


February 22, 2017

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Jeremy Teitelbaum, Interim Provost 

RE: Approval to amend the *By-Laws of the University of Connecticut*

NOTIFICATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees amend the *By-Laws of the University of Connecticut* Preamble.

BACKGROUND:

The *By-Laws of the University of Connecticut* may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board by a recorded majority of all members of the Board, provided that notice of any proposed amendment, including a draft thereof, shall have been given at the previous regular meeting. Such notice was given on December 7, 2016.

In light of recent recommendations of the Taskforce on Diversity and the University's renewed commitment to Diversity, the University Senate's Diversity Committee encourages that this commitment be reflected in the Preamble of the University By-Laws.

Additional revisions are made to reflect the University's rankings.

For the information of the Board, the original language of the University By-Laws, with indications of the proposed amendments, is attached.

PREAMBLE

The University of Connecticut is the state's premier public university with a reputation for excellence in all of its missions: teaching, research, and service, including clinical care and outreach. It has highly-qualified and successful students, ~~strong~~**excellent** undergraduate, **graduate, and professional** programs, ~~and a growing~~**strong** research portfolio, ~~and emerging strengths in graduate, professional, and pre-professional programs~~. As a research-intensive university, it prizes excellence not only in teaching and learning, but also in scholarly endeavor, scientific research, and artistic production. As a land and sea grant institution, it is committed to active engagement with the larger community. **The University continuously aims to become a more inclusive institution that explicitly promotes respect and understanding, broadens participation among under-represented groups, advances cultural competence, celebrates intellectual openness and multiculturalism, and welcomes varied perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds.** In its goal to be recognized as one of the nation's top-~~20~~ public research universities, the University of Connecticut's policies, processes, and standards of performance in all of its missions should be comparable to those among which it aspires to be ranked. The University of Connecticut By-Laws and those its constituent units should be interpreted and applied in this light and should also be regularly assessed to ensure that they are commensurate with those of the nation's top-~~20~~ public research universities.