September 30, 2020

TO:    Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Thomas C. Katsouleas

RE:    Naming Recommendation for the Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. Building at the Avery Point Campus

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the naming of the Marine Science Building at the Avery Point Campus in honor of former Governor Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.

BACKGROUND:

Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. served his community, the State of Connecticut, and the United States of America in public office for more than three decades. He served as a member of the Connecticut General Assembly, the First Selectman of Greenwich, United States Congressman from Connecticut's 4th district; as United States Senator representing Connecticut from 1971 to 1989, and finally as Governor of Connecticut from 1991 to 1995.

In 1992, he received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for his successful efforts to establish a state income tax in Connecticut to battle major state budget deficits. The John F. Kennedy Library, which bestows the award, said at the time: "Governor Weicker demonstrated extraordinary political courage in this battle. He risked his career by challenging the status quo and the popular bipartisan anti-income tax tradition. Despite intense political and public criticism, threats to his safety, and large-scale bitter protests, he persevered and finally prevailed in this fight. His steadfast leadership on this major issue stands as a reminder for all American citizens and officials that governments at every level in this country can and must find the resources needed to meet their obligations to the people they serve."

His proud legacy of public service in Connecticut and the nation as well as his courage in the face of major challenges on behalf of his state and his constituents is such that the University of Connecticut should name a major facility in his honor.
Governor Weicker is a longtime resident of Essex, Connecticut, which is in close proximity to UConn's Avery Point campus. In light of this, it is asked that the Marine Science Building on that campus be named in honor of Governor Weicker.

At its September 22, 2020, meeting, the Institutional Advancement Committee recommended approval to the full Board.