May 19, 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 Professor Robert Fahey, PhD to the George F. Cloutier Professorship in Forestry in the College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees appoint Robert Fahey, PhD to the George F. Cloutier Professorship in Forestry in the College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources for August 23, 2021 through August 22, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

Newly established in 2021, Professor Fahey will be the first appointment to the George F. Cloutier Professorship in Forestry. This Professorship is supported by an endowment from alumnus and former Adjunct Instructor George F. Cloutier to the forestry program in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment with the goal of emphasizing the importance of forest stewardship and engagement with foresters and forest landowners. In addition to supporting the professional development and research program of the appointee, the Cloutier Professor will act as Director of the UConn Forest and Chair of the UConn Forest Committee. In this role, the Cloutier Professor is expected to coordinate and organize stewardship of the UConn Forest parcels by engaging with the UConn Forest Committee and associated stakeholders university-wide.

The decision to appoint was made following the College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources procedure; Dean Chaubey is making his recommendation based on consultation with the College’s Executive Council and the relevant Department Head in the College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources.

Professor Fahey (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison) is an Assistant Professor of Natural Resources and the Environment and is an accomplished scholar with 37 publications since 2016. He was awarded the 2020 UConn AAUP Excellence in Research: Early Career award. Professor Fahey’s research examines the links between composition, structure, and functioning of forest ecosystems and their resilience to a variety of stressors. His research strives to help forests become more resilient to threats of climate change, introduction of exotic pests and pathogens, and urban and suburban development. Professor Fahey currently serves as Associate Director of UConn Eversource Energy Center, Research Fellow at the Center for Tree Science (The Morton Arboretum), and is a member of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council. Professor Fahey teaches Forest Ecology, Landscape Ecology, and Exurban Silviculture at the undergraduate and graduate levels receiving high student evaluations of teaching.