

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
June 24, 2016

Committee Trustees: Carbray, Dennis-LaVigne, Jelliffe, Lobo, McHugh

Staff: Choi, Herbst, Kirk, Murray, Orr, Reis, Rubin

Committee Chairwoman Dennis-LaVigne convened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. at the University of Connecticut, President's Office Conference Room, Albert Gurdon Gulley Hall, Storrs Campus. On a motion by Trustee Carbray, seconded by Trustee Jelliffe, the minutes of the April 27, 2016, meeting were approved as circulated.

Provost Choi introduced *Action Item #2, Promotion and Tenure*. Moved by Trustee Jelliffe, seconded by Trustee Carbray, the Committee recommended approval of all promotion and tenure cases to the full Board.

Provost Choi introduced *Action Item #3, Tenure Relocation*. Moved by Trustee Carbray, seconded by Trustee Lobo, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Provost Choi introduced *Action Item #4, Sabbatical and Educational Leave Recommendations*. Moved by Trustee Lobo, seconded by Trustee Jelliffe, the Committee recommended approval of all sabbatical and educational leave recommendations to the full Board.

Provost Choi introduced *Action Item #5, Appointment of Professor Brenda Brueggemann to the Aetna Chair of Writing in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Action Item #6, Appointment of Professor Stephen L. Ross to the Philip E. Austin Endowed Chair in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Action Item #7, Appointment of Professor Manisha Sinha to the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*. Moved by Trustee Carbray, seconded by Trustee Lobo, the Committee recommended approval of the three appointments to the full Board.

Provost Choi introduced *Action Item #8, Certificate in the Social Determinants of Health and Disparities*. Moved by Trustee Carbray, seconded by Trustee Lobo, the Committee recommended approval of the Certificate to the full Board.

Provost Choi introduced *Informational Item #9, Centers and Institutes*.

Committee Chairwoman Dennis-LaVigne introduced *Discussion Item #10, Honorary Degrees*. The Committee discussed the resolution passed unanimously by the Undergraduate Student Government on March 30, 2016, asking the University to revoke the Honorary Degree of William H. Cosby Jr. The University Senate unanimously supported the Undergraduate Student Government's resolution on May 2, 2016. The Committee raised two points of general discussion – whether or not the University should develop a policy to revoke honorary degrees and whether or not the University should consider the revocation of the honorary degree conferred upon Mr. Cosby on May 18, 1996, in light of Mr. Cosby's admissions in recently released depositions. Following a brief discussion, by consensus, the Committee asked the University Administration to prepare a recommendation for the consideration of the full Board to resolve the question of Mr. Cosby's Honorary Degree. In addition, the Committee agreed that the University Administration should consider reviewing the Honorary Degree policies and procedures, as prescribed in the *By Laws of the University of Connecticut*.

Committee Chairwoman Dennis-LaVigne adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon L. Murray
Committee Secretary