

TELEPHONE MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Meeting held by Telephone

August 4, 2021

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 8:32 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, Noah S. Frank, Marilda Gandara, Jeanine A. Gouin, Rebecca Lobo, Bryan K. Pollard, Thomas D. Ritter, Philip E. Rubin, Daniel D. Toscano, and Paul Mounds, Jr., Governor Lamont's designee.

Trustees Bryan P. Hurlburt, David Lehman, Kevin J. O'Connor, and Charlene M. Russell-Tucker were not in attendance.

The following members of the UConn Health Board of Directors also participated: Francis X. Archambault, Jr., Richard T. Carbray, Jr., Cheryl A. Chase, Joel Freedman, Deidre S. Gifford, Timothy A. Holt, Wayne Rawlins, and Michael Walsh.

The following University Senate Representatives attended the meeting: Maria-Luz Fernandez, Carol Polifroni, Sebastian Wogenstein, and David Yalof.

The following University staff attended the meeting: Interim President Agwunobi, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lejuez, Interim Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Blanchard, 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, Master Planner and Chief Architect Cruickshank, Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Delello, Executive Director of Employee Relations Buffkin, Associate Professor and Director, Human Rights Institute Libal, Assistant Professor and Director, Dodd Human Rights Impact Mitoma, UConn Health Chief Financial Officer Geoghegan, and UConn Health Chief of Staff Keilty.

UConn Foundation Senior Vice President for Development Lemon was also in attendance.

Special guests in attendance were Senator Christopher J. Dodd and UConn alum Gary Gladstein.

OPEN SESSION

1. Public Participation

Town of Mansfield Mayor Antonia Moran discussed the Town's goals for the Four Corners Economic Opportunity Zone and raised concerns about the current and future relationship between the Town and the University.

2. Minutes of the meeting of June 30, 2021

On a motion by Ms. Gouin, seconded by Dr. Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 30, 2021.

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3. Renaming The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center Building to The Dodd Center Attachment 1
for Human Rights

Vice-Chair Dennis-LaVigne led the discussion of the proposed renaming of The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center building to The Dodd Center for Human Rights, which was endorsed at the July 28 special meeting of the Institutional Advancement Committee. Vice President for Global Affairs Weiner, along with Dr. Kathryn Libal, and Dr. Glenn Mitoma, gave brief remarks about the support, dedication, and advocacy of Senator Christopher J. Dodd and his family for their continued commitment to human rights efforts world-wide.

Senator Dodd thanked the Board and the administration for convening a meeting to consider the building renaming. He briefly remarked about the creation of The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center 25 years ago and expressed his gratitude to former UConn President John T. Casteen, III for accepting his father's historical papers and for creating a repository that led to a state-of-the-art archival and research facility centered around human rights programming. He also expressed his appreciation to UConn alum Gary Gladstein for his generosity and friendship and support of the Human Rights Institute.

Mr. Gladstein, and several Trustees, including Dr. Dennis-LaVigne, Mr. Cloud, and Board Chair Toscano also spoke in support.

On behalf of Governor Lamont, Paul Mounds, Jr. reaffirmed the Governor's commitment to human rights, and to Senator Dodd for his tireless inspiration and dedication to ongoing programming and education for future generations. Mr. Mounds also thanked Mr. Gladstein for his commitment to this important mission.

Trustee Bunnell indicated that he would recuse himself from voting on this item since he has been a member of The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center Advisory Board for the past 25 years, but he wanted to acknowledge his commitment to the Center's goal to educate and eradicate human rights injustices around the world.

Interim President Agwunobi echoed the remarks made by the former speakers and dignitaries, and also expressed his gratitude to the Dodd and Gladstein families for their unprecedented support toward social justice and equality. He also noted that The Dodd Human Rights Impact will serve to educate and empower the next generation of human rights activists and leaders, which exemplifies the public lives and legacies of Senators Thomas J. Dodd and Christopher J. Dodd.

On a motion by Mr. Ritter, seconded by Mr. Frank, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the renaming The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center building to The Dodd Center for Human Rights.

(Mr. Bunnell abstained from voting on this item.)

4. Information Item: Centers and Institutes Attachment 2

Board Chair Toscano noted that the Center on Community Safety, Policing and Inequity in the Law has been recently established and is included as an information item in Attachment 2.

Trustee Gandara motioned, seconded by Dr. Rubin, to add to the agenda a discussion of real estate development. The Board voted unanimously to approve. She then led a discussion with the Board about the sewer moratorium and student housing issues.

Trustee Ritter asked for a list of properties that do not require University sewer access. After further discussion, Board Chair Toscano asked University Chief of Staff Gelston and Associate Vice President Cruickshank to create an inventory list.

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5. Executive Session anticipated

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Cloud, seconded by Dr. Dennis-LaVigne, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:28 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)(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, Frank, Gandara, Gouin, Lobo, Pollard, Ritter, Rubin, Toscano, and Paul Mounds, Jr., Governor Lamont's designee.

The following members of the UConn Health Board of Directors joined for part of the Executive Session: Francis X. Archambault, Jr., Richard T. Carbray, Jr., Cheryl A. Chase, Joel Freedman, Deidre S. Gifford, Timothy A. Holt, Wayne Rawlins, and Michael Walsh.

The following University staff were in attendance for the entire Executive Session: Interim President Agwunobi, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lejuez, Interim Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Blanchard, Executive Secretary to the Board Rubin, University Chief of Staff and General Counsel Gelston, Vice President for Communications on Special Assignment Kendig, and Acting Vice President for Communications Kirk.

The following University staff were in attendance for part of the Executive Session: Athletic Director Benedict, Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Delello, Executive Director of Employee Relations Buffkin, UConn Health Chief Financial Officer Geoghegan, and UConn Health Chief of Staff Keilty.

The Executive Session ended at 11:32 a.m., and the Board returned to Open Session at 11:32 a.m.

6. Adjournment

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 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Dennis-LaVigne
Secretary