

Time: 3:45-4:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Voting Members Present: Drs. Thomas Agresta (arrived 3:49), Anton Alerte, Audrey Chapman, Emil Coman, Kirstin Guertin, Laura Haynes, Jaclyn Jaeger, Neena Qasba, Linda Sprague Martinez (arrived 3:51), Christopher Steele, Leonela Villegas, D. Anthony Yoder, and Ms. Miriam Miller, and Deb Polun

Voting Members Excused: None

Others in Attendance: Dr. Patrick Murphy, Oversight Committee Liaison and Dr. Jenna Bartley, former member (chair) of Public Issues Council

Non-Voting Members Excused/Absent: Dr. Linda Barry, ex officio member

The special meeting was called to order at by committee member, Dr. Christopher Steele, at 3:45 pm.

1. Bylaws amendments:

The Council reviewed two (2) proposed School of Medicine Bylaw amendments, including 1) changes to Senior Appointments and Promotion Committee (SAPC) membership requirements, and 2) updates clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Dean of the School of Medicine and the EVP/CEO of UConn Health.

Deb Polun made a motion to approve both of the proposed revisions to the bylaws, and Dr. Laura Haynes seconded the motion:

Favor to approve: Drs. Anton Alerte, Audrey Chapman, Emil Coman, Kirsten Guertin, Laura Haynes, Jaclyn Jaeger, Neena Qasba, Christopher Steele, Leonela Villegas, D. Anthony Yoder, and Ms. Miriam Miller, and Deb Polun

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passed: 12:0

2. Communications Update:

Dr. Bartley reported on a meeting with Dr. Anton Alerte and Lauren Woods from Communications regarding dissemination of Public Issues Council (PIC) initiatives. The group discussed using a question-and-answer (Q&A) format in place of traditional news articles to more effectively communicate complex topics to a general audience and streamline content development. Members also discussed potential opportunities for opinion pieces and other public-facing communications. It was noted that such communications would generally be authored by individual PIC members rather than the Council as a whole. As a next step, Drs. Bartley and Alerte will work with Communications to revise the federal loan limits piece into a Q&A format for future publication.

3. New Member Introduction:

Dr. Laura Haynes, Professor of Immunology and Dr. Leonela Villegas, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Nephrology, introduced themselves and were welcomed to the Council.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 PM due to the scheduled end time.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza M. Bocchichio

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

[Public Issues Council Operating Guidelines](#)

September 28, 2026
October 26, 2026
November 30, 2026
December 28, 2026
January 25, 2027
February 22, 2027
March 22, 2027
April 26, 2027
May 24, 2027
June 28, 2027