

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

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

Guests: Julie Schwager

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. Srivastava the Council members voted unanimously in favor to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting.
2. Since Dr. Jaffe's term on Research Council concludes June 30th, Dr. Germain-Lee took this opportunity to thank her for service.

Additionally, Dr. Germain-Lee thanked Dr. Rash for agreeing to serve a second consecutive term on Research Council.

3. **Fringe Benefit Update** – Ms. Schwager provided an update on UConn Health's state budget for FY2024 and FY2025. Effective July 1, the state plans to change how they account for retirement costs for state employees. So, rather than the state covering the fringe benefit costs for employees on the block grant, the state plans to reduce our block grant and pay one hundred percent of the retirement benefit for all state employees. The retirement benefit includes the unfunded pension and retiree health insurance costs.

After running the numbers, it didn't make sense to maintain multiple rates for the different pools (professional, faculty, classified); therefore, the pools will be consolidated, except for special payroll and graduate students, which will continue to have their own pool.

As of July 1, the new fringe benefit rate for faculty and staff will be 29.7% and applies to all sponsored projects. Note, this new rate will apply to existing grants beginning July 1; savings on existing grants will need to be re-budgeted, with sponsor approval where required.

4. **OVPR Searches**

- **Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship** – The search is underway for the position of Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, with two candidates advancing to the second round. Ms Schwager is optimistic that the search will be finalized soon.

- **Associate Vice President for Research Development** – In March 2023, Dr. Lindsay DiStefano accepted the role of Associate Vice President for Research Development. In this role, Dr. DiStefano will oversee research development, which includes internal funding, research support, and communications, and UConn’s federal priorities initiative.
 - **Associate Vice President for Research Integrity & Regulatory Affairs** – Mr. Michael Centola will join UConn/UConn Health as our next Associate Vice President for Research Integrity & Regulatory Affairs in the middle of July. An announcement about his joining UConn will be made at a later date.
5. **Other business** – Dr. Canalis noted that the Musculoskeletal Research Institute invited Dr. Jeffrey Grethe, Principal Investigator for the NIDDK Information Network within the Center for Research in Biological Systems, to give a seminar on the Data Management and Sharing Plan. His talk will provide a summary of the plan and how to comply with the regulations. The seminar will be shared with departments and centers, as well as broadcasted in the UCH Lifeline.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holden