

TELEPHONE MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

Meeting held by Telephone

June 30, 2021

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:55 a.m. by Board Chair Daniel D. Toscano.

The following Trustees participated: Trustees Andy Bessette, Mark L. Boxer, Charles F. Bunnell, Shari G. Cantor, Sanford Cloud, Jr., Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Justin Fang, Marilda Gandara, Jeanine A. Gouin, Bryan P. Hurlburt, Kevin J. O'Connor, Bryan K. Pollard, Thomas D. Ritter, Philip E. Rubin, Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Daniel D. Toscano, and Ethan Werstler.

Trustees David Lehman, Rebecca Lobo, and Paul Mounds, Jr., Governor Lamont's designee, were not in attendance.

Also in attendance was Student Trustee-elect Noah S. Frank.

The following members of the UConn Health Board of Directors also participated: Francis Archambault, Jr., Richard Carbray, Jr., Joel Freedman, Timothy Holt, and Michael Walsh.

The following University Senate Representatives attended the meeting: Robert Bird, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Carol Polifroni, Janet Pritchard, Anji Seth, and David Yalof.

The following University staff attended the meeting: Incoming Interim President Agwunobi, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lejuez, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer Jordan, Athletic Director Benedict, Executive Secretary to the Board Rubin, University Chief of Staff and General Counsel Gelston, Vice President for Communications on Special Assignment Kendig, Acting Vice President for Communications Kirk, Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Maric, Vice President for Enrollment Planning and Management Fuerst, Vice President for Student Affairs Gilbert, Vice President for Global Affairs Weiner, Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning Blanchard, Senior Associate University Counsel LaVallee, UConn Health Chief Financial Officer Geoghegan, UConn Health Chief Counsel Blumenthal, UConn Health Professor Hoch, and Student Darien Craft.

UConn Foundation President and CEO Roberts was also in attendance.

1. Executive Session anticipated

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Cloud, seconded by Mr. Pollard, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. regarding:

1. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-210(b)(1), preliminary drafts and notes whose disclosure does not outweigh the public benefit of withholding them; and
2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(a), discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open meeting; and

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3. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B), strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or pending litigation to which the public agency or a member thereof, because of the member's conduct as a member of such agency, is a party until such litigation or claim has been finally adjudicated or otherwise settled.

The following Trustees were in attendance: Trustees Bessette, Boxer, Bunnell, Cantor, Cloud, Dennis-LaVigne, Fang, Gandara, Gouin, Hurlburt, O'Connor, Pollard, Ritter, Rubin, Russell-Tucker, Toscano, and Werstler.

The following members of the UConn Health Board of Directors joined for part of the Executive Session: Francis Archambault, Jr., Richard Carbray, Jr., Joel Freedman, Timothy Holt, and Michael Walsh.

Executive Secretary to the Board Rubin and University Chief of Staff and General Counsel Gelston were in attendance for the entire Executive Session.

The following University staff were in attendance for part of the Executive Session: Incoming Interim President Agwunobi, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lejuez, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer Jordan, Athletic Director Benedict, Vice President for Communications on Special Assignment Kendig, Acting Vice President for Communications Kirk, Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning Blanchard, UConn Health Chief Financial Officer Geoghegan, and UConn Health Chief Counsel Blumenthal.

The Executive Session ended at 1:27 p.m., and the Board returned to Open Session at 1:28 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

2. Public Participation

The following spoke about issues concerning the role of the faculty, the AAUP and UCPEA collective bargaining negotiation process, and support for a one-year extension of the AAUP and the UCPEA collective bargaining agreements:

Professor Mary Ellen Junda, EdD, President of the UConn Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

Michael Bailey, AAUP Executive Director & Chief Negotiator

Professor Thomas Peters, past president of the AAUP

Associate Professor Thomas D. Bontly

Associate Professor and Director of the Africana Studies Institute Melina Pappademos

Ms. Kathleen Fischer, Vice President & President-elect of the University of Connecticut Employees Association (UCPEA)

Dr. Thomas L. Long provided a written statement to the Board (attached).

