Special Meeting

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees
Committee for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Thursday, July 23, 2020

AGENDA

Public Access Link:
https://uconnvtc.webex.com/meet/bot2

(A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/ within seven days of the meeting.)

Call to order at **11:00 a.m.**

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)

ACTION ITEM:

2. Approval of the minutes of the Special Meetings of the Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee Meetings of December 19, 2019, and January 23, 2020, as circulated.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

3. Introduction of Dr. Abhijit (Jit) Banerjee, Associate Vice President for Innovation and Entrepreneurship – Dr. Philip Rubin
4. Updated Action Plan - Dr. Jit Banerjee
5. Entrepreneurial Village Update – Dr. David Noble
6. Stamford Werth/OVPR Collaboration for a Cooperative Education Entrepreneurship Experience (w/Daniel Schwartz)
7. Initial Report on NetWerx: Legislatively mandated entrepreneurship mentoring network.
8. Hiring Plan Update – Dr. Jeffrey Shoulson
9. Executive Session as needed.
10. Adjournment

Please Note:
If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations, please call the Board of Trustees Office at (860) 486-2333 prior to the meeting.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

DRAFT
MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION
University of Connecticut
Wilbur Cross Building
North Reading Room (Room 109)
233 Glenbrook Road – Storrs, Connecticut
December 11, 2019

COMMITTEE TRUSTEES: Mark Boxer (*via Telephone*), Sandy Cloud (*via Telephone*), Marilda Gandara (*Via Telephone*), Philip Rubin (Vice-Chair) (*via Telephone*)

ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES: Daniel Toscano

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Tim Shannon (*via Telephone*), Rich Vogel (*via Telephone*)

UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE: Rajeev Bansal

STAFF: Joanna Desjardin (*via Telephone*), Gail Garber, Nicole Gelston, Thomas Katsouleas, Tysen Kendig, Michael Kirk, Joann Lombardo (*via Telephone*), Radenka Maric, David Noble, Rachel Rubin, John Volin, Rita Zangari

Committee Vice-Chair Rubin convened the meeting of the Committee for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation at 9:01 a.m. in the North Reading Room of the Wilbur Cross Building on the University of Connecticut campus in Storrs, Connecticut.

Vice-Chair Rubin welcomed everyone and reminded them of the purpose, charge, and goal of this committee. He also noted:

- The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) will provide the Committee with an annual report on technology transfer and venture development activities and results, and gaps in resources that are impacting progress and may offer quarterly updates.
- The Werth Institute will provide annual progress reports on student activities and results in student programming and gaps in resources impacting entrepreneurial results. Where possible the OVPR and Werth Institute will utilize national rankings of best practices to benchmark results.

Vice-Chair Rubin thanked Senator Fonfara for his state leadership.

Vice-Chair Rubin discussed the frequency and timing of committee meetings and requested that the location of the meetings be held at different locations across the state and UConn campuses. Meeting dates may be driven by required deadlines.

Rachel Rubin asked for a formal roll call of committee members for the minutes.

Vice-Chair Rubin turned the floor over to Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VPRIE) Maric.

VPRIE Maric thanked members for serving on this important committee. She provided a slide presentation to discuss UConn's innovation and entrepreneurship plan and Public Act 19-154.

- Mark Boxer – Asked what is the communication strategy? What is the game plan? Certainly there is opportunity to do more. Do we feel we have a coordinated communication strategy to get the recognition we want and if not do we bring someone in to help us craft communication strategies to decide how we want to go forward? As we begin to make progress how do we gain interest from venues like USA Today, etc.?
- Comments and suggestions were provided by VPRIE Maric, Dr. Noble, President Katsouleas and Vice-Chair Rubin.
- President Katsouleas – We've been focusing on boosting our efforts in tech transfer, venture development and entrepreneurship education rather than on promoting it or communicating it. We don't have a comprehensive plan. If this committee thinks this should be a priority we can undertake that. Do we do first and then promote, or do we promote and then do?

VPRIE Maric – Continued with her presentation.

- Mark Boxer – Commented on the presentation: These are goals. What are the measures we will use to identify the progress and to identify what success looks like? What is the score card we then use to describe what success looks like? This is something that will evolve over time.
- VPRIE Maric – This is a valid point and in our draft it lists measures and metrics we will use to define success. After this meeting, please provide us with your comments on the draft document and we will use these to finalize the document.

Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs Volin – Discussed the University's draft faculty hiring plan that is required in Public Act 19-154.

Action Item 1: VPRIE Maric - Draft materials will be distributed by email. We appreciate any feedback you can provide. Vice-Chair Rubin asked that we also send a copy of Public Act 19-154.

Tim Shannon – Commented on the issue of external lack of perception. There needs to be a long-term plan.

- Vice-Chair Rubin - if you see things that are a potential opportunity let me, VPR Maric, Dr. Noble, or Vice Provost Volin know. This includes directions that we need to move in. A current focus of our efforts has been on critical deliverables to be compliant, but we want to be innovative! This includes things that people will see and resonate to. We need your help on this.

Dan Toscano – Commented on objectives and the Angel Network. There is a whole capital side of this equation. How do we take venture funding or angel investing and use it to educate people on how it works and how one can get involved in it?

Vice-Chair Rubin noted that he will endeavor to meet with Senator Fonfara at a later date to update him on our efforts.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rubin, seconded by Mark Boxer, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the Committee meeting.

There being no further business appearing, the Committee meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna L. Desjardin
Secretary to the Committee

DRAFT MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOT COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION
University of Connecticut
Room 216, Hartford Campus
Hartford Connecticut
January 23, 2020

COMMITTEE TRUSTEES:	Philip Rubin, Sandy Cloud *(via telephone)*, Marilda Gandara *(via telephone)*
ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES:	Shari Cantor *(via telephone)*, Tom Ritter, Dan Toscano *(via telephone)*
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Rich Vogel
UNIVERSITY SENATE REP:	Rajeev Bansal
STAFF:	Gail Garber, Radenka Maric, David Nobel, Rachel Rubin, John Volin, Dana Wine, Rita Zangari
GUEST:	David Steuber, CTNext, formerly of Senator Fonfara's Office

Committee Vice Chair Rubin convened the meeting of the Committee for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation at 10 a.m. on January 23, 2020.

Vice Chair Rubin said the meeting's purpose was to discuss the Technology Transfer Plan which required Board of Trustees approval by March 1. He confirmed that all had access to the plan which was forwarded in December and noted that the most recent version includes a draft budget.

Committee Vice Chair Rubin asked Dr. Maric to begin her presentation.

Dr. Maric noted that Vice Provost John Volin is responsible for the faculty hiring plan referenced in the tech transfer plan and described in PA 19-154; that Dr. Noble is responsible for the Werth Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship that supports student entrepreneurship; and that she is responsible for technology transfer and venture development

Dr. Maric outlined requirements and foci of the plan along with committee comments received and how they were addressed in the plan. Dr. Maric noted that her office has already begun to act on the plan where no new resources are required. Dr. Noble indicated progress made by the Werth Institute to hire two positions that will support components of the plan such as the alumni Mentor Network. Dr. Maric completed her presentation at 10:29 a.m. with a request for questions and specifically asked for input on key metrics.

Committee Vice Chair Rubin commented that he was pleased to see the issues raised by members addressed.

Trustee Ritter asked what items we proposed for legislation to achieve the goals of the Technology Transfer plan. Gail Garber explained that the University did not require any policy or statutory changes to implement the recommendations contained in the plan. While additional resources may be needed

to fully implement the plan, the University is requesting in the plan's preamble that in order to fully implement the plan, the state must first:

- Maintain the FY21 appropriations to UConn and UConn Health as approved in the biennial budget;
- Allow our planned and approved capital projects to move forward with no deferrals or cuts to the UConn 2000 Capital Program and secure support funding for critical deferred maintenance projects at UConn Health; and
- Address the unsustainable fringe benefit legacy costs currently charged to the University by the state which is impacting research competitiveness

Garber noted that certain items in the plan could be achieved without additional resources. However, full implementation of the plan is contingent upon the University's budgetary priorities being achieved and receiving the new funding outlined in the plan.

Vice Chair Rubin noted that the largest budget item was $20M for construction of a student entrepreneurship space and asked if there is a plan in the absence of new state funding for the construction of student space for entrepreneurship, noting that it is helpful to have clarity on this while other things are being put into place. Vice Chair Rubin further noted the impressive new partnership unveiled with Synchrony at the Stamford campus. And that space for entrepreneurship may not just be a Storrs issue.

Dr. Nobel indicated that we were making progress with this effort (Entrepreneurship space).

