

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