

February 24, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Carl W. Lejuez, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Appointment of Retired Faculty to Emeritus Status



**RECOMMENDATION:**

Following recommendations of the Emeritus (Retirement) Committee and of President Thomas Katsouleas, that Diane Wright Hirsch be appointed to the status of Senior Extension Educator Emeritus.

**BACKGROUND:**

Ms. Hirsch's extension research has been far above expectations for her position. She has received over \$2 million in grants through federal agencies such as USDA and FDA and state agencies such as the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, to support food safety education initiatives. Early in her career, she brought education around food safety concerns to UConn. She led the development of the first ever Connecticut Food Safety Outlook Conference, bringing together regulators, agricultural industry, and food professionals to address the issue of food safety. She also developed a statewide food safety advisory group to provide annual conferences for public health professionals. Through this work, she has developed collaborative relationships and a strong reputation with various CT regulatory agencies which have served to support and elevate the reputation of CAHNR and UConn.

Ms. Hirsch has also met UConn's mission as an educator in the area of food safety. She has trained the New England food and agriculture industry on compliance with federal and/or state regulations, leading the way in the region. Through this work, she developed a tremendous reputation in the region. According to Dr. Burr, Department Head of UConn Extension, "our congressional delegation seeks her out for briefings on food safety and she has organized many meetings and conferences." Finally, Ms. Hirsch has contributed through service and leadership to her department. For many years she served as Center Coordinator, supervising support staff and working with the department head to administer organizational activities in the Extension Office. She is frequently interviewed by CT newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations, and participates in press conferences for Senator Blumenthal.

According to Dr. Burr, "Her 40 years of service have been exemplary." Both Dr. Burr and Dean Chaubey enthusiastically recommend Ms. Hirsch for emeritus status. Ms. Hirsch has exceeded the expectations of her position and has contributed to UConn's mission through her extension work, research, leadership, training, and service.