

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: Webex

Voting Members Present: Drs. Thomas Agresta, Anton Alerte, Jenna Bartley, Audrey Chapman, Kirsten Guertin, Adam Perrin, Jody Terranova, Ms. Deb Polun and Carolyn Alessi

Voting Members Absent: Dr. Michael Grey, Linda Shapiro, and Andrea Shields

Voting Members Excused: Drs. Jaclyn Olsen-Jaeger and Kristyn Zajac

Others in Attendance: Dr. Enrique Ballesteros

Non-Voting Members Excused: Dr. Linda Barry

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

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Dr. Bartley, seconded by Dr. Chapman to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 meeting.

Favor to approve:

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion Passed: 8:0

2. An update from Deans Council reported by Dr. Perrin included discussions regarding proposed revisions of all the School of Medicine's council and committee operating guidelines. Public Issues' guidelines were updated to include an ex officio non-voting seat for Multicultural and Community Affairs. Clarification of revisions will be discussed at the next Dean's Council meeting, then will be officially voted on.
3. An update from Oversight Committee reported by Dr. Ballesteros included discussions regarding the current non-voting seat for Multicultural and Community Affairs, making it a voting seat. This would require bylaws change, so it is currently on hold until the Oversight Committee approves the work being conducted on all the operating guidelines for the School of Medicine's committees and Councils.
4. Dr. Bartley officially welcomed Ms. Alessi, Trinity St. Francis Hospital representative who is a Regional Director of Community Health and Well Being. She also welcomed Dr. Agresta, chair of Family Medicine, who is taking over filling the clinical chair seat on the council.

A discussion ensued regarding the strategy for the next topic on medical misinformation and politicalization of science/medicine. Our committee's goal is to identify areas where we can improve from a public health standpoint. It was suggested that we invite someone who works at UConn Health or elsewhere in Public Health or a relevant area to speak our next meeting regarding a legal or implementation standpoint. A conversation followed regarding the specific medical misinformation of adult and child vaccines.

Several people were suggested to come speak during one of our upcoming meetings which

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included: Gerold Gianutosos, Ph.D, JD Emeritus Associate Professor of Pharmacy who is currently conducting a continuing education, States Attorney General on policy regarding the broader scope of who informs the policy makers about facts and data, Zita Lazzarini, JD, MPH, and Chinenyne Anyanwu Assistant Clinical Professor of Pharmacy who works with cultural beliefs in medication.

5. A suggestion for a future meeting is to discuss Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) reinstated grant, loan repayment program lead by Dr. Petra Clark-Dufner. This program will help bring new members in the healthcare workforce in Connecticut and should be starting end of March.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned, and concluded at 4:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sullivan

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

March 25, 2024

[Public Issues Council Operating Guidelines](#)