TRUSTEES: Fran Archambault (via Telephone), Andy Bessette, Richard Carbray, Andrea Dennis-Lavigne, Marilda Gandara, Adam Kuegler, Rebecca Lobo (via Telephone), and Thomas Ritter

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Balskus, Robert Corbett, Laura Cruickshank (via Telephone), Nina Heller, Michael Jednak, Scott Jordan, Richard Orr, Stephanie Reitz, Hans Rhynhart, Rachel Rubin, William Wendt, and Reka Wrynn

GUESTS PRESENT: Chief James Rovella, Hartford Police Department
Deputy Chief Brian Foley, Hartford Police Department
Sargent Chanhda Ly, Chief of Staff, Hartford Police Department
Rob Bernsten, Crime Analyst, Hartford Police Department
Thomas Cummings, Travelers, Vice President, Corporate Security and Safety
Michael Freimuth, Executive Director, Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA)
Jim Marzi, Principal Operating Partner/Regional Vice President, Connecticut, Laz Parking
Bridget Quinn-Carey, Chief Executive Officer Hartford Public Library
Mary T. Tzambazakis, Chief Administrative Officer, Hartford Public Library

Committee Chairman Thomas Ritter convened the meeting of the Buildings, Grounds and Environment (BGE) Committee at 10:34 a.m. in the Janet M. Blumberg Hall on the University of Connecticut Law School campus in Hartford, Connecticut. He thanked those present for their participation in the discussion of security issues for the University’s new downtown Hartford campus.

Chief Hans Rhynhart, University of Connecticut Chief of Police and Interim Director of Public Safety, thanked the many people who have been working to ensure that the new Hartford campus opens on time and with the proper parking, transportation, and building facilities needed to operate a new campus. A document was distributed, offering an overview of the campus operation, parking, transportation and security information. The document is a living document and will be subject to periodic updates. (A copy of the document is attached to the file copy of the minutes.)
Chief Rhynhart, directed an in-depth discussion of planned security measures for the University’s new downtown Hartford campus. The speakers included Dr. Nina Heller, Interim Director, UConn Hartford Campus and Dean, UConn School of Social Work who provided an overview of campus operations; Robert Corbett, Director of Regional Projects and Development, provided information regarding parking agreements and a traffic study; William Wendt, Director of Logistics Administration, provided an overview of parking and transportation services; Chief Hans Rhynhart gave an overview of security preparedness for the Hartford campus including police, emergency management, code compliance and infrastructure security; and Chief James Rovella of the Hartford Police Department provided a PowerPoint presentation which detailed an overview of the Hartford Police Department’s services. He also detailed the Hartford Police Department’s preparation and coordination with the UConn Police Department to address security at the Hartford campus. Chief Rovella invited any interested parties to visit the Hartford Police Department’s Crime Center for a tour. (Chief Rovella’s presentation has been distributed to the Committee and a copy is attached to the file copy of the minutes.)

Mr. Ritter added for the record that Thomas Cummings, Travelers, Vice President for Corporate Security and Safety as well as Michael Freimuth, Executive Director, Capital Region Development Authority, were also participating in the discussion.

Trustee Ritter requested that for any changes or alterations in the area of the new campus and Front Street, Mr. Freimuth be notified and coordinated with. Additionally, he requested that the University and Chief Rhynhart do everything possible to ensure that the garages under agreement with the University are as safe as possible. Trustee Dennis-LaVigne requested that the group reconvene 6-8 months after the Hartford campus open to discuss security follow up. Trustee Bessette suggested that the Travelers security staff continue to work closely and coordinate with the UConn Police and Hartford Police for area security. Dr. Heller informed the Committee that there are plans for student, faculty and staff orientation to the new campus and security will be an important part of those discussions.

Chairman Ritter thanked everyone for his or her participation, and coordination and for providing an extremely informative session. On a motion by Trustee Ritter and seconded by Trustee Gandara the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Carone
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Secretary to the Committee