3. Chairman's Report

(a) Matters outstanding

(b) Board recognitions

Board Chair Toscano read a resolution to recognize Trustee Werstler's term as the undergraduate representative to the Board. Trustees Cantor and Bessette acknowledged Mr. Werstler's commitment to the Board over the past year.

On a motion by Ms. Cantor, seconded by Mr. Fang, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution for outgoing Trustee Ethan Werstler.

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- (c) Minutes of the meetings of May 19, and June 4, 2021

On a motion by Mr. Boxer, seconded by Ms. Gouin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meetings of May 19 and June 4, 2021.

- (d) Consent Agenda Items:

Dr. Dennis-LaVigne motioned to add the following items to the Consent Agenda:

- 1) The resolution that the Board give authority to the President to take necessary steps regarding programming in the Division of Athletics.
- 2) That the Board delegate authority to the Board Chair to enter into an agreement with Dr. Agwunobi to serve as Interim President.

Trustee Gandara seconded the motion to add these items, followed by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Mr. Ritter requested that Item 3, the Proposed Statement of Work for the UConn Foundation for Fiscal Year 2022, be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

- (3) Proposed Statement of Work for the UConn Foundation (Attachment 3)
for Fiscal Year 2022

On a motion by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Mr. Bessette, the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda items, except for Item 3, and including the items added above.

- (1) Contracts and Agreements (Attachment 1)

(Trustee Ritter abstained from voting on Item 1 of the Consent Agenda.)

- (2) Travel and Entertainment Policy – Revised (Attachment 2)
- (4) Promotion and Tenure (Attachment 4)
- (5) Tenure at Hire (Attachment 5)
- (6) Designation of Emeritus Status (Attachment 6)
- (7) Sabbatical Leave Recommendations (Attachment 7)
- (8) Appointment of Jiong Tang, PhD to the United Technologies Corporation Professor of Advanced Materials and Processing in the School of Engineering (Attachment 8)
- (9) Appointment of Professor Jeffrey Cohen, PhD to the Kinnard Real Estate Scholar in the School of Business (Attachment 9)
- (10) Appointment of Assistant Professor Alexander van De Minne, PhD as the Real Estate Faculty Fellow in the School of Business (Attachment 10)
- (11) Appointment of Professor Morgaen L. Donaldson, EdD to the Philip E. Austin Endowed Chair (*correction*) (Attachment 11)
- (12) Reappointment of Professor Joseph Golec, PhD to the Finance Department Distinguished Scholar in the School of Business (*correction*) (Attachment 12)
- (13) New Undergraduate Major in Robotics Engineering (Attachment 13)

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- (14) Naming Recommendation for the Carole and Ray Neag Innovation Professorship in the School of Medicine (Attachment 14)
- (15) Delegation of Interim President as Senior Management Official (Attachment 15)

The Board then discussed the Proposed Statement of Work for the UConn Foundation for Fiscal Year 2022 (Attachment 3). Trustee Ritter raised some concerns about the transparency and communication regarding fundraising priorities.

On a motion by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Mr. Bessette, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Statement of Work for the UConn Foundation for Fiscal Year 2022 as described in Attachment 3.

Board Chair Toscano asked that the order of Agenda items be amended so that the Report by the Board Liaison to the Division of Athletics (Agenda Item 16) be given after the President's Report (Item 4).

On a motion by Dr. Boxer, seconded by Dr. Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to amend the order of the agenda.

4. President's Report

- (a) Presentation: National Science Foundation Grant
Presenters: Dr. Radenka Maric, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Dr. Jeffrey C. Hoch, Principal Investigator and Professor, UConn Health

16. Report by the Board Liaison to the Division of Athletics

Trustee O'Connor asked Athletic Director Benedict to outline the new University Policy for Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL). Mr. Benedict highlighted the important aspects of this new policy.

- (a) Item requiring Board discussion and approval:

On a motion by Dr. Dennis-LaVigne, seconded by Ms. Gouin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Policy for Student Athlete's Name, Image, and Likeness.

- (1) University Policy for Name, Image, and Likeness (Attachment 29)

Trustees O'Connor and Russell-Tucker left the meeting at this time.

