

Approved Unanimously at the February 12, 2021 Senate G&D Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes: December 11, 2020

The meeting was attended by the following members:

Christopher Bernard

Tracy Borden

Ming-Hui Chen

Gregory Kivenzor

Carl Rivers

Michael Rodriguez

Casa Tutita

Mehdi Anwar

Guest: Dr. Anthony Vella, Senior Associate Dean of Research Planning and Coordination, UConn School of Medicine,

Guest: Stephanie Holden, School of Medicine

Absent: Michael Accorsi, Jessica McBride, Katherine McCarthy, Jeffrey Shoulson, Ethan Werstler & Kristi Napolitano

1. The meeting started at 10:04 am.
2. The November 13, 2020, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Self-introduction of G&D committee members. Dr. Anthony Vella, Senior Associate Dean of Research Planning and Coordination, UConn School of Medicine, and Ms. Stephanie Holden introduced themselves.
4. Dr. Vella is intimately familiar with the R&D issues in School of Medicine (SoM) specially during the past 5 years and highlighted the important roles of the following in any boosting research:
 - a. Faculty and student morale, and
 - b. Accountability, and

SoM has adopted the following process to boost not only their R&D productivity but research stature of the School, something very well appreciated by SoM faculty.

- SoM retreats to discuss items of interest (due to pandemic it is going virtual). Department Heads are requested to introduce topics of interests (something that has potential research success).
- Mock study sessions. Discussions of proposals in response to RFPs. All discussed proposals are developed as if the funding agency is NIH. Two people facilitate the process.
- Recruitment of Editor and Illustrator. Both assist in the preparation of grants (editing, reviewing, preparation illustrations, etc), eventually resulting in an

improved and well-illustrated grant proposal. This Editor/Illustrator team also assist faculty in preparing high quality manuscripts.

5. Dean Vella stressed the role of Department and Centers in assuring success.
 - a. SoM organizes monthly Faculty talks, with 1 or 2 faculty members presenting.
 - b. Cross department/campus collaboration to develop/define programs/projects/initiatives. This requires commitment. Once success story is the 2-year partnership between SoM Cardio and Nutritional Science, meeting once or twice per month (on Fridays). This has resulted in NIH funding and journal papers.
6. Dean Vella suggested the adoption of showcasing our personnel and facilities for recruitment.
7. Responding to a question, Dean Vella suggested starting “Overview Seminars” to showcase expertise residing at Regional Campuses with the intent to establish stronger research partnerships among the Storrs, UCHC and Regional campuses.
8. Finally, UConn advertising its own research was mentioned. Such stories will cover not only big successes but ongoing research as well.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.