

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
University of Connecticut
Teleconference
September 9, 2020

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARTICIPATING:
Francis Archambault, Richard Carbray

STAFF PARTICIPATING: Lloyd Blanchard, James Bradley, Debbie Carone,
Robert Corbett, Laura Cruickshank, Greg Daniels,
Nicole Gelston, Michael Gilbert, Michael Jednak,
Scott Jordan, Thomas Katsouleas, Michael Kirk,
Nathan Lavalley, Carl Lejuez, Lynn Lesniak, Rachel Rubin,
Michael Schrier, Thomas Trutter, Kristen Wirtanen, and
Reka Wrynn

SENATE REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING:
Anji Seth

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 June 11, 2020*. On a motion by Trustee Gouin and seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the item was approved as circulated.

James Bradley, Director of Construction Assurance, reviewed his findings and recommendations contained in agenda *Item #3, Office of Construction Assurance Quarterly Report – September 2020*.

Thomas Trutter, UConn Health, Associate Vice President for Campus Planning, Design and Construction, briefed the Committee on agenda *Item #4, Project Update ~ UConn Health*.

Greg Daniels, Interim Associate Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer, briefed the Committee on agenda *Item #5, Updates on Operational Activities and Organizational Improvements for University Business Services, Capital Projects and Facilities Procurement*. Mr. Archambault requested the percent of in-state contracts. Mr. Daniels promised to forward that data after the meeting.

Laura Cruickshank, Associate Vice President for University Planning, Design and Construction, presented agenda *Item #6, Project Update ~ Storrs Based Programs*. Both Robert Corbett, Executive Director and Director of Real Estate and Regional Projects, and Michael Schrier, Storrs Campus Architect and Director of Design and STEM Projects, contributed to the presentation. The presentation included a detailed discussion of the Stamford campus garage demo and area remediation; Public Safety building renovation; North Eagleville Road and Discovery Drive intersection improvements; Athletics District development; hockey arena update; NW Quad improvements and utilities; Gant renovation; boiler plant equipment replacement and utility tunnel connection; and STEM Science 1. Trustee Fang and Chairman Toscano had suggestions for the intersection of North Eagleville Road and Discovery Drive project. Trustee Fang and Ms. Cruickshank plan to continue their discussion of this project after the meeting.

Mr. Corbett provided a detailed Student Housing update. This discussion included the Student Housing Master Plan expected to be complete in November 2020; and off-campus housing development around the campus. The discussion included the impact of the off-campus housing developments, as well as expectations the developers appear to have of services the University will provide including public safety and transportation services. President Katsouleas indicated concern about the loss of the campus experience students receive when living in University housing. The competition of off-campus housing adds pressure to refurbish and reimagine the current on-campus housing experience in concert with the University's Strategic Plan. One of the pillars of the Strategic Plan may include life transformative education for students which include experiential learning outside the classroom, emotional support and mentoring, as well as the changing landscape of infectious disease and pandemic threats. Dr. Lejuez echoed President Katsouleas' comment regarding the importance of this discussion to the Strategic Plan. He emphasized inclusion of a wide range of issues within the Plan especially diversity, equity and inclusion which are integral to the Strategic Plan. Housing brings equity issues such as availability vs. access and how to ensure students have access to these life transformative experiences of campus living. All these things are crucial to the Strategic Plan.

Trustee Gandara stated that a presentation of the Building Condition Assessment is scheduled for September 17th and all were invited to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Carbray and seconded by Trustee Fang.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Carone

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Secretary to the Committee