5. Academic Affairs Committee Report

- (a) Report on Committee activities
- (b) Informational Items:
 - (1) Academic Program Inventory (Attachment 16)
 - (2) Name Change from the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity to the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health (Attachment 17)

6. Financial Affairs Committee Report

- (a) Report on Committee activities
- (b) Presentation:
 - (1) FY22 Spending Plan (Attachment 18)

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(c) Items requiring Board discussion and approval:

On a motion by Mr. Werstler, seconded by Ms. Gouin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Twenty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture.

- (1) Twenty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture Authorizing University of Connecticut General Obligation Bonds (Attachment 19)

On a motion by Ms. Gouin, seconded by Mr. Boxer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget.

- (2) Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget (Attachment 20)

On a motion by Dr. Dennis-LaVigne, seconded by Mr. Pollard, the Board voted unanimously to approve Attachments 21 – 24.

Project Budgets (Storrs-based):

- (3) Project Budget (Final) for the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex Track Resurfacing (Attachment 21)
- (4) Project Budget (Final) for Werth Family UConn Basketball Champions Center Dining (Attachment 22)
- (5) Project Budget (Revised Final) for North and South Parking Garages Restoration, Phase 1 & 2 (Attachment 23)

Project Budget (UConn Health):

- (6) Project Budget (Revised Final) for the UConn Health Musculoskeletal Institute Building Roof Top Unit Replacement (Attachment 24)

On a motion by Dr. Boxer, seconded by Dr. Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to approve Attachments 25 – 28.

Budget Items (Storrs-based and UConn Health):

- (7) Fiscal Year 2022 Spending Plan for the University of Connecticut, Storrs and Regional Campuses (Attachment 25)
- (8) Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Spending Plan for UConn Health (Attachment 26)
- (9) Fiscal Year 2022 Tuition and Fees for the University of Connecticut, Storrs and Regional Campuses (Attachment 27)
- (10) Fiscal Year 2022 Academic Program and Course Fees for the University of Connecticut, Storrs and Regional Campuses (Attachment 28)

7. UConn Health Report

- (a) Report on UConn Health activities

8. Joint Audit and Compliance Committee Report

- (a) Report on Committee activities

9. Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee Report

- (a) Report on Committee activities

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10. Construction Management Oversight Committee Report
 - (a) Report on Committee activities
There was no Report on Committee activities.
11. Student Life Committee Report
 - (a) Report of Committee activities
There was no Report on Committee activities.
12. Institutional Advancement Committee Report
 - (a) Report on Committee activities
13. Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report
 - (a) Report on Committee activities
14. Committee on Compensation Report
 - (a) Report on Committee activities
There was no Report on Committee activities.
15. Committee for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Report
 - (a) Report on Committee activities
17. Other business
18. Adjournment

Board Chair Toscano asked that the Board hold the July and August reserve dates on their calendars.

On a motion by Mr. Bessette, seconded by Dr. Dennis-LaVigne, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business appearing, the Board meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Dennis-LaVigne
Secretary

From: [Long, Thomas](#)
To: [Board of Trustees](#)
Subject: Comment for BOT
Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 12:05:12 PM

(Although I was registered for the public comment portion of today's BOT meeting, I was never provided with the phone number to connect with the meeting, for which I waited all morning.)

Here is my comment:

I am Thomas Lawrence Long, an in-residence professor in the School of Nursing. Over the past year and a half, nurses have been lauded as “heroes” during the worst phases of the COVID pandemic. But many of those nurses have rejected the label of “hero” and have said this: “Instead of empty praise, pay us fairly, heed our unions, provide us with adequate personal protective equipment, and give us safe patient loads.’

Similarly, UConn faculty and staff have been praised for our efforts to adapt teaching for online instruction, to protect students from infection and mental health problems, and to persist in our now constrained programs of research. However, like those nurses, UConn faculty don't want to be called heroes. We only want a just and fair contract, whose negotiations so far have dragged on to an unprecedented degree. And until then, we need the usual contract extension—and its protections--that has been pro forma in the past.

Recently several senior faculty have expressed to me their deep disappointment with the current board. Our faith in you, and in the UConn administration, and your credibility are at stake in the current contract stalemate.

Thank you.

Thomas Lawrence Long, PhD

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