

April 27, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

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



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 XII – The Institutes and Centers in Academic Affairs.

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. Such notice and the resolution calling for the described amendments to be acted upon at one of the next three meetings of the Board was given at the meeting dated March 30, 2022.

The recommended changes to Article XII clarify the functions, structure, establishment, and review of Institutes and Centers in Academic Affairs. In proposing these changes, the Office of the Provost consulted with the Provost's Institute and Center Review Committee.

For the information of the Board, also attached is the original language of Article XII, with indications of the proposed amendments.

Article XII – The Institutes and Centers in Academic Affairs

(Deleted items struck through, new language underlined)

A. Functions:

The ability to make significant contributions to the University's teaching, research and outreach mission, and to solve increasingly complex problems, may be facilitated by interdisciplinary approaches that enable and encourage collaborative contributions from different disciplines. A center or institute provides a venue for activities that cannot flourish within existing academic structures. The goals of the center or institute should be congruent with those of the institution and capable of enhancing the achievement of these goals more efficiently than existing departments.

A Center is a unit that ordinarily has a focused mission and a clearly defined objective. It may involve a group of faculty from one or more departments from a single school/college or from different schools/colleges.

An Institute is a unit that ordinarily is larger, has a broader mission, and a more complex interdisciplinary focus than a center. It is expected that most institutes would involve faculty from multiple departments and schools/colleges. ~~Unlike centers, a primary mission of institutes is an academic one.~~

B. Membership Structure

Each institute or center shall consist of a director and ~~a minimum of four affiliated~~ participating faculty. The director will be appointed by the dean or other officer to whom the unit reports, in consultation with the Provost. The director shall be responsible for appointing any staff associated with the center or institute. Faculty appointments and consideration for promotion and/or tenure continue to be granted through academic departments of the University.

Each institute or center must have clear lines of responsibility, usually through a dean to the Provost or to the Vice President for Research. Centers may be primarily responsible to a department head, if department heads of affiliated faculty and the relevant dean approve. Externally sponsored activities (e.g., research/training grants, donations/gifts, fees for services and contracts and letters of agreement) of institutes and centers must have prior approval from the responsible administrative officers. Each center and institute will report annually on its activities for the year to the dean or other officer to whom the unit reports.

C. Reports Establishment and Review

~~Each institute or center must have clear lines of responsibility, usually through a dean to the Provost or to the Vice President for Research. Centers may be primarily responsible to a department head, if department heads of affiliated faculty and the relevant dean approve. Externally sponsored activities (e.g., research/training grants, donations/gifts, fees for services and contracts and letters of agreement) of institutes and centers must have prior approval from the responsible administrative officers.~~

The establishment of a new center or institute requires formal application to and approval from the Provost.

All centers and institutes will ~~be reviewed~~ undergo formal review on a five-year cycle to determine their continued contribution to the University's mission, except that centers and institutes in the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine will be reviewed at least every seven years. ~~Each center and institute will submit an Annual Report that documents scholarly accomplishments and productivity, including funding obtained during the year and any changes in the membership of participating faculty. The report is to be submitted to the department head(s) and dean(s) of the participating department(s) and school(s)/college(s) and a copy provided to the Provost.~~ Centers and institutes with academic programs shall have written procedures to conduct reviews of those academic programs on a regular cycle. The Provost will routinely inform the Board of Trustees, and if appropriate, the Health Center Board of Directors, of the establishment and discontinuation of all centers and institutes.