4 Dialysis Clinic Inc.
3.1.5 Dialysis Clinic Inc.
3.1.6 Edwards Lifesciences LLC
3.1.7 Health Information Alliance
3.1.8 Olympus American Inc
3.1.9 Paragon 28 Inc.
3.1.10 PartsSource Inc.
3.1.11 Shields Pharmacy of Connecticut II, LLC
3.1.12 Atlantic Data Security, LLC
3.1.13 CDW LLC d/b/a CDW Government LLC
3.1.14 Jackson Laboratory
3.1.15 Wellpartner LLC
3.1.16 Connecticut Ear Nose & Throat Associates (CT ENT)
3.1.17 Curant Health George, LLC & Curant Health Florida, LLC
3.1.18 Hartford Hospital d/b/a Hartford Healthcare Community Pharmacy
3.1.19 Walgreen Company

3.2 Leases [F]
3.2.1 Charles Orefice

3.3 Project Budgets [F]
3.3.1 Project Budget for the Anatomic Pathology & Autopsy Renovation (Final Budget)
3.3.2 Project Budget for the Blood Bank Relocation (Revised Final)
3.3.3 Project Budget for the Central Sterile Washer & Sterilizer Replacement (Revised Final)

3.4 Other Approvals
3.4.1 Environment of Care 2023 Annual Assessments [C]

The Board of Directors unanimously approved Agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 as described in the Board materials beginning on page 10.

4 CEO/EVP REPORT

4.1 Chief Executive Officer’s Report – B. Liang

The Directors heard a report from the interim CEO, Dr. Bruce Liang, which highlighted recent awards received for its outstanding patient experience, safety, and for its high performing hospital and clinical services. It was also reported that both inpatient and outpatient volumes continue to grow, and that the Emergency Department has also continued to hit record volumes in the first 4 months of this fiscal year. Dr. Liang told the Board that UConn Health is developing an application to submit to the state requesting to increase the number of licensed beds at the hospital to accommodate this rapid growth in volume.

4.1.1 Market Perception Study – C. Hyers/K. Wallace

The Directors also heard a presentation on the results of a Consumer Preference Marketing Study that was conducted a few months ago. UConn Health saw significant improvements in its name recognition and reputation, in both its primary and secondary service areas, over the past several years. For example, 94% of respondents rated UConn Health as “excellent” or “very good” when asked about their overall perception of UConn Health and whether they were likely to recommend it to others.

4.2 Financial Update – J. Geoghegan

4.2.1 Results of Operations: Fiscal Year 2024 as of October 31, 2023
Mr. Geoghegan reviewed the key financial results through October 31, 2023. Results of operations show $4.7 million favorable to budget fiscal year-to-date. Clinical operations is the driver at $9.6 million favorable to budget for all operations – the hospital, the physician practice and the specialty pharmacy through the Finance Corporation. Research operations shows $621,000 unfavorable to budget as a result of the change in the fringe benefit methodology. This should improve as we move forward and reallocate money originally set aside for fringe benefits. SOM and SODM are both favorable to budget. JDH is $5 million favorable to budget.

5 MAIN BUSINESS

5.1 President Update – R. Maric

The President provided a report, announcing the news that a new UConn Foundation President has been found. She also provided a brief update on the UConn Health CEO search, sharing that candidates will be presented by the search firm to the committee in the coming weeks and that interviews are happening in January.

5.2 Research Update – J. Schwager

Julie Schwager provided the Research update, reporting that new awards for the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine remain strong and steady. Through the first 4 months of fiscal year, there have been 24 awards, totaling $44.6 million, which compares favorably to last year’s $40 million over the same period of time. Julie highlighted some new awards of note, including 2 awards totaling almost $4 million to Dr. Shields from OB/GYN to scale up her trademarked program called Obstetrics Life Support, and also to adapt this innovative program to help patients in underserved areas. Two other new large awards received in this first quarter include a $2.2 million award to Dr. Rhee from the National Institute on Aging; and $3.7 million awarded to Dr. Hoch from the National Institute for General Medical Sciences. Julie also reported out on technology commercialization efforts, sharing that there were 8 total disclosures in this first quarter, compared to 6 last year. Twelve patents were filed this quarter, though no patents have yet been granted.

5.3 Dean, School of Medicine Update – B. Liang/A. Vella

Dr. Liang provided an update on recruitment during the School of Medicine report, sharing that Dr. Kevin Staveley-O’Carroll will be joining UConn Health from the University of Missouri as the new Chair of the Department of Surgery, and that two other surgeons have also been recruited – Dr. Guangfu Li and Dr. Dustin Walters.

