

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

University of Connecticut
Teleconference
April 13, 2021

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARTICIPATING: Francis Archambault, Richard Carbray, Jr.

STAFF PARTICIPATING: David Benedict, Lloyd Blanchard, Debbie Carone,
Robert Corbett, Laura Cruickshank, Greg Daniels,
Nicole Gelston, Michael Gilbert, Michael Jednak, Scott Jordan,
Thomas Katsouleas, Nathan LaVallee, Carl Lejuez,
Lynn Lesniak, Radenka Maric, Rich Miller, Stan Nolan,
Rachel Rubin, Michael Schrier, Thomas Trutter,
Kristen Wirtanen, and Reka Wrynn

SENATE REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING: Anji Seth

MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (Guests): Alexander Agrios, Ming-Hui Chen, Brandon Hermoza-Ricci, Baikun Li, Natalie Roach, Kathleen Segerson, Anji Seth, Jason Vokoun, and Michael Willig

Vice-Chair Marilda Gandara convened a meeting of the Buildings, Grounds and Environment (BGE) Committee at 10:02 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. The following student spoke about climate change: Mara Tu.

Trustee Gandara directed the committee to agenda *Item #1, Approval of the Minutes of the Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee Meeting of February 16, 2021*. On a motion by Trustee Gouin and seconded by Mr. Archambault, the item was approved as circulated.

The President's Working Group on Sustainability and the Environment provided a presentation entitled, "Transforming UConn to a Zero Carbon Campus: A Path Forward". The full draft report of the Working Group can be found at: <https://president.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2794/2021/04/DRAFT-Transforming-UConn-to-a-Zero-Carbon-Campus-A-Path-Forward.pdf>. Trustees Gouin and Gandara thanked the Committee for their knowledge, hard work and perseverance in completing the report and recommendations. President Katsouleas thanked the committee for their work on the plan and recommended path forward including cost estimates to get the University to zero carbon by 2040. As stated by the committee, key to the program is not stranding assets; tapping a variety of funding sources including federal and state funding, as well as reprioritization of University resources; opportunities for leadership; ties to the University's Strategic Plan; and ties to the University's

identity as a world leader in its commitment to sustainability and being a green university; as well as addressing societal needs of a climate emergency. Provost Lejuez added that there is an academic component in partnership on the program. The Committee discussed additional objectives including behavioral modifications for the university population.

Trustee Gandara indicated that the Committee will continue to work on environmental goal setting such as including environmental issues in building/renovation proposals that come before the Board. She recommended establishment of a subcommittee of BGE to review the Working Group's report and subsequent environmental actions of the Committee. Trustee Gouin offered to serve on a subcommittee. Dr. Seth offered the assistance of the members of the Working Group to the subcommittee. It was also recommended that after subcommittee review, the report should be presented to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Gandara introduced Frank LaRosa, Associate Vice President and Chief Audit Executive, who will serve in the role previously held by Jim Bradley, Director of Construction Assurance, who recently stepped down from the position. Mr. LaRosa will be focusing on the legislative requirements related to formal project closeout and ensuring all legislative requirements are met. Mr. LaRosa detailed his new responsibilities and the first department report to the Committee is anticipated in September 2021.

Laura Cruickshank, Associate Vice President for University Planning, Design and Construction, detailed agenda **Item #5, Project Update ~ Storrs Based Programs**. The update included a review of projects going to the Board for approval on April 28 including the UConn Hockey Arena project; I-lot parking lot improvements; and the Hicks and Grange student and common room renovations. Projects for Atwater emergency power and the Werth Family Basketball Center were reviewed by Michael Jednak, Associate Vice President for Facilities Operations.

Ms. Cruickshank and David Benedict, Athletic Director, reviewed a project for the Field House women's locker room. The project will encompass use by women's track and field, tennis, golf and field hockey teams. Review of the building infrastructure due to age, etc. is important to understanding the feasibility and timing of the project. UPDC and Athletics are in discussions on project feasibility and planning in association with the needs of the Athletic department and will bring an update and plan to the Committee at the next meeting as well as provide an update to the Vice Chair within the next few weeks.

Ms. Cruickshank presented a Market Conditions Report that recapped of conditions in the fourth quarter of 2020. The report detailed the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on construction supply, demand, labor, and product pricing. Vice Chair Gandara asked Ms. Cruickshank to make a brief presentation of this report to the Board of Trustees on April 28, 2021.

Vice Chair Gandara informed the Committee that in response to developers seeking access to University sewer rights, a response has been sent, and a copy is available in the Committee meeting materials, indicating that the University will not be providing access to those rights at this time.

Mr. Jednak reminded that Committee of a 2010 Board policy which states that work done for the benefit of, or at the request of the University President must be approved by the BGE Committee. Roof replacement and garage door replacement are needed due to deterioration on the University property at 88 Gurleyville Road, Storrs, currently occupied by the President. At the time the University purchased the property, it was with the knowledge that this work would need to be performed. The work is estimated at approximately \$47,500. The work was not initiated by the President but has been planned and initiated by Facilities Operations since the property was purchased. The property is part of the rental housing portfolio and repairs are funded by rental housing income. This planned repair to a University property does not require BGE approval.

Greg Daniels briefed the Committee on agenda ***Item #10, Capital Projects and Facilities Procurement (CPFP) Organizational Activities and Organizational Improvements.*** Mr. Jordan added that the National Association of Educational Procurement has awarded Veronica Cook, Executive Program Director for University Business Services the Eddie H. Jackson Supplier Diversity Award which recognizes institutions or individuals who have made outstanding contributions to supplier diversity and inclusion initiatives on their campuses and in higher education procurement. The Committee congratulated Greg, Veronica and their team.

Thomas Trutter, UConn Health, Associate Vice President for Campus Planning, Design and Construction, briefed the Committee on agenda ***Item #11, UConn Health Updates, Facilities Development and Operations.*** Mr. Trutter provided a COVID-19 update; briefed the committee on small projects underway at UConn Health; the Dermatology Psoriasis Center project is complete and opened on March 8; the L3 project is anticipated to be complete in late April and remains on budget; and the bids for the Musculoskeletal Institute Building (MSI) Roof Top Unit Replacement project came in higher than anticipated but within the 5% allotment of Scott Jordan's approval so the project can continue and will be returning to the Board for approval in May or June.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m. on a motion by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne and seconded by Trustee Gouin.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie L. Carone

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Secretary to the Committee