

Time: 3:30 – 5:00pm

Location: Webex

Voting Members Present: Drs. Anton Alerte, Ernesto Canalis, Alise Frallicciardi (3:34pm), Jaclyn Jaeger, Stephen King, Bruce Liang, Srimathi Manickaratnam (4pm), Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella

Others in Attendance: Dr. John Birk, Chair of Oversight Committee and Liaison to Dean's Council
Dr. Kiki Nissen, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, *ex officio*

Voting Members Excused: Drs. Anne Delany, Denis Lafreniere

Non-Voting Members Excused: Dr. Melissa Held, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Student Education, *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 3:32pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Dr. Anthony Vella, seconded by Dr. Ernesto Canalis, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2026 meeting.

Favor to approve:	Drs. Anton Alerte, Ernesto Canalis, Jaclyn Jaeger, Stephen King, Bruce Liang, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella
Against:	0
Motion Passed:	8:0

2. Dean's Update – Dr. Bruce Liang

Dr. Bruce Liang provided several updates, including the upcoming retirement of Dr. Kiki Nissen, and indicated Dr. Steven Angus would succeed her in the role of Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education (GME), beginning on October 1st. Additionally, Dr. Wendy Miller will become Assistant Dean for GME, and there will be a position posted for an additional faculty member in GME as well. Dr. Liang indicated he will appoint an

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interim Faculty Affairs dean to succeed Dr. Nissen, however she will come back as a retired-rehiree to continue to work in the dean's office.

Dr. Liang also shared that The Pepper Center grant was officially renewed, for a five-year term, and that Dr. George Kuchel was instrumental in that success. Additionally, Dr. Anton Alerte and AHEC received state funding from the Rural Health Transformation Project.

Lastly, Dr. Liang indicated the 7-year departmental reviews for Pediatrics and Psychiatry were upcoming, and site visits to Trinity Health, Hartford Healthcare, Connecticut Children's were all scheduled for fall.

3. Chair Election

Dr. Bruce Liang nominated Dr. Ruchir Trivedi to serve as chair of Dean's Council for the new cycle, with Dr. Ernesto Canalis seconding the nomination. By unanimous consent, the committee voted to approve Dr. Trivedi as chair of the 2026-27 cycle.

Favor to approve: Drs. Anton Alerte, Ernesto Canalis, Alise Frallicciardi, Jaclyn Jaeger, Stephen King, Bruce Liang, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella

Against: 0

Motion Passed: 9-0

4. Proposed Bylaws Revisions Votes

Members of Dean's Council voted on previously proposed and distributed bylaws changes:

- a) Membership Updates for Clinical Council
- b) Language and membership updates to Public Issues Council

Both proposals were unanimously approved by all present members of Dean's Council.

5. Overview of Charge

Dr. John Birk provided an overview of charge of Dean's Council, as detailed in the School of Medicine bylaws. He indicated that the council works closely to support the dean and helps determine broad medical school policies in the manner of strategic plans. Dr. Birk also noted that Dean's Council is the primary place where the impact of proposed policies and availability of resources to implement proposed policies are considered, and spoke to the membership of the council, noting it's comprised of a wide-ranging representation across the medical school domain.

6. Council and Committee Reports

A. Clinical Council

Dr. Ruchir Trivedi stated there were no new updates since the last meeting.

B. Education Council

Dr. Srimathi Manickaratnam stated the group reviewed and voted on the proposed bylaws changes to Clinical and Public Issues Councils. Additionally, the group reviewed the Teacher-Learner Compact and made minor updates.

C. Public Issues Council

Dr. Jaclyn Jaeger indicated there were no new updates, as the group did not meet in July and August.

D. Research Council

Dr. Pedro Mendes said Dr. Christopher Heinen, chair of HCRAC, attended the meeting and discussed the research recharge core facility survey. Additionally, Dr. Anthony Vella had proposed a discussion of National Institutes of Health (NIH) peer review changes, which the members felt were

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“appalling” as it would be another measure in which peer review would be removed from decisions. Dr. Mendes urged everyone to respond to the NIH request for information after reviewing the proposed changes.

Adjournment:

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29pm.

Favor to approve: Drs. Anton Alerte, Ernesto Canalis, Alise Frallicciardi, Jaclyn Jaeger, Stephen King, Bruce Liang, Srimathi Manickaratnam, Pedro Mendes, Ruchir Trivedi, Anthony Vella

Against: 0

Motion Passed: 10:0

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Buccheri

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2026 / 3:30 p.m. Webex