

Voting Members Present: Ernie Canalis, Breno Diniz, Laurinda Jaffe, Emily Germain-Lee, Pedro Mendes, Carla Rash, David Steffens

Non-Voting Members Present: Kimberly Dodge, Marc Hansen, Victor Hesselbrock

Guests: Khamis Abu-Hasaballah, Keith Gulick, Steve King, Donna McKenty

Dr. Germain-Lee called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

1. **Approve Minutes** - Upon a motion made by Dr. Vella seconded by Dr. Canalis the Council members voted unanimously in favor to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting.
2. **Travel Concerns** – With many faculty expressing concerns regarding the strict requirements for travel authorizations, Research Council invited Donna McKenty, Senior Director of Finance and Administration for the UConn School of Medicine, and Keith Gulick, Business Services Manager, to attend Research Council to discuss these concerns.

Ms. McKenty noted that her office follows the current UConn travel policy to ensure fiscal and ethical compliance responsibilities of the University are met. Under certain circumstances, faculty may seek exceptions to the current policy by completing the Exception to Travel and Entertainment Policy Form. Ms. McKenty urged faculty to use this Exception Form if the traveler has special travel circumstances.

3. **Research IT** - Dr. Khamis Abu-Hasaballah, Assistant Vice President for Academic IT Services, provided an update on ongoing institutional efforts supporting Research IT (see attached slide), and asked if there were any challenges or opportunities that need to be addressed going forward. Research IT seeks to ensure that research projects and priorities are aligned with the research community.

It was noted that IT will be making many new upgrades and improvements to the current UCH infrastructure. These changes will allow UCH to move forward with the network segmentation project, allowing IT to segment research into its own subnet.

A question was raised whether it would be beneficial for the institution to get a software license for BioRender, a science illustration software? Dr. Abu-Hasaballah agreed to explore an institutional license for BioRender. He noted that the current list of free, downloadable software available at UConn can be found at (<https://software.uconn.edu>).

4. **Data Sharing and Management** – Dr. Hesselbrock stated that with the new mandated Data Sharing rules for all federal funding agencies, the University is looking at possible ways to support our faculty as they integrate data management and data sharing into their research proposal applications and their efforts. Over the next month, the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Research Deans plan to meet with UCH and UConn faculty who already have data management and sharing expertise to provide their insights on ways to best help our faculty during this steep learning curve.

Dr. Hesselbrock agreed to share the outcomes of these meetings at our next Research Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holden