

UConn School of Medicine Research Council (RC)

Monday, June 8, 2026

Minutes

Present: Manuel Castro-Alamancos, Francesco Celi, Jun Lu, Pedro Mendes, Eric Mortensen, Carla Rash, Anthony Vella

Guest: Ernie Canalis, Kimberly Dodge-Kafka, Julie Schwager

1. **Minutes** – Upon a motion made by Dr. Vella, seconded by Dr. Celi, Research Council members voted unanimously in favor to approve the minutes of the April 13th meeting.
2. **Research Finance Update** –Ms. Julie Schwager, Associate Vice President for Research Finance, provided the following update:
 - The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed significant changes to the federal Uniform Grants Guidance. The institution is collaborating with other partners locally, regionally, and nationally to thoroughly review the document, and prepare a response. Some of the changes proposed would be very disruptive to research.
 - The State approved \$35 million in funding for UConn’s research enterprise (\$21 million UConn Storrs/\$14 million UConn Health).
 - Dr. DiStefano is scheduled to meet with Dean Liang later this week to discuss alignment of the new state research funding.
 - Dr. DiStefano has been meeting with Chairs and Center Directors to learn more about their challenges and opportunities.
 - The Office of the Vice President for Research is under pressure to redistribute indirect cost dollars back to the schools and departments/centers, but with declining state appropriations and continued federal funding challenges, Ms. Schwager noted that it may not return to previous distribution and any distribution will be based on the availability of funds.
3. **New Data Management Format** –Dr. Ernie Canalis was invited to the Research Council meeting to discuss the National Institutes of Health’s updated Data Management and Sharing requirements.
4. **Other business:**
 - Dr. Mendes thanked Dr. Rash for her service on Research Council.
 - A question was raised regarding the status of segregating the research enterprise from the hospital network. With no recent updates, RC recommended inviting Mr. Rick McCarthy, Chief Information Officer, to our next meeting to get an update on the progress of the separation and discuss software installation on research computers.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Holden