

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 26, 2014

Trustees: Bailey, Barham, Bessette, Cantor, Carbray, Dennis-LaVigne, James, Kruger, Lobo, McHugh, Ritter

Staff: Bansal, Bedard, Bray, Carone, Chiaputti, Choi, Cobb, Cruickshank, Donahue, English, Fazio, Fearney, Fisher, Gafford, Gelston, Geoghegan, Gilbert, Gray, Herbst, Holsinger, Jednak, Kazerounian, Kendig, Kirk, Korbel, Larson, Locke, Locust, Mundrane, O'Connor, Ogbar, Orr, Patel, Reis, Rubin, Seemann, Silbart, Simsek, Spencer, Teal, Torti, Weiner, Wetstone, Wilder, Wohl, Wrynn

Committee Chairwoman Dennis-LaVigne convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the University of Connecticut, Rome Commons Ballroom, Storrs Campus. On a motion by Trustee Carbray, seconded by Trustee Barham, the minutes of the January 29, 2014, meeting were approved as circulated.

Provost Choi introduced *Action Item #2, Sabbatical Leave Recommendations*. Moved by Trustee Carbray, seconded by Trustee Bailey, the Committee recommended approval of all sabbatical leave recommendations to the full Board.

Provost Choi introduced *Action Item #3, Systems Engineering Graduate Certificate – Controlled Systems, Action Item #4, Systems Engineering Graduate Certificate – Embedded Systems, and Action Item #5, Systems Engineering Graduate Certificate – System Design*. Provost Choi acknowledged UTC's generous contribution of \$10 million, which made these programs possible. The graduate certificates will train students in the use of sensors and modeling for optimal performance, which can be used from aircraft engines to city infrastructure. These programs are closely aligned to *Next Generation Connecticut* and the *UConn Tech Park*. Provost Choi introduced Dr. Kazem Kazerounian, Dean of the School of Engineering, who commented on the excitement of these programs. Moved by Trustee Lobo, seconded by Trustee James, the Committee recommended approval of the three Systems Engineering Graduate Certificates to the full Board.

Provost Choi introduced *Informational Item #6, Renaming the Undergraduate Major African American Studies to Africana Studies in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*. Provost Choi introduced Dr. William Jelani Cobb, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Africana Studies Institute, who gave a brief presentation to the Committee, outlining the shift from African American Studies toward Africana Studies, which takes as its central mission the study of peoples of African Descent on the continent and in the diaspora. The Africana Studies major seeks a nuanced and interdisciplinary understanding of human experience.

Provost Choi introduced *Informational Item #7, Centers and Institutes*. Updates were provided on the renewal of the Bioinformatics & Biocomputing Institute (BIBCI), the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources (CTIWR), the Center for Land Use Education & Research (CLEAR), the discontinuation of the Center for Health Communication & Marketing, and the renaming of the African American Studies Institute to the Africana Studies Institute.

Committee Chairwoman Dennis-LaVigne adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon L. Murray
Committee Secretary