

AGENDA

Board of Trustees
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
University of Connecticut
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
1:00 p.m.

Meeting held by Telephone

Public Call-In Number:
(415) 655-0002 US Toll
Access Code: 262 327 34274

*(A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website
<https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/> within seven days of the meeting.)*

Call to order at **1:00 p.m.**

1. Public Participation*

* If members of the public wish to address the Committee during the Public Participation portion of the meeting, you must submit a request in writing 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting (by 12:30 p.m.) to the following email address: BoardCommittees@uconn.edu. Please indicate your name, telephone number, and topic to be discussed. Per the University By-Laws, the Board may limit public comment. As an alternative, you may also submit your comments via email which will be shared with the Board.

2. Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting from December 8, 2021

3. Discussion of School of Business Full Time MBA Program

4. Academic Affairs Update

5. Other business

6. Executive Session (*as needed*)

7. Adjournment

**DRAFT
MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

University of Connecticut
Wilbur Cross Building
North Reading Room (Room 109)
233 Glenbrook Road
Storrs, Connecticut
December 8, 2021

COMMITTEE TRUSTEES: Dennis-LaVigne (virtual), Fang (in person), Gouin (in person), Lobo (virtual), and Rubin (virtual)

ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES: Bessette (virtual), Boxer (virtual), Cantor (in person), Gandara (virtual), Frank (in person), Ritter (virtual), and Toscano (in person)

UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATIVES: Chafouleas (virtual), Luz-Fernandez (in person), Polifroni (in person) Seth (in person) Van Heest (virtual), Weingart (in person), Wogenstein (virtual), and Yalof (virtual)

UNIVERSITY STAFF: (all attended in person) Agwunobi, Blanchard, Casey, Cruickshank, Corbett, Fuerst, Garber, Gelston, Geoghegan, Holsinger, Kendig, Lejuez, Maric, Mundrane, and Rubin

Committee Vice-Chair Gouin convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

No public comment was volunteered on any of the agenda items.

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Fang, the minutes of the October 27, 2021, meeting were approved as circulated.

Provost Lejuez introduced ***Action Item #2 Promotion Recommendation***. Moved by Trustee Fang, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Provost Lejuez introduced ***Action Item #3 Sabbatical Leave Recommendations***. Moved by Trustee Fang, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Provost Lejuez introduced ***Action Item #4 Master of Science (MS) Data Science***. Moved by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Fang, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Provost Lejuez introduced ***Action Item #5 Graduate Certificate in Precision Nutrition***. Moved by Trustee Fang, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Provost Lejuez introduced ***Action Items #6 and #7, New Undergraduate Majors in Latin Language Education and Italian Language Education***. Moved by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Fang, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Provost Lejuez introduced ***Action Items #8 and #9, Name Change from Department of Geosciences to Department of Earth Sciences (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) and Name Change from Department of Management to Department of Management and Entrepreneurship (School of Business)***. Moved by Trustee Fang, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Provost Lejuez introduced ***Informational Item #1 Academic Program Inventory***. Moved by Trustee Fang, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

Trustee Rubin called a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Trustee Fang. Vice-Chair Gouin adjourned the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis M. Cassan
Committee Secretary

January 25, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

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



RE: Academic Affairs Update

MEMORANDUM

The following informational memorandum provides details on the Provost's Academic Updates highlighting a few of our new initiatives, significant achievements, and other advances supporting the academic mission at UConn.

INCLUDE Program for Neurodiverse Students in Engineering

INCLUDE is an interdisciplinary program at UConn started in 2020 that utilizes “strengths-based” approaches to revolutionize and transform the curriculum in the School of Engineering to increase access to careers in engineering for neurodiverse students. It was launched from a \$3 million grant from NSF, and spearheaded by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering through department head Maria Chrysochoou. Education research efforts to evaluate and improve the program over time were led by Rachael Gabriel in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Neag School of Education (<https://cee.engr.uconn.edu/include>).

Stormwise Program

Eversource Energy and UConn have recently announced the extension of their partnership, reaffirmed by a \$14 million gift to the Eversource Energy Center. This will enable expansion of the Stormwise program, which is a forest vegetation management program with the goal of reducing the risk of tree-related storm damage to power lines. With this continued support the Eversource Energy Center will also provide professional education to Eversource Engineers through UConn's Power Grid Modernization Graduate Certificate Program, and engage underrepresented minority undergraduate students in sustainable energy research. The program was recently highlighted in UConn Today (<https://today.uconn.edu/2022/01/eversource-energy-center-prepares-for-storms-with-stormwise-program/>).

Office of Outreach & Engagement

Through outreach, community-based learning, and scholarship in dedicated partnerships with communities, the Office of Outreach and Engagement will centrally oversee and support public engagement initiatives and programming at UConn. Engaged scholarship is academically relevant work, designed with community partners, that meets the university mission and goals as well as community needs. This includes strengthening UConn activities in particular fields of regional engagement and fostering collaboration with the University's deans, department heads,

directors, faculty, staff, and students to stimulate UConn's efforts to support communities across Connecticut. The formation of this office has received considerable support from several BOT members including Tom Ritter and we have just hired our first director – Rosa Raudales who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture in the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources (CAHNR). The Office will report to Jeffrey Shoulson, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Faculty Honors & Awards Initiative

Highly prestigious awards and fellowships are those recognized as particularly prestigious by the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Top American Research Universities (TARU), and other agencies (e.g., National Academies) that rank or have an interest in high caliber faculty or institutions. These awards enhance the University's reputation by acknowledging the caliber of scholars within its ranks and influencing its rankings. The goal of this initiative is to increase the number of prestigious faculty awards and fellowships at the University by identifying a process to maintain records of these awards, develop communication strategies to broadcast prominently, and to launch a system to support and encourage faculty award nominations and applications. This initiative is being led by Gladis Kersaint, Vice Provost for Strategic Initiatives.

Progress Towards Launching of Interdisciplinary Data Science MS Program

We are making good progress on the launching of our first-ever interdisciplinary MS program in Data Science that we presented to the BOT in December. It marks an important collaborative effort to meet the growing workforce needs in CT, and nationally for data scientists across a range of industries. The program represents a true collaboration across several colleges and schools at UConn including Business, CAHNR, CLAS, Education, and Engineering. Additionally, the development of the program has benefitted tremendously from the leadership of Peter Diplock, the Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), and Kent Holsinger, the Dean of the Graduate School. The program is planned to launch initially at Storrs in-person, with future opportunities to expand to other locations in the state and online. The program was just highlighted in a recent article in the Hartford Business Journal (<https://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/ct-colleges-launch-data-science-programs-as-need-for-analytics-workers-skyrockets>).

Continued Success with Pop-up Courses

We continue to see widespread enthusiasm for our Pop-Up Courses. Following the highly successful initial Pop-Up Course on Covid-19 in Spring 2020, we have developed and offered multiple instances of Pop-Up Courses on some of the most important topics of our time including; [Climate Change](#), [Anti-Black Racism](#), and new for Spring 2022, [Confronting Anti-Asian Racism](#) and [Why the Jews? Confronting Antisemitism](#). Plans are underway to develop a course on Entrepreneurial Thinking for Fall 2022. Pop-Up Courses are open to all students for free and delivered entirely online for 7 weeks. To date, more than 15,000 students, staff, and faculty and more than 2,000 alumni have enrolled collectively in these courses.