Vice Chair Rubin noted that as challenges are presented it is important to bring them to this committee which has people with real world experience in the challenges that UConn may face and who can act as mentors and advisors. Rubin noted that we must look at broad societal impacts and appeal to students with broad and diverse activities. Also make sure we look for potential road blocks, remain on top of communications where positive news exists, and show we are moving ahead. We need to be on top of communicating positives where we are moving ahead.

Rich Vogel commented on how impressed he is with UConn's progress. He feels it will go very well and recognized outside of the University. He believes the early stage community is willing to support the University based on its progress.

David Steuber expressed that he sees the University is doing a tremendous job and is glad to see so many, including the committee, engaged. He asked if UConn looked at policies at other institutions regarding IP and company ownership

Dr. Maric indicated that distribution of revenue from tech transfer is 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 and is consistent with best practices. Ownership, she indicated, is negotiated but we have never asked for more than 5% which is also consistent with best practices. She said the University is helping move the economy forward and supporting faculty to be successful. Not many faculty want to turn down tenure to start a business so this helps them to obtain both. She also noted that we plan to do another external panel review next year at this time.

Trustee Ritter asked if we have mandatory items to respond to the legislature and Philip Rubin pointed out dates and requirements in the law including BOT approval by March 1.

Vice Chair Rubin suggested that a one page document summarizing the plan would be beneficial. Pointed out the details in the report such as how we compare using the Milken report and the SWOT analysis. Noted that a one page document should provide information on actions, funding, and dates.

Vice Chair Rubin thanked Dr. Maric for her work and noted that he plans to make time to speak with the senator.

Vice Chair Rubin confirmed that it is the consensus of the committee to move the Tech Transfer Plan forward for its approval by UConn's Board of Trustees as required per the law.

Minutes from last meeting were reviewed and commented on by Vice Chair Rubin. He asked if there was any other business.

David Steuber thanked the UConn group for everything they've done. He noted that the plan in many ways addressed conversations that occurred at the legislature about UConn. He was glad to see that this committee is helping to ensure that investments made in UConn through programs such as NextGen will further benefit the state and its tax payers. He noted that having UConn graduates in the CT workforce and growing our economy are great, but we need to push out diversity and create more businesses.

Vice Chair Rubin said he would like to have future committee meetings in Hartford. He reiterated that phone participation will be a normal and regular event and encouraged people to call in.

Meeting adjourned: Motion to adjourn from Rich Vogel, seconded by Dr. Maric.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna L. Desjardin

Secretary to the Committee

Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee Presentation

NetWerx Mentoring
Werth Institute

David Noble, Ph.D., Director
Peter J. Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

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WERTH INSTITUTE

Who We Are

The Peter J. Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation links the ecosystem of resources, programs, academic courses, funding, mentorship, education, and activities relating to entrepreneurship and innovation throughout the University. Established in 2017, Werth seeks to unlock an innovative mindset in every student, instilling an inquisitive approach to rejecting the status quo and creatively attacking the problems we face.

NetWerx 1-to-1 Alumni Mentoring

- **1-to-1 mentoring where students experience career technology mentoring**
- **Four 30-minute virtual mentor sessions over the course of 8 weeks**
- **Students build their network, develop skills, define goals and receive additional support via Werth Institute staff through workshops**

2020 PILOT LAUNCH		
28 Mentors	33 students	87.5 hours

“I think mentoring the future of UConn is incredibly rewarding for all involved — as a UConn Alum myself, I get to not only guide a fellow husky based on what I learned during my time there, but also see and learn from our university's current innovators.”

- Bianca D'Agostino '18

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NetWerx Small Group Mentoring

- **Intimate curated groups of entrepreneurship students meet with UConn's most successful alumni**
- **One hour virtual event where students get to hear the lessons, tips and strategies mentors learned through their first hand experiences and an intimate Q&A which follows**

2020 PILOT LAUNCH		
5 alumni	47 students	Goal 25 events in 2020-21

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NetWerx Virtual Mentoring

Goals

- 20 new mentors onboarded per month
- Complete 200 student matches during 2020-21
- Cultivate a large pool of mentors, Werth Angels or startups

Full Scale Launch August 31, 2020

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Entrepreneurial Cooperative Education

- 6-10 students in initial cohort
- Connected to OVPR's Data Science Initiative
- Any student is eligible to apply
- Students paid to work and live full time in Stamford to develop and validate entrepreneurial concepts or spin out from the lab

Pilot project to run starting September 2021

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