

UConn School of Medicine Research Council (RC)

Monday, July 20, 2026

Minutes

Present: Ernie Canalis, Manuel Castro-Alamancos, Francesco Celi, Brent Graveley, Pedro Mendes, Royce Mohan, Anthony Vella

Guest: Kimberly Dodge-Kafka, Rick McCarthy

Dr. Mendes called the meeting to order at 2:00PM.

1. **Minutes** – Upon a motion made by Dr. Graveley, seconded by Dr. Castro-Alamancos, Research Council members voted unanimously in favor to approve the minutes of the June 8th meeting.
2. **Welcome New Members** – Dr. Mendes welcomed new members, Dr. Ernie Canalis and Dr. Royce Mohan, to the Research Council. He also thanked Dr. Brent Graveley for agreeing to serve a second, consecutive term on the Council.
3. **Research Information Technology (IT)** – Research Council invited Mr. Rick McCarthy, Chief Information Officer, to give an update on the research segmentation and discuss software installation on research computers.

Mr. McCarthy noted that new equipment upgrades and improvements have been made to the UCH infrastructure to allow IT to segment research into its own subnet. IT is currently beta testing network segmentation with a small group of labs and hope to have all basic research labs rolled out by the end of the calendar year.

Concerns were raised because many research software applications are not on the institutional IT approved software list. Mr. McCarthy stressed that there are constant network attacks and we need strong guardrails in place to stay safe. He did note that UConn Health does have a software exception process to evaluate and approve software applications not on the institutional IT approved software list.

A question was raised whether migrating research faculty and staff from the UConn Health network domain to the UConn Storrs domain could alleviate some of the concerns. Mr. McCarthy thought this might cause administrative challenges but agreed to discuss this with his team.

4. **Proposed Amendments of the School of Medicine Bylaws** – The Oversight Committee (OC) forwarded three amendment proposals to the School of Medicine Bylaws and asked Research Council to review and prepare a ‘position paper’ with regards to each amendment. The following summarizes each proposed amendment:

- Clarification of responsibilities of the Dean and the Chief Executive Officer for UConn Health and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs as they pertain to the faculty practice are outlined in the SOM Bylaws with the University Bylaws.

Research Council members voted in favor of this amendment (6 in favor/1 abstained).

- Due to the growth of the clinical enterprise, there has been an uptick in nominations for academic advancement of faculty in all tracks for review by the Senior Appointments and Promotions Committee. To manage this increase in faculty appointments and promotions, a proposal to amend the SOM Bylaws to allow alternates (secondary reviewers) to be either full or associate professors.

Research Council members voted in favor of this amendment (7 in favor).

- The Public Issues Council (PIC) proposes to amend the duties of the PIC in the SOM Bylaws to allow timely dissemination of their scholarly activities to the public and clarify membership requirements.

Research Council suggested the following edit under membership: One (1) center director or Type II faculty representative designee.

Research Council members voted in favor of this amendment (6 in favor/1 abstained).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holden