Clinical Council Position Paper

Thursday, July 30, 2026

To: John Birk, Oversight Committee Chair
From: Denis Lafreniere, Clinical Council Chair

John the clinical council met on Tuesday night and voted to approve the bylaws changes for… the Public Issues Council proposed amendments. The support statements are listed below:

Clinical Council voting members voted to approve changes to the SOM bylaws governing the Public Issues Council which proposed formally including the dissemination of PIC efforts and pertinent information to the public as a main duty of the PIC. We also approved changes in the membership to include allowing a designee for the type II center director membership slot if there are not type II Directors available, to have the 2 elected faculty members have a primary focus in public health, to have one representative appointed by the Commissioner for Public Health and to have one invited representative from either the Office of Multicultural and Community Affairs, Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights , and/or any of the School of Medicine's diversity and equity offices or committees.

Denis Lafreniere MD
Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs
Medical Director of UMG
Professor and Chief Division of Otolaryngology

[Portions from the email not pertinent to the proposed PIC bylaws amendments were removed]

July 22, 2026

John Birk, MD
Chair, Oversight Committee
UConn School of Medicine

Dear John,

The Dean's Council reviewed the proposed changes to the School of Medicine Bylaws regarding Public Issues Council, during the July 20, 2026 meeting. We agree with, and endorsed via vote, the following requested modifications (crossed out = deletions, underlined = insertions)

D. Public Issues Council (PIC)

1. Duties

The PIC champions scholarly activities in public health, preventive medicine and health education. It identifies critical health and disease issues for the region and state, prioritizes them and focuses broad faculty effort to improve both health care delivery and health education on these issues, as well as to provide timely dissemination of these efforts and pertinent information to the public. It makes recommendations regarding priorities for the use of available resources, and seeks to increase community resdurces through legislative and private educational efforts. Its concerns span a variety of settings [such as affiliated hospitals, physicians' offices, community health centers, and schools] and include our educational partners in the community and across the state.

2. Authority

The PIC advises other Councils and the Dean regarding the leadership role of the SOM faculty in regional, statewide, and public health and health education missions.

Membership

One (1) Chief Academic Officer for Primary Care *(ex-officio)*

One (1) clinical department chair

Four (4) clinical faculty members

One (1) center director or Type II faculty representative designee

Two (2) basic science faculty members

Two (2) faculty members whose primary focus is in public health

One (1) representative* from affiliated hospitals (rotating)

One (1) representative* from the community and not from an affiliated hospital

One (1) representative* appointed by the Commissioner for Public Health

One (1) invited representative* from either the Office of Multicultural and Community Affairs, Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights, and/or any related office or committee of the School of Medicine or Graduate School.

*Representatives may be faculty or non-faculty individuals.

Sincerely,

Ruchir Trivedi

Ruchir Trivedi, MD
Chair, Dean's Council
UConn School of Medicine

From: Angus,Steven <angus@uchc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 10:55 AM
To: Birk,John <birk@uchc.edu>; Parham,Kourosh <parham@uchc.edu>; Angus,Steven <angus@uchc.edu>
Cc: Lender,Cristina <lender@uchc.edu>
Subject: EC position statement of proposed bylaw changes from PIC

Dear Drs. Birk and Parham,

Education Council reviewed the proposed amendment to the bylaws as proposed by the Public Issues Council.
Concern was raised about some of the language in the proposed amendment, particularly the use of 'diversity and equity.'

While EC applauds PCs goal of ensuring broad representation of ideas and perspectives, we feel that with all the federal scrutiny on educational institutions surrounding diversity and equity programs, offices and initiatives, it is best to avoid using terms that may have unintended consequences for the institution.

Using tracked changed, the attached document includes EC's suggested changes to the language in the proposed bylaw amendment.
This suggested language was unanimously approved by EC.

Please note that if the memo from PC describing the background for suggesting changes to the bylaws is to be memorialized as part of any record of the bylaws change, we strongly suggest that the words 'diversity and equity' be removed from that memo as well.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review and comment.
Steven

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2. Authority

The PIC advises other Councils and the Dean regarding the leadership role of the SOM faculty in regional, statewide, and public health and health education missions.

Membership

One (1) Chief Academic Officer for Primary Care *(ex-officio)*
One (1) clinical department chair
Four (4) clinical faculty members
One (1) center director or faculty representative designee[1]
Two (2) basic science faculty members
Two (2) faculty members ~~from~~ whose primary focus is in public health ~~programs~~
One (1) representative* from affiliated hospitals (rotating)
One (1) representative* from the community and not from an affiliated hospital
One (1) representative* appointed by the Commissioner for Public Health
One (1) invited representative* from either the Office of Multicultural and Community Affairs, Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights, and/or ~~any of the School of Medicine's diversity and equity offices or committees~~ any related office or committee of the School of Medicine or Graduate School.

*Representatives may be faculty or non-faculty individuals.

[1] ~~*ibid.*~~

Education Council Position Paper

September 18, 2026

Regarding Proposed bylaw changes to Public Issue Council

To: Dr. John Birk, Chair Oversight Committee
From: Steven Angus, Chair Education Council

Dear Dr. Birk,

Education Council recently met to review the proposed amendment to the bylaws focusing on the membership of Public Issue Council as recently revised by the Oversight Committee. After thoughtful consideration, the Education Council **voted unanimously** to approve the amendment to the bylaws as written.

EC appreciates Oversight Committee amending the language of the proposed changes to reflect the language suggested in our previous position.

Respectfully,

Steven Angus, MD, FACP
On behalf of Education Council

UCONN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

July 21, 2026

John Birk, M.D.
Chair, Oversight Committee
UConn School of Medicine

Dear Dr. Birk:

Research Council reviewed the proposed amendments to the School of Medicine Bylaws proposed by Dr. Jenna Bartley, Chair of the Public Issues Council on July 6, 2026. We agree with the following requested modifications (crossed out = deletions, underlined in blue = insertions). Additionally we make a suggestion for a clarifying change (underlined in red)

Public Issues Council (PIC)

1. Duties

The PIC champions scholarly activities in public health, preventive medicine and health education. It identifies critical health and disease issues for the region and state, prioritizes them and focuses broad faculty effort to improve both health care delivery and health education on these issues, as well as to provide timely dissemination of these efforts and pertinent information to the public. It makes recommendations regarding priorities for the use of available resources, and seeks to increase community resources through legislative and private educational efforts. Its concerns span a variety of settings [such as affiliated hospitals, physicians' offices, community health centers, and schools] and include our educational partners in the community and across the state.

2. Authority

The PIC advises other Councils and the Dean regarding the leadership role of the SOM faculty in regional, statewide, and public health and health education missions.

Membership

One (1) Chief Academic Officer for Primary Care *(ex-officio)*

One (1) clinical department chair

Four (4) clinical faculty members

One (1) center director or faculty representative designee who is also a member of a Type II center

Two (2) basic science faculty members

Two (2) faculty members ~~from~~whose primary focus is in public health ~~programs~~

One (1) representative* from affiliated hospitals (rotating)

One (1) representative* from the community and not from an affiliated hospital

One (1) representative* appointed by the Commissioner for Public Health

One (1) invited representative* from either the Office of Multicultural and Community Affairs, Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights, and/or any of the School of Medicine's diversity and equity offices or committees

*Representatives may be faculty or non-faculty individuals.

Sincerely,



Pedro Mendes, Ph.D.
Chair, Research Council
UConn School of Medicine