UCONN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Online

[Microsoft Teams]

Attendance: Kourosh Parham (Chair), John Birk, Douglas Brugge, Jennifer Cavallari (Vice Chair), Kevin Claffey, Philip Kerr, Eric Mortensen, Patrick Murphy

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chair Dr. Kourosh Parham

1. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Douglas Brugge, seconded by John Birk, the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting on April 23, 2026, were approved.

2. SOM Bylaws revisions

Proposed changes by Dean Liang

Dr. Parham reviewed proposed revisions to the School of Medicine Bylaws that were intended to align the bylaws with current administrative practices.

Appointment of the Dean

The committee reviewed a proposed revision to Article III.A.1 to reflect that the Dean of the School of Medicine is appointed by the provost rather than the Executive Vice President (EVP), consistent with current practice. Dr. Parham noted that the proposal had been discussed with institutional leadership and was supported.

Duties of the Dean

The committee reviewed proposed revisions to Article III.A.2 regarding the duties of the Dean. The revisions clarify that faculty clinical practice is managed collaboratively by the Dean and the EVP and that the Dean reports to the Provost and the UConn Health Board of Directors on academic and non-clinical matters. Additional language was proposed to specify the collaborative management of faculty practice between the Dean and the EVP.

Proposed changes by the Public Issues Council

Dr. Parham provided an overview of potential future revisions to the Public Issues Council section of the School of Medicine bylaws. He explained that the discussion arose from ongoing efforts by the council to revise its operating guidelines in order to allow the council to issue statements related to public health matters in a more timely manner. Because portions of the council's operating guidelines are derived directly from the School of Medicine bylaws, any revisions to the operating guidelines may also require corresponding revisions to the bylaws.

Dr. Parham noted that the Public Issues Council had not yet submitted a formal request for Oversight Committee consideration; however, the proposed language was included on the agenda to allow committee members an opportunity to review and provide preliminary feedback in anticipation of a future formal request. The goal was to streamline the process and avoid the need for multiple faculty forums once formal revisions are submitted.

Potential revisions discussed included language clarifying the Public Issues Council's role in providing timely dissemination of public health information to the public, revisions to membership criteria to broaden eligibility for faculty with a primary focus in public health, clarification that appointed representatives may be faculty or non-faculty members, and the addition of invited non-voting representatives from diversity, equity, inclusion, and community affairs offices.

3. **Academic Affair Subcommittee of the Board of Directors**

The committee noted that the next Academic Affairs Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via WebEx. The incoming Oversight Committee Chair will participate.

4. **Election of the Next Chair of the OC**

The committee discussed succession planning for the next Oversight Committee Chair. Dr. Claffey noted potential eligibility considerations related to committee membership and service on related committees and agreed to review the applicable bylaws for clarification. Dr. Birk expressed interest in the position, and members discussed the need to identify a successor under the current bylaws given the timeline required for any future bylaw revisions. The committee agreed to continue discussions and pursue clarification regarding eligibility requirements.

5. **Department Reviews**
   a. **2026**
      i. **Obstetrics and Gynecology**
      ii. **Pediatrics**
      iii. **Psychiatry**
   b. **2027 – 2028**

Dr. Parham reported that the departmental review schedule has been revised to provide a more balanced distribution of reviews across future years. With the agreement of the Departments of Genetic and Genomic Sciences and Family Medicine, their reviews were moved from 2028 to 2027, resulting in a more even distribution of reviews across 2027-2029. The committee noted that additional adjustments to the 2030-2032 schedule may be considered in the future; however, no further changes are planned at this time. The updated schedule will be included in the August report to the Academic Affairs Subcommittee of the Board of Directors. No concerns were raised regarding the revised schedule.

6. **Standing Monthly Liaison Reports**

   a. **Clinical Council – Dr. Birk**

Dr. Birk reported on recent Clinical Council discussions regarding the FY27 budget outlook, including projected deficits, cost-containments efforts, and state funding support for salary increases. The Council also discussed concerns regarding the management and use of Academic Enhancement Funds (AEF), with members expressing the importance of maintaining departmental access to these resources for faculty development and educational activities. Budget-related discussions are expected to continue in future meetings.

b. Dean's Council – Dr. Parham

Dr. Cavallari reported on behalf of Dr. Parham regarding the May 18, 2026, Dean's Council meeting. Updates included ongoing budget discussions, approval of funding for campus deferred maintenance projects, and discussion of proposed Public Issues Council operating guidelines revisions. Dr. Nissen encouraged all governance councils to periodically review their operating guidelines and consider updates as needed.

c. Education Council – Dr. Cavallari

Dr. Claffey reported on behalf of Dr. Cavallari regarding recent Education Council discussions. The Council reviewed student assessment and examination performance data, noting strong overall outcomes and high student achievement. Discussion also focused on student feedback regarding curricular content and the relationship between perceived areas of strength and weakness and examination performance. Overall, the results were viewed positively, with only a small number of students requiring additional support.

d. Public Issues Council – Dr. Murphy

Dr. Murphy reported that the Public Issues Council continues to review proposed operating guideline and bylaw revisions. The Council also discussed potential impacts of proposed federal student loan limitations on graduate and professional education programs and is developing a position statement on the issue. Additional analysis regarding potential effects on student access and diversity in medical education is underway.

e. Research Council – Dr. Mortensen

Dr. Mortensen reported that the Research Council did not meet during the month. No additional updates were provided.

f. AMP Committee – Dr. Brugge

Dr. Brugge reported that the AMP Committee had not recently met; however, the faculty review process remains ongoing. He noted that the review cycle has progressed more slowly than anticipated due to delayed submissions and reviews. Dr. Claffey confirmed that late submissions and delayed evaluations have contributed to the extended timeline and indicated that dissemination of review letters is forthcoming.

b. New Business

No new business was presented.

c. Adjournment

With no further business, a motion by Doug Brugge and seconded by Eric Mortensen, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

June 25, 2026