

**UCONN Health Center
Public Issues Council
October 20, 2008**

Members present: Tom Agresta, Rick Fortinsky, Bruce Gould, David Henderson (Chair), Joan Segal, Helen Swede
 Absent: Bernard Clark, David Gregorio, James Menzoian, Paul Dworkin, Bernie Clark
 Also in attendance: Dan McNally, Oversight Committee representative

Item	Discussion	Motion/Action
Prior minutes	Minutes from October 6, 2008 meeting were not available for review	Minutes will be distributed via email for review and approval
Bylaws changes	<p>Two proposed School of Medicine (SOM) bylaws changes were introduced and discussed. Formal position statements could not be established due to lack of a quorum of voting members.</p> <p>1. <i>Proposed guidelines for a collaborative investigator category:</i> Council members agreed on the need for this investigator category in the realm of public health and public policy research, especially for clinic-based or community-based collaborators who often work with University-based principal investigators and make critical contributions to studies, but who would have great difficulty achieving research independence given their other responsibilities. There was also agreement that the wording in the guidelines regarding strength of scholarly productivity was sufficiently clear yet provided sufficient latitude for SAPC members to deliberate on the merits of candidates applying for academic promotion as collaborating investigators.</p> <p>2. <i>Revision allowing faculty transferring into the SOM from other UCONN academic departments and schools to retain both rank and tenure status:</i> Council members expressed both support and opposition to this proposed revision; no consensus was reached among participating members. Members in opposition believed that the SAPC should review all new faculty members to the SOM, including those transferring from within UCONN, to maintain uniform standards regarding qualifications for senior rank in the SOM. It was unclear whether individuals applying for a joint academic appointment to the SOM, with primary appointments in other academic units at UCONN, will be subject to these bylaws</p>	Proposed bylaws change documents will be distributed to all Council members along with October 20, 2008 meeting minutes for their input to formulate a final position statement from the PIC.

	revisions.	
UCONN's legislative agenda	David Henderson plans to meet with Joann Lombardo in the near future for an update on the University's agenda for the next legislative session.	Information only
Interface with other Councils	The Council was informed that the Dean's Council has appointed a subcommittee to work on formalizing a pharmaceutical company policy for the UCHC. The Council was informed that the Research Council has not posted minutes since April 2008.	Information only
Other issues	<p>1. An extended discussion was held regarding a proposed initiative to revise the academic appointments of clinical faculty members with ambulatory practices in Connecticut whose primary or sole activities involve office-based precepting of UCONN medical students, primarily in the Student Continuity Program. Several Council members expressed concern that such revisions might contribute to the degradation of the clinical teaching environment for our medical students, which would represent a serious barrier to the optimal primary care training of the next generation of Connecticut's physicians. It was suggested that instead of revising academic appointments more thorough evaluation strategies could be implemented to monitor community-based preceptors' teaching abilities. It was also suggested that mechanisms should be put in place to recognize the value of these teachers. Other comments were that competition is increasing in Connecticut for the time and effort of these community-based preceptors from nursing, physician assistant, and other clinical programs, and that these preceptors could decide to work with these trainees instead of medical students. There appears to be considerable support for these revisions within some contingent of the SOM faculty for reasons unknown to Council members, but opposition by clinical and public health-oriented faculty is also considerable. Representatives from the latter group are scheduled to meet with Dean Laurencin on Wednesday, October 22. The Council agreed not to issue a written statement, pending the outcomes of this meeting with the Dean. The Council also expressed strong interest in participating in any discussions going forward about how to retain the large and critical base of clinical community-based student preceptors, who are central to the medical school curriculum in the first 3 years.</p> <p>2. On November 5, a Primary Care Summit will be held, sponsored by the</p>	Information only

	research committee of ProHealth Physicians, Inc. Several Council members are participating in this summit to raise awareness of the shortage of primary care physicians in Connecticut.	
Next meeting	Next scheduled meeting will be November 17, 2008, 5-6 p.m.	

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Minutes prepared by Richard Fortinsky