

Time: 3:30 – 5:00pm

Location: Virtual

Voting Members Present: Drs. Anton Alerte (3:36pm), Ernesto Canalis, Paul Epstein (3:32pm), Alise Frallicciardi, Stephen King, Denis Lafreniere, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Bruce Liang, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella

Voting Members Excused: Dr. Jaclyn Jaeger

Others in Attendance: Dr. Kiki Nissen, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, and Associate Dean for GME, *ex officio*
Dr. John Birk, Oversight Committee Representative

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 3:31pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Dr. Stephen King, seconded by Dr. Anthony Vella, to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2026 meeting.

Favor to approve: Drs. Ernesto Canalis, Alise Frallicciardi, Stephen King, Denis Lafreniere, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Bruce Liang, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella

Motion Passed: 9-0

2. Dean's Update

Dr. Bruce Liang stated that the School of Medicine (SOM) had heard from the LCME survey team, informally, with a chance to respond to some of the findings. The official survey findings will not be issued until after the LCME formally meets to review reaccreditation in October. He provided a few examples of concerns cited by the survey team, and the SOM's responses, and indicated that overall he thought the entire visit went well.

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026

Dr. Liang also provided an update with regard to National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research, stating that the NIH is now very strict on declaring any kind of foreign collaboration, and urged members to err on the side of caution and communicate any such collaboration with the relevant NIH program officer.

Additionally, Dr. Liang provided a brief update on the Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs at Waterbury Hospital, indicating those residents are now fully integrated into the Capital Area Health Consortium. Day Kimball Hospital is the next hospital that will be part of the UConn Health community network, and work is underway on developing a rural health residency program at that site.

3. Proposed Bylaws Revisions

The group was presented with several proposed bylaws changes, for their review and consideration.

First, a proposed revision with the purpose of capturing and codifying the work relationship of the School of Medicine (SOM) dean and UConn Health's EVP/CEO. The group reviewed the language and after discussion, revised the proposal with several edits, for which there was a vote and unanimous agreement.

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

Oppose: 0

Motion Passed: 11-0

Next, a proposal regarding the Senior Appointments and Promotions Committee (SAPC) was discussed. In recognizing the increasing applications reviewed by the SAPC and the demands on members' time, the proposed revision calls for allowing associate professors to serve as secondary reviewers, for those seeking associate professor rank only. Members from Education Council, who had discussed the proposal in their Education Council meeting, detailed those discussions, which included some concern about possible perceptions of perceived bias and advantage for those associate professors. Members of Dean's Council debated the concern, and after a lengthy discussion, voted in support of the proposed SAPC amendment.

Favor to approve: Anton Alerte, Ernesto Canalis, Alise Frallicciardi, Stephen King, Denis Lafreniere, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Bruce Liang, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella

Against: 1

Motion passed: 10-1

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026

Lastly, members reviewed proposed bylaws changes regarding the membership of Public Issues Council (PIC). There was a discussion by the group as to the proposed changes, and they provided their recommendations as to additional wording updates on the membership of PIC. After considering the changes, council members voted unanimously to move forward with a position paper stating their recommendations.

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

Oppose: 0

Motion Passed: 11-0

All votes and proposed revisions by Dean's Council on the bylaws changes will be submitted as position papers to Oversight Committee.

4. Council and Committee Reports

A. Clinical Council

No update provided.

B. Education Council

Dr. Srimathi Manickaratnam provided an update, indicating the group had considered the proposed bylaws changes as well, at their last meeting.

Additionally, Dr. Christine Thatcher presented on the annual missions management tool report, which reports on 48 measures across 6 mission areas, and she discussed how UConn compared to national trends. Dr. Stephen Crocker also presented, regarding changes in information technology, and also shared that a new AI committee is being formed at UConn Health.

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026

C. Public Issues Council

Dr. Anton Alerte provided an update, indicating he is now interim chair as Dr. Jenna Bartley's time on the council has concluded. The group reviewed the proposed bylaws changes and provided feedback as well.

D. Research Council

Dr. Pedro Mendes stated Rick McCarthy -Chief Information Officer of UConn Health – was an invited guest, and the group asked him about the segmentation of network between research and clinical, which has been in discussion for years. Some software used in research has been prevented from being used, and the group intends to follow up with Mr. McCarthy, once the segmentation is complete.

The group acknowledged Dr. Paul Epstein, who is retiring on September 1, 2026. The members thanked him for his contributions to the SOM, and the dean acknowledged his efforts in teaching and scholarly work and mentorship over the years.

Adjournment:

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm.

Favor to approve:	Drs. Anton Alerte, Ernesto Canalis, Paul Epstein, Alise Frallicciardi, Stephen King, Denis Lafreniere, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Bruce Liang, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella
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Against:	0
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Motion Passed:	11:0
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Respectfully submitted,
Christina Buccheri

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2026 / 3:30 p.m. Webex