

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendees: Fran Archambault, Sanford Cloud, Joel Freedman, Marc Hansen, Marja Hurley, Mina Mina, Wayne Rawlins, Tannin Schmidt, Anne D'Alleva, Bruce Liang, Blanka Rogina, Barbara Kream, Marilyn Katz, Steven Lepowsky, Eric Bernstein, Kiki Nissen, Scott Simpson, Jeffrey Geoghegan

1. Public Comment

- a. None

2. Chair's Remarks

- a. Welcome and updates
 - i. The meeting came to order with the Chair welcoming everyone to the meeting and taking roll call of attendees.
- b. Approval of minutes from January 29, 2024 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made. Seconded. Approved 8-0-0

3. Consent Items

- a. Approval of School of Medicine Recommendations for Appointment at Senior Rank, Appointment as Professor Emeritus, Sabbatical Leave, and Reappointment of Tenure Track Faculty (Dr. Bruce Liang)
 - a. The names and details can be found on pages 7-14.

A motion to approve the consent items was made. Seconded. Approved 8-0-0

4. Business Items

- a. Oversight Committee Report (Dr. Marc Hansen)
 - i. Dr. Hansen reported that reviews for the Department of Surgery, The Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, The Center on Aging, and the Center for Vascular Biology are scheduled to take place in 2024.
 - ii. Dr. Hansen also reported that the Oversight Committee has been working with the Dean's Council and the Office of Faculty Affairs to examine the operating guidelines and compositions of the governance councils. It was revealed that there are a number of inconsistencies, and these will be explored further and adjustments will be made as necessary.
 - iii. The Oversight Committee Report can be found on pages 15-16.

5. Informational Items

- a. School of Medicine Junior Rank Promotions (Dr. Bruce Liang)
- The details of the promotions can be found on pages 17-18.
- b. Update on the UConn Health-Canaan Fellowship (Dr. Blanka Rogina)
- The presentation can be found on pages 19-26
 - Dr. Rogina reported that the Partnership between the University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine & Dental Medicine and Canaan Partners offers venture capital and entrepreneurship fellowship opportunities to our students. Canaan Partners is a multibillion-dollar venture capital firm focused on investments in early-stage health care and technology companies.
 - Dr. Rogina stated that the Summer Fellowship program is for 5-6 students in medicine and bioscience: Ph.D., M.D., M.D./Ph.D., D.M.D., or D.M.D./Ph.D. students. To date, we have trained 35 Fellows. Fellows receive hands-on training through working directly on real life, venture capital projects with **Tim Shannon, M.D.**, and **Colleen Cuffaro, Ph.D.**, of Canaan Partners
 - Dr. Tannin Schmidt asked if the program tracks which percentage of the fellows end up in a VC or Bio-Tech? Dr. Rogina mentioned that some have moved on to large companies, but most are still at UConn, finishing their residency.
 - Dr. Archambault asked Dr. Rogina to talk about the fellowship program itself – is it a full-time summer experience, are they paid, where do they go, etc. Dr. Rogina explained that the program is about 40 hours long and the students meet in person at 400 Farmington Road for the first session, and then virtually after that. The students work on their projects during the summer and then present their successes at the end of the program.
- c. Update on the Biomedical Graduate School at UConn Health (Dr. Barbara Kream)
- The presentation can be found on pages 27-42
 - Dr. Kream reported that the Graduate fields of study at UConn Health are:
 1. Biomedical Science (PhD, MS, Certificate)
 2. Public Health (MPH, PhD, Certificate)
 3. Clinical and Translational Research (MS, Certificate)
 4. Dental Science (MS)

- The goal of the Biomedical Science PhD Program is to prepare students for careers as scientists and scholars in the biomedical science workforce.
- The program is considered an “Umbrella program” – students matriculate in Biomedical Science and select a major advisor and an area of concentration after the first year:
 1. Cell Biology
 2. Genetics & Developmental Biology
 3. Immunology
 4. Molecular Biology & Biochemistry
 5. Neuroscience
 6. Skeletal Biology & Regeneration
 7. Systems Biology
- Dr. Kream reported that there are many financial support means for students including the Health Center Research Advisory Council (HCRAC), Institutional training grants, and individual predoctoral fellowships (NIH, AHA, NSF)
- Additionally, there are numerous training opportunities at the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine. There are currently 19 graduate faculty appointments and there have been over 115 lab rotations since 2013.
- Between 2008 and 2022, 55% of Biomedical Science PhD graduates moved on to roles as postdoc in Academia, 12% as postdoc in Industry or Government, 11% as researcher in Industry, 7% became faculty and 15% went on to other career paths.
- Dr. Wayne Rawlins asked if there has been any backlash around the DEI committee, relating to the current political landscape AND he asked if the program’s DEI activities align with the university’s DEI activities. Dr. Kream replied that there has not been any backlash surrounding the DEI committee at this time. Dr. Kream also mentioned that when the mission statement for the committee was created, she believes they considered the university’s DEI activities to make sure it was consistent. She mentioned that this is something she can investigate further.

Meeting adjourned 10:53am

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Monday, August 12, 2024

10 a.m. – 12 pm via WebEx