

University of Connecticut Department of Human Resources

Emeritus Retirees

December 7, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>SCHOOL/COLLEGE*</u>	<u>RETIRED</u>	<u>HIRED</u>
<i>Faculty meeting “automatic” criteria for emeritus status</i>					
Bonelli, Joseph	Associate Cooperative Extension Educator	Dept of Extension	CAHNR	4/1/22	7/1/05
<i>Recommendations from the Emeritus Committee</i>					
Rong, Yuhang	Associate Vice President	Global Affairs	Global Affairs	7/1/22	5/26/06

*Key

CAHNR – College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources

Yuhang Rong

Dr. Yuhang Rong retired as Associate Vice President for Global Affairs at the rank of assistant clinical instructor on July 1, 2022. Dr. Rong began working at UConn in 1993 as the Complex Coordinator and Coordinator for Residential Services Staff training, where he worked until 1997. From 1997 until 2006, he worked outside of UConn at ECSU, CT State Department of Education, and the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. In 2006 Dr. Rong returned to UConn as Assistant Dean in the Neag School of Education, and remained in that position until 2014. He also served as the Accreditation Liaison Officer in the Office of the Provost from 2013 to 2018. In 2014 he moved into Global Affairs, where he served as Assistant Vice Provost for Global Affairs from 2014 to 2017, Acting Executive Director of Education Abroad from 2015 to 2016, and Associate Vice Provost for Global Affairs from July 2017 until his retirement in July 2022.

Dr. Rong is recognized globally due to his work to raise UConn's international profile. During his time as Associate Vice President, UConn's global ranking rose from the world's 500s in 2017 to 300s in 2019. Queen Rania of Jordan invited Dr. Rong for a private audience to discuss impact studies, and the Queen Rania Teacher Academy has appointed Dr. Rong on its International Advisory Board. He has provided technical assistance in program design to universities in Qatar, Jordan, Oman, and UAE, increasing UConn's recognition as a leader for excellence in teaching and research. In other parts of the globe, Dr. Rong represents UConn at Universitas 21, a global research university consortium.

Dr. Rong's efforts have been instrumental in the sustainability and accessibility of education abroad programs at UConn. He has collaborated with the University Senate and its Scholastic Standards Committee to integrate education abroad programs into the Senate By-Laws, and establish a committee to review programs and make implementation recommendations. Dr. Rong has also championed experiential learning in education abroad programs. He was the lead author on UConn's white paper on this concept. UConn's education abroad program officially transitioned to Experiential Global Learning in 2021.

Dr. Rong's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is particularly notable. Global Affairs was responsible for coordinating students' return home from all over the world in a short period of time, as well as responsibility for UConn's international student population. Dr. Rong's creativity was critical in establishing two emergency programs in China that allowed current and future Chinese students who were unable to travel continue and/or start their UConn education. These programs continue today and have transformed the lives of our students and contributed significantly to maintaining international enrollment at UConn in the midst of a global pandemic, both of which will have long-lasting positive impacts for UConn. In fact, his actions led to UConn's retention of gross tuition revenue of approximately \$20 million during the pandemic, with predicted future revenue estimated at \$66.5 million from this group of students alone.