

Voting Members Present: Ernie Canalis, Breno Diniz, Emily Germain-Lee, Brenton Graveley, Pedro Mendes, Carla Rash, David Steffens, Anthony Vella

Guest: Julie Schwager

Dr. Germain-Lee called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

1. **Approve Minutes** - Upon a motion made by Dr. Mendes seconded by Dr. Graveley, the Council members voted unanimously in favor to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting.
2. **Fringe Benefit Rates** – Dr. Mendes invited Julie Schwager, Executive Director for Operations and Associate Vice President for Research Finance, to Research Council to discuss the issue of fringe benefits for postdoctoral fellows and technicians on institutional funds (start-up funds/DCAA funds). Currently, investigators are charged the actual fringe benefit rate when using institutional funds, which in some cases could be over 100%.

Julie Schwager agreed to meet with Mr. Jeffrey Geoghegan, Chief Financial Officer, to discuss applying negotiated fringe rates to everyone working in the research domain effective FY2025.

3. **Airgas Contract** – Ms. Schwager stated that Airgas presented a rider to UConn Health as part of a Master Agreement. The Office of the Vice President for Research has been working with Environmental Health and Safety, Procurement, and other entities at UConn Health to sign-off on the rider as part of a consortium agreement with Airgas.

Ms. Schwager provided the following details of the rider that is with Procurement for signature.

- Airgas will not be responsible for any lost materials/samples that are stored.
  - UCH researchers are responsible for monitoring Airgas equipment and managing their own supplies, as well as responding to any alarms.
  - Airgas will continue to deliver and change the liquid nitrogen tanks.
4. **School of Medicine Research Publication Fund** – The UConn School of Medicine Research Publication Fund provides support to the corresponding author for publication fees for research articles with an impact factor of 10 or greater. Eligibility and conditions of the fund can be found at: <https://medicine.uconn.edu/research-publication-fund/>.
  5. **UConn Strategic Plan Update** – Dr. Graveley noted that the Implementation Committee met recently to develop key performance indicators (KPIs) to quantitate the progress of achieving the goals of our strategic plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holden