UCONN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEAN'S COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2026

Time: 3:30 – 5:00pm
Location: Webex

Voting Members Present:	Drs. Anton Alerte (4:07) pm), Ernesto Canalis (3:32pm), Paul Epstein (3:40pm), Alise Frallicciardi, Jaclyn Jaeger, Stephen King, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Bruce Liang (4:01pm), Pedro Mendes (3:32pm), Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella
Voting Members Excused:	Dr., Denis Lafreniere
Others in Attendance:	Dr. Kiki Nissen, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, and Associate Dean for GME*, ex officio* Dr. Kourosh Parham, Oversight Committee Representative Dr. Patrick Murphy, Interim Director, Center for Vascular Biology
Non-Voting Members Excused:	Dr. Melissa Held, Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs, *ex officio* Ms. Donna McKenty, Senior Director of Finance and Administration for the School of Medicine, *ex officio*

Dr. Ruchir Trivedi called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Dr. Anthony Vella, seconded by Dr. Pedro Mendes, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2026 meeting.

Favor to approve:	Drs. Ernesto Canalis, Alise Frallicciardi, Jaclyn Jaeger, Stephen King, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella
Motion Passed:	8-0

2. Dean's Update

In lieu of an update, Dr. Bruce Liang gave the group a request to consider: to merge the Center for Vascular Biology (CVB) into the Department of Cell Biology. This would recategorize CVB from a Type II Center to a Type I Center, since it would be within Cell Biology. Dr. Liang provided background, including recommendations from CVB and Cell Biology's latest reviews, that CVB merge into another entity, since it is small and all the faculty already have their primary appointments within Cell Biology. When initially proposed, the faculty of CVB did express some hesitancy with regard to their support in terms of processing grant applications. However, with the retirement of a faculty member, and assurances of adequate administrative support, Dr. Liang indicated the time might be right to now consider the merger proposal. Dr. Ruchir Trivedi then invited Dr. Patrick Murphy, interim head of CVB, to speak. Dr. Murphy indicated some of his faculty was not enthusiastic about the proposed merge, but understand it's a very challenging climate and trust Dr. Liang to make the best decision for the school. The group then had a lengthy discussion and asked questions regarding different aspects of the proposal, including administrative support, space, and resource allocation, and asked relevant questions for Drs. Murphy and Liang. Dr. Liang assured the group that Dr. Murphy's endowed chair would also not be affected by any merger and he will retain the title of Director of CVB. At the conclusion of the discussion, the council members were unanimous in their vote to recommend a merger of CVB within the Department of Cell Biology.

Favor to approve:	Drs. Anton Alerte, Ernesto Canalis, Paul Epstein, Alise Frallicciardi, Jaclyn Jaeger, Stephen King, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella
Abstain:	Dr. Bruce Liang
Motion Passed:	10-0

3. 2026-27 Term Updates

Dr. Ruchir Trivedi indicated this was the last meeting of the 2025-26 council. Typically, due to vacation schedules, the group might not hold meetings in August and September, which was decided to be the case in this instance.

Additionally, Dr. Trivedi indicated the 2026-27 council – which begins July 1, 2026 – would need to choose an interim chair, until formal chair election, which is to be held in September. It was decided that Dr. Trivedi would continue in chair capacity until at least September's vote.

4. Council and Committee Reports

A. Clinical Council

Dr. Ruchir Trivedi indicated the council was busy, given the merger of UConn/Waterbury Health. A point person at Waterbury has been identified, for those clinical faculty looking for privileges at that hospital, to help streamline the process.

Additionally, Dr. Trivedi indicated the target revenue from last month was a bit behind, but clinical RVUs and clinical productivity are up. There are also a few open positions that are working to be filled.

B. Education Council

Dr. Srimathi Manickaratnam provided an update, stating that Dr. Christopher Steele gave an update on Step 1 and Step 2 board results. Overall, Step 1 went very well as it's pass/fail, and Step 2 results were right above the national mean. There was some work to be done regarding Anatomy.

Dr. Manickaratnam also indicated Dr. Stephen Angus provided annual ACGME survey information.

C. Public Issues Council

Dr. Jaclyn Jaeger stated the group was looking to finalize their ongoing work to update their operating guidelines, of which changes had been endorsed by Dean's Council. Next the changes go to Oversight Committee, for the necessary steps to see about bylaws revision.

Additionally, Dr. Jaeger stated the group was working on naming an interim chair, as Dr. Jenna Bartley's term on the council was ending.

D. Research Council

Dr. Pedro Mendes stated Julie Schwaeger provided an update, focused on research finance, and indicated proposed changes on funding of grants from the federal government, that could have significant impact to the research enterprise of the health center.

Dr. Trivedi asked about national efforts to combat the “shrinking research dollar” and Dr. Mendes indicated the Office of Management and Budget has a 90-day feedback period, and there are groups working across various levels to lobby on behalf of researchers.

Following that, Dr. Anthony Vella spoke to the research funding aspect as impacted by the loss of indirect dollars that used to go back to departments and researchers, which is controlled at UConn by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). Presently those indirect dollars are not being distributed, and there was a lengthy discussion by the group as to impacts, including budget uncertainty and questions about how to move forward, as well as the possibility of researchers leaving for other opportunities and lack of support for equipment. Dr. Nissen suggested inviting OVPR to speak at a future Dean’s Council meeting, and the group agreed to that as a next move.

Dr. Kourosh Parham provided an update from Oversight Council, indicating his term was ending, and that Dr. John Birk would be the liaison to Dean’s Council for the upcoming term. Dr. Parham also shared that there are three bylaws revisions in the works, and the hope is to have those proposals to councils soon.

Adjournment:

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm.

Favor to approve: Drs. Anton Alerte, Ernesto Canalis, Paul Epstein, Alise Frallicciardi, Jaclyn Jaeger, Stephen King, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Bruce Liang, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella

Against: 0
Motion Passed: 11:0

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Buccheri

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2026 / 3:30 p.m. Webex