

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

University of Connecticut  
Teleconference  
May 13, 2020

TRUSTEES PARTICIPATING: Charles Bunnell, Justin Fang, Marilda Gandara,  
Jeanine Gouin, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Rebecca Lobo,  
Thomas Ritter, Daniel Toscano

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARTICIPATING:  
Francis Archambault, Richard Carbray

STAFF PARTICIPATING: David Benedict, Lloyd Blanchard, James Bradley,  
Debbie Carone, Robert Corbett, Laura Cruickshank,  
Greg Daniels, John Elliott, Nicole Gelston, Michael Jednak,  
Scott Jordan, Thomas Katsouleas, Michael Kirk,  
Carl Lejuez, Lynn Lesniak, Redenka Maric, Rachel Rubin,  
Michael Schrier, Kristen Wirtanen, and Reka Wrynn

Vice-Chair Marilda Gandara convened a meeting of the Buildings, Grounds and Environment (BGE) Committee at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference and asked for a roll call of those on the telephone, and asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak. Trustee Gandara directed the Committee to agenda ***Item #1, Approval of the Minutes of the Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee Meeting of April 15, 2020.*** On a motion by Trustee Gouin and seconded by Trustee Bunnell, the item was approved as circulated.

Laura Cruickshank, Associate Vice President for University Planning, Design and Construction, introduced agenda ***Item #3, Hockey Arena Update.*** She and Michael Schrier, Storrs Campus Architect and Director of Design and STEM Projects, provided a PowerPoint Presentation update of the Hockey Arena Project. The discussion included a review and comparison of project scope and budget from January to May. Updated estimates are due in June. Discussion of the estimates is anticipated for the June 11 BGE meeting. The Committee reviewed the floor plans including lobby, locker areas, training rooms, offices, seating, ice lounge, club seating, etc. David Benedict, Athletic Director, stated that the design meets the needs and expectations of the people who will be utilizing the facility. The design is consistent with the Athletic Stadia projects. The programming needed for men's and women's ice hockey to compete at a regional and national level is represented. Mr. Benedict confirmed that there was not anything specific that the coaches wanted for the project that was not accommodated.

The Committee reviewed the current design/build schedule, with an anticipated construction start date of April 1, 2021, and completion expected in late 2022 or early 2023. The Committee reviewed a schedule utilizing a traditional design/bid/build delivery method which is approximately 2 months longer than the current plan and provides less risk to the University. Mr. Benedict stated that the current design/build schedule would not allow for

competition in the 2022 schedule; and changing to the longer traditional design/bid/build delivery would not have a significant impact on the hockey program as it also would not allow competition in 2022. He stated that he had made Hockey East aware of the possibility of construction delays due to the pandemic, but not specific timing of those delays.

The Committee reviewed project risks including program scope creep; aggressive design/build schedule; potential supply chain interruption; construction efficiency and potential workforce unavailability; unit rate cost volatility until market data feedback becomes available; and the potential for portions of the program to be called out as add alternates to mitigate risk in bidding. The Committee reviewed the pros and cons of both the design/bid/build and the design/build project delivery methods. Scott Jordan, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, added that while the Committee determines which project delivery method is best for the University, the current design will continue. He stated that the finance plan for the project has not changed since it changed to \$68 million. Currently the finance options are under review and will be similar to what was previously proposed; but effects of the pandemic are also being reviewed. The University is hopeful that interest rates will be lower and potential stimulus funds available for public finance. He anticipates bringing a clearer finance picture to the Committee in June. Trustee Gandara stated she has requested that Trustee Dennis-LaVigne and her committee assist with project finance related to philanthropy. Vice-Chair Gandara thanked the Committee and staff for their hard work on the project.

Trustee Gandara informed the Committee that she and Trustee Gouin along with President Katsouleas had received a presentation of recommendations from the President's Working Group on Sustainability and the Environment. The Committee is comprised of students, faculty and staff and their recommendations will have an impact on current and future real estate projects. She stated that while the June BGE meeting will be dedicated to the final hockey plan; she plans for the Committee to receive the Sustainability Committee recommendations at that time; with further discussion anticipated at a later meeting. She stated that the report is an important legacy piece for the President, the Board and the administration.

There being no additional agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Carbray and seconded by Trustee Gouin.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debbie L. Carone*

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Secretary to the Committee