

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: Webex

Voting Members Present: Drs. Anton Alerte (4:10pm), Jenna Bartley, Audrey Chapman, Kirsten Guertin, Jaclyn Olsen-Jaeger, Adam Perrin, Linda Shapiro (4:12pm), Jody Terranova, Kristyn Zajac and Ms. Polun

Voting Members Absent: Dr. Michael Grey, Howard Gutstein, Andrea Shields

Others in Attendance: Dr. Linda Barry

Non-Voting Members Excused: Dr. Enrique Ballesteros

Dr. Bartley called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Polum, seconded by Dr. Chapman, to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023 meeting.

Favor to approve: Drs. Jenna Bartley, Audrey Chapman, Kirsten Guertin, Jaclyn Olsen-Jaeger, Adam Perrin, Jody Terranova, Kristyn Zajac and Ms. Polun

Against: 0

Motion Passed: 8:0

2. Update from Deans Council

Dr. Perrin reported no updates from the Deans Council as he could not attend the last meeting.

3. Update from the Oversight Committee

Dr. Ballesteros not in attendance to give a report.

4. Operating Guidelines Approval

A discussion ensued regarding the council's operating guidelines and the seat for one representative from an affiliated hospital which rotates. Currently, Trinity St. Francis (TStF) has the seat and Dr. David Shapiro, Assistant Dean, recommended a non-faculty member. Per the bylaws and council's guidelines, it was unclear whether it was appropriate for a non-faculty member to hold this seat since representation has always been a faculty member. This concern was brought to the Chair of Dean's council and was determined members of this committee from the community, representatives from affiliated hospitals, and commissioner for Public Health are often not faculty and would be permitted.

Dr. Barry noted that we had previously not updated the guidelines to include having one representative from the Office of Multicultural and Community Affairs (ex officio) per our previous voting over the summer and there was still some clarification required in terms of making this a voting position. Discussion ensued and Dr. Bartley realized that there was no follow-up regarding making the voting status of this position from the Oversight Committee. It was decided that the Operating Guidelines should include the representative from the Office of Multicultural and Community Affairs as ex officio, non-voting position for now. Dr. Bartley will follow-up to make this a voting position in the future via bylaws changes and approval from the Oversight Committee. This was previously voted on over the summer, so an additional vote was not necessary.

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The Operating Guidelines were updated to include the clarification that representatives from affiliated hospitals are not required to be faculty members and the addition of the ex officio representative from the Office of Multicultural and Community Affairs. A formal request will be sent to Dean's Council's approval.

A motion made by Dr. Barley, seconded by Dr. Perrin, to approve the changes made to the operating guidelines.

Favor to approve: Drs. Anton Alerte, Jenna Bartley, Audrey Chapman, Kirsten Guertin, Jaclyn Olsen-Jaeger, Adam Perrin, Linda Shapiro, Jody Terranova, Kristyn Zajac and Ms. Polun

Against: 0

Motion Passed: 10:0

5. Discussion of SCOTUS affirmative action ruling and discuss PIC Executive Summary Recommendations

The committee ensued in discussion regarding Dr. Jeffrey Hines' presentation on the SCOTUS affirmative action ruling and how UConn and UConn Health are upholding the SCOTUS ruling while also maintaining UConn's mission to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dr. Hines communicated essential information on what the ruling states and how it will affect UConn and UConn Health. His presentation clearly outlined what is currently not allowed, what is in jeopardy of being not allowed, and what is allowed. The committee felt his presentation was extremely informational and helpful to understand. The committee expressed the support of UConn's strong commitment to diversity and how we will be compliant and adapt to changes as they come going forward. The committee agreed the importance of having a diverse medical workforce which brings significant evidence base benefits to vulnerable populations, specifically in access to care, health outcomes, and the money that can be saved due to health inequities.

Dr. Barry provided insight on what other programs could potentially be in jeopardy and potential ways to be more proactive. Dr. Barry also suggested more real-time collection of data to determine how the admissions are impacted, as well as clearer outreach to increase opportunity and diversity early in the pipeline. Further discussions proceeded regarding ways to be proactive by improving and implementing a more diverse recruitment and outreach starting in middle schools, high schools, and community colleges. It was noted that these programs need to build loyalty and mutual respect and have continued support to facilitate younger students making it to each next step. One barrier to this is funding to support this type of outreach. The committee discussed current programs that are available at UConn Health to support a strong pipeline of diversity. Dr. Marja Hurley's HCOP program was discussed. Dr. Bartley discussed efforts underway for the Graduate School DEI Committee. Dr. Guertin discussed a partnership with the Storrs summer program for high school students interested in Public Health that included scholarships for underserved individuals. Dr. Bartley and Dr. Barry noted how there were many programs at UConn and UConn Health, but the awareness and coordination of these programs is lacking. It was agreed that better communication regarding these programs and a more comprehensive website that includes this information would be extremely helpful. It was decided that the future meeting would aim to discuss all these different programs with the goal to compose an executive summary to submit to Dean's Council.

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Adjournment:

Motion made by Dr. Bartley, seconded by Dr. Guertin, the meeting was adjourned, and concluded at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sullivan

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting
January 22, 2024

[Public Issue Council Operating Guidelines](#)