Special Meeting of the
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
April 2, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.
University of Connecticut
Conference Call

Conference call in: +1-415-655-0002
Access code: 629 930 823
This meeting will be recorded.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of February 26, 2020, as circulated

3. Proposed By-Law Change to Provide Tenure-Track Faculty with a COVID-19 Related Tenure Clock Extension

DISCUSSION ITEM:

4. Updates from Interim Provost John Elliott on academic actions related to COVID-19

5. Adjournment
Committee Trustees: Dennis-LaVigne, Fang, Gouin, and Rubin

Additional Trustees: Bessette, Bunnell, Cardona, Ritter, and Toscano

University Senate: Boyer, Polifroni, Van Heest, and Yalof

Staff: Agwunobi, Burckhardt, Carone, Cruickshank, Elliott, Fuerst, Gilbert, Holsinger, Jordan, Katsouleas, Kirk, Locke, Roberts, Rubin, Shoulson, and Volin

Committee Chairwoman Gouin convened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. at the University of Connecticut, North Reading Room, Room 109, Wilbur Cross Building, Storrs Campus.

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Fang, the minutes of the December 11, 2019, meeting were approved as circulated.

Interim Provost Elliott introduced Action Item #2 Designation of Emeritus Status and Action Item #3 Appointment of Retired Faculty to Emeritus Status. Moved by Trustee Fang, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Interim Provost Elliott introduced Action Item #4, Sabbatical Leave Recommendations. Moved by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Fang, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Interim Provost Elliott introduced Action Item #5, Appointment of Professor Del Siegle to the Lynn and Ray Neag Endowed Chair for Talent Development. Moved by Trustee Fang, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Interim Provost Elliott introduced Action Item #6, New Graduate Certificate in Bridge Engineering, Action Item #7, New Graduate Engineering Data Sciences Certificate, and Action Item #8, New Graduate Certificate in Advanced Materials Characterization. Moved by Trustee Fang, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Interim Provost Elliott introduced Action Item #9, Faculty Hiring Plan. A motion was introduced to request that the hiring plan be approved with some amendments to ensure faculty diversity was explicitly addressed in the plan; moved by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Fang, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Interim Provost Elliott shared Informational Item #10, Academic Program Inventory.

Interim Provost Elliott introduced a short presentation on UConn Engagement Initiatives by Kevin McLaughlin, Director of Engineering and Outreach Center, School of Engineering, focused on the BRIDGE Engineering Program.
Trustee Dennis-LaVigne called a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Trustee Fang. Chairwoman Gouin adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah K. Croucher
Committee Secretary
April 2, 2020

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: John A. Elliott, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Bylaw Change to Provide Tenure-Track Faculty with a Tenure Clock Extension

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees consider a change to the University bylaws stating the following:

“An automatic one-year extension to the tenure clock will be provided to tenure-track faculty members impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This extension shall apply to tenure-track faculty members who were employed by the University on March 1, 2020 and did not submit their dossier for consideration for promotion and tenure during the 2019-2020 academic year.”

BACKGROUND:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption to normal University operations, slowing down the progress of research in many cases and creating additional workloads to rapidly transition in-person classes to an online mode of teaching. In recognition, a one-time circumstantially-driven change to the bylaws is recommended, which will provide currently employed tenure-track faculty who have not yet submitted their dossier for consideration with an additional year before they are considered for tenure. The additional year will be provided in the same manner as extensions for FMLA-related leave. Individual faculty members will have the option to decline the use of this additional time and to be considered for tenure on the normal timeline.