5.3.1 Endowed Chair – Murray-Heilig Endowed Chair in Surgery [vote]

5.3.2 Endowed Chair – Lockean Distinguished Chair in Mental Health Education, Research & Clinical Improvement [vote]

The Board of Directors unanimously approved Agenda items 5.3.1 and 5.3.2, appointing Dr. Kevin Staveley-O’Carroll to the Murray-Heilig Endowed Chair in Surgery, and Dr. Margaret Briggs-Gowan to the Lockean Distinguished Chair in Mental Health Education, Research & Clinical Improvement.
During the School of Dental Medicine update, Dr. Lepowsky reported on the outcome of the Dental School’s three-day accreditation site visit in October. The pre-doctoral DMD program, along with 7 of the 8 advanced dental education residency programs, was reviewed. The review included an assessment of all of the educational programs, patient care programs, and research programs, as well as a review of facilities, faculty, staff, and interactions with both the University and health systems across the state and region. The outcome of the accreditation review was outstanding; the accreditation team determined that out of 645 measures tested, there were no recommendations, which means that every one of the 645 measures either met or exceeded accreditation standards.

Dr. Lepowsky also reported on faculty recruitment efforts and updated the Board on the Dental School’s reestablished affiliation with the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, whereby they are now providing on-site dental care through a revenue generating contract. This will also help both students and residents because the population served at the Hospital for Special Care represents some of the most fragile and medically complex patients anywhere in the state.

Director Holt reported that the Finance Subcommittee met before this meeting to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting, and to review and recommend approval 19 contracts, 1 lease and 3 project budgets. In that meeting, Jeff Geoghegan also provided a detailed report on FY24 through October 31, 2023. Information on contracts from $500,000-$999,999 and the personnel report can be found beginning on page 80 of the Board book.

Director Carbray reported that the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee met on November 16, 2023. The Committee received an overview of Facilities Management operations from John Lombardi. He explained that Facilities Management currently manages 40 buildings totaling 4 million square feet with a staff of 330. In addition, they provide support and transition of all campus planning projects, as well as energy and utility management, sustainability and life safety compliance.

The Committee also reviewed 30 capital projects which are in planning, design, bidding or construction phases.

Director Archambault reported that the Academic Affairs Subcommittee met on October 23, 2023. The committee approved recommendations from both schools for appointment at senior rank, award of academic tenure, appointment as professor and sabbatical leave requests. Reports were given on the UConn Center on Aging, and the impact on university admissions following the Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action.
The Clinical Affairs Committee continues to meet monthly and review and vote on staff appointments and other credentialing matters related to medical staff. The Committee also held its regular quarterly meeting on November 9, 2023. At the November 9 meeting, recognition and thanks were given to Surgery Chair Dr. McFadden, who will retire at the end of the year. The Committee also heard a report from the interim CEO, Dr. Bruce Liang, regarding the clinical operations and volumes, and got a preview of the UConn Health market perception study. Dr. Scott Allen, the CMO, provided a Quality Report, reporting among other things that JDH’s serious safety event rate continues to remain below the historically reported state average, and that we are also moving forward positively on a number of other safety and quality metrics that we regularly track and measure. The Committee also heard the great news that, for the first time ever, the CMS Star rating for JDH is ‘5 stars’ in terms of willingness to recommend JDH, and that JDH received its 6th straight Leapfrog hospital safety grade of “A.”

Dr. Allen presented the annual updates to the JDH Clinical Quality and Service Improvement Plan, which the Committee voted to approve. The Committee also approved the hospital’s Environment of Care Management Plan for 2024, and voted to recommend that the full Board approve this Plan.

The Committee heard a report by Dr. Wendy Miller for the School of Medicine relating to engaging residents, fellows and faculty in patient safety at UConn Health, which is an accreditation requirement for Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs. They also heard a report by Dr. Steve Lepowsky for the School of Dental Medicine relating to the SODM’s October accreditation site visit, which resulted in no recommendations in any of the programs evaluated. The team from the Commission on Dental Accreditation determined that the Dental School met or exceeded every one of the 645 accreditation standards. Also for the Dental School, Dr. Sophia Saeed reported on program improvement initiatives, including in the area of patient care tracking and follow up.

JACC reviewed and accepted the two UConn Health internal audit reports. Management agrees with the recommendations and provided corrective action plans. Angelo Quaresima provided an update on the 340B Compliance Partners - Audit Close Out report for 2022. Two of the remaining open recommendations have been implemented and the 3rd item had an anticipated completion date of September 30, 2023. The JACC also accepted an approved the FY2024 Compliance Plan, and the revised UConn Compliance and Ethics Committee Charter. Elle Box, the Chief Healthcare Compliance Officer, provided an update on the Healthcare Compliance, Privacy and Integrity Program by providing an overview of the Summary Dashboard. The Committee also got an update on compliance education provided at UConn Health, the status of the Policy Manager Software that recently launched at UConn Health, and status of UConn Health information system and technology projects.

11 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

11.1 Recruitment and Retention MOU/MOAs
11.2 UConn Medical Group Operational Report
11.3 2024 Meeting Schedule: BOD and Subcommittees
12 EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss preliminary notes and drafts that the Health Center has determined that the public interest in withholding such documents and discussions clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure; trade secrets and other privileged communications.

The Board of Directors unanimously approved entering Executive Session.


The Board returned to the Public Session at 11:21 am.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce T. Liang, M.D.
Interim Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean, UConn School of Medicine

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
March 11, 2024