January 26, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustees Justin Fang and Noah Frank

RE: Proposed Changes to the By-Laws of the University of Connecticut

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees amend the By-Laws of the University of Connecticut Article IX – The University Senate.

BACKGROUND:

The By-Laws of the University of Connecticut may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board by a recorded majority of all members of the Board provided that notice of any proposed amendment, including a draft thereof, shall have been given at a previous regular meeting. Pursuant to this process, on December 8, 2021, the Board considered a proposal by the University Senate to add additional professional staff to its membership. Before adoption, an amendment to the proposal was offered by the student Trustees to also include additional student membership. The amendment offered by the student Trustees was discussed at some length by the Board, who called on the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee to participate in the discussion.

The Board approved the original proposal to add additional professional staff and asked that the Senate work with the student Trustees to follow the established Senate protocols regarding changes to this section of the bylaws before the Board voted on the amendment. The Board requested that the amendment proposed by the student Trustees be on the Board agenda at its February 2022 meeting. The University Senate will consider this proposal at its meeting on February 7, 2022.

The below reflects the amendment proposed by the student Trustees at the December 8th meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Article IX – The University Senate

(Deleted items struck through, proposed new language in red and underlined)

A. Membership

The University Senate shall consist of ex officio and elected members. The ex officio members shall be the President, the Provost, all Vice Presidents, except the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, and all Vice Provosts. These ex officio members shall not vote.
The Senate shall contain ninety-nine elected, voting members, as follows:

1. Three deans of the schools and colleges, which are Senate electoral constituencies (see Section B below).

2. Seventy-two members of the faculty elected according to one or the other of the two faculty electoral processes described in Section B.2. below.

3. Seventeen professional staff members elected by and from the constituencies described in Section B.3. below.

4. Five undergraduate students (see Section B.4 below).

5. Two graduate students (see Section B.5 below).

B. Elections

3. The professional staff members shall be elected according to procedures approved by the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs from seven constituencies as described below. Staff members are ineligible to stand for election or to vote in the first regular election following their initial appointment to the staff.

   a. Academic Development (excluding regional campuses), who shall elect two senators.

   b. Enrollment Planning and Management (excluding regional campuses), who shall elect two senators.

   c. University libraries (excluding regional campuses), who shall elect one senator.

   d. Regional campuses, who shall elect four senators; one per campus for Avery Point, Hartford (to include Hartford, Social Work and School of Law), Stamford, Waterbury.

   e. Schools/Colleges (excluding regional campuses), who shall elect one senator.
f. Division of Student Affairs (excluding regional campuses), who shall elect two senators.

g. All professional staff shall elect five at-large senators.

4. Undergraduate student members shall be appointed by the President of the Undergraduate Student Government according to procedures established by the Undergraduate Student Government. Each regional campus shall be represented by one student senator appointed according to procedures established by the Undergraduate Student Government.

5. Graduate student members shall be appointed by the President of the Graduate Student Senate according to procedures established by the Graduate Student Senate. Regional campuses shall be represented by one student senator appointed according to procedures established by the Graduate Student Senate.

G. Committees

1. The Senate Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) shall consist of eight faculty members, two professional staff members, and one undergraduate and one graduate student members. The faculty and professional staff members shall be elected by the Senate from among the elected members of the Senate who are not primarily administrators. Department heads and directors are not regarded as primarily administrators. The undergraduate and graduate members shall be selected from among and by all student members of the Senate. The Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate Student Senate Presidents or their student Senate member designees will serve as the interim student representatives to the Senate Executive Committee during the summer months until the permanent members are selected.

Elections shall follow the annual election of such members and shall normally take place in April. For faculty and professional staff members, a term of service on the Executive Committee shall begin on July 1 and shall be for three years. The term of membership in the Senate of a faculty or professional staff representative elected to the Executive Committee shall be automatically extended, if necessary, to be coterminous. For the student members, the term of service shall be one year, renewable to a maximum of three consecutive years. After the annual election, the Senate shall elect one of the ten faculty and professional staff members to serve as Chair of the SEC for a one-year term, which may be renewed. A vacancy on the SEC shall be filled by election for the duration of the vacancy.