

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