

Telephone Meeting

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees
Institutional Advancement Committee
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Meeting held by Telephone

Public Call-In Number: (415) 655-0002 US Toll

Access Code: 2629 028 3654

Public Streaming Link (with live captioning): <http://ait.uconn.edu/bot>

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

1. Public Participation*

*Individuals who wish to speak during the Public Portion of the Tuesday, October 10, meeting must do so 24 hours in advance of the meeting's start time (1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 9) by emailing BoardCommittees@uconn.edu. Speaking requests must include a name, telephone number, topic, and affiliation with the University (i.e., student, employee, member of the public). The Committee may limit the entirety of public comment to a maximum of 30 minutes. As an alternative, individuals may submit written comments to the Committee via email (BoardCommittees@uconn.edu), and all comments will be transmitted to the Committee.

2. Minutes from the September 12, 2023, Meeting

Dr. Dennis-LaVigne

Attachment 1

3. Naming Resolutions

Mr. Greenblatt

Attachment 2

Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Cyber-Physical Systems
Vergnano Endowed Chair for Inclusion

4. Legislative Update

Ms. Lombardo

5. UConn Foundation / Alumni Update

Ms. Cotton Kelley /
Mr. Greenblatt

6. University Communications Update

Mr. Kendig

Attachment 3

7. Other Business

8. Executive Session (as needed)

9. Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 1

DRAFT MINUTES

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Institutional Advancement Committee

Meeting held by telephone

September 12, 2023

Committee Trustees: Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Shari Cantor,
Joshua Crow, Jeanine Gouin, Bryan Pollard

University Senate Representative: Joseph MacDougald

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Anne D’Allewa, Mona Lucas,
Tysen Kendig, Joann Lombardo, Rachel Rubin,
Lesley Salafia, Reka Wrynn

UConn Foundation Staff: Montique Cotton Kelly, Jonathan Greenblatt,
Laura Padron

Vice-Chair Dennis-LaVigne called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

1. Public Participation
No members of the public signed up to address the Committee.
2. Institutional Advancement 2024 Meeting Dates Attachment 1
The 2024 meeting dates were shared with the Committee.
3. Meeting Minutes dated June 12, 2023 Attachment 2
On a motion made by Trustee Cantor, seconded by Trustee Gouin, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023, meeting. Trustee Pollard abstained from the vote.
4. Naming Resolution Attachment 3
On a motion made by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Gouin, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the “Nicole D. Gabelman CLAS ’12 Bench at the W.B. Young Building” to the Board of Trustees.
5. UConn Foundation Named Gift Guidelines Attachment 4
By unanimous consent, the Committee recommended approval of the UConn Foundation Named Gift Guidelines to the Board of Trustees.
6. Legislative Update
Governmental Relations Director Lombardo provided a legislative update.
7. UConn Foundation / Alumni Update
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer Greenblatt and Senior Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement and Chief Operating Officer Cotton Kelly provided updates for UConn Foundation along with Alumni Relations.

Senior Vice President for Advancement Padron provided an update on the current campaign.

8. University Communications Update

Vice President for Communications Kendig provided an update on UConn Communications happenings.

9. Other Business

No Other Business was presented to the Committee.

10. Executive Session (as needed)

No Executive Session was needed.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Gouin, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jen Cote

Secretary to the Committee

ATTACHMENT 2

October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 

RE: Modification of the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Cyber-Physical Systems
in the College of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:


That the Board of Trustees rename the “Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Cyber-Physical Systems” to the “Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability” in the College of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

To better align the endowed chair with academic and research priorities, President Maric has requested to rename the “Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Cyber-Physical Systems” to the “Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability” in the College of Engineering.

The endowment fund previously designated to support a faculty chair in the College of Engineering’s Cyber-Physical Systems program will be modified to support a faculty chair in sustainability, sustainable energies, or related fields. The requested change in the fund purpose and the proposed change in the name of the Chair is consistent with faculty positions approved by the University, and has the consent of the University, the donor, and the UConn Foundation.

October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 
RE: Establishment of the Vergnano Endowed Chair for Inclusion

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees establish the “Vergnano Endowed Chair for Inclusion” in the College of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

Mark and Betsy (Reddington) Vergnano, alumni of the Colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts and Sciences, respectively, are longtime supporters of UConn with a focus on college affordability and a passion for promoting greater diversity and inclusion. In 2021, the Vergnanos donated a gift focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, leading to the establishment of the Vergnano Institute for Inclusion in the College of Engineering.

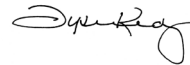
The Vergnanos recently donated an additional gift, consistent with the University’s *Named Gift Guidelines*, to establish a chair within the Vergnanos Institute for Inclusion. The appointed faculty member will serve as the Director of the Institute, subject to Board approval. The incumbent will be a faculty member who has a consistent record of demonstrating leadership and fostering excellence towards inclusive instruction, research, and outreach within the College’s academic community.

The endowment will support funding the Chair; expenses related to the Institute’s programming, including undergraduate and graduate student scholarships; conferences and professional development activities for the Chair and those sponsored by the Institute and College.

ATTACHMENT 3

MEMORANDUM

To: Institutional Advancement Committee
From: Tysen Kendig, Vice President for Communications
Date: October 10, 2023
Subject: UConn in the media



[The New Reality for College Dining Halls: Dozens of Dietary Restrictions](#)

September 5, 2023 – The New York Times

Robert Landolphi, the assistant director of culinary operations at the University of Connecticut, said that two decades ago, “you had your handful of peanut and tree-nut allergies, and back then we had maybe two people with gluten-free diets.” Today, he said, more than 10 percent of those on meal plans have some sort of dietary restriction.

[In-N-Out, Weirdly, is a Climate Change Indicator](#)

September 5, 2023 – Slate

But for researcher Tammo Reichgelt, palms mark something else entirely: temperature extremes, and the contours of a changing world. A paleobotanist at the University of Connecticut, Reichgelt uses ancient palms to build climate models because they are great temperature indicators. Unlike trees that go dormant in winter, he explained, “if the sap stops flowing, they die.” Sap can circulate in below-freezing weather if a palms’ roots stay warm; skirts of leaves warming the trunk can also help, he said.

[The Collapse of Insects](#)

September 7, 2023 – Reuters

As a boy in the 1960s, David Wagner would run around his family’s Missouri farm with a glass jar clutched in his hand, scooping flickering fireflies out of the sky. “Insects are the food that make all the birds and make all the fish,” said Wagner, who works at the University of Connecticut. “They’re the fabric tethering together every freshwater and terrestrial ecosystem across the planet.”

[The Food Industry Pays ‘Influencer’ Dietitians to Shape Your Eating Habits](#)

September 13, 2023 – The Washington Post

By paying registered dietitians — health professionals who specialize in nutrition — the food industry is moving beyond the world of ordinary online influencers to harness the prestige of credentialed experts to deliver commercial messages. “They’re getting these dietitians to essentially do their marketing for them,” said Marlene Schwartz, the director of the University of Connecticut’s Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health.

[America’s Best Employers by State \(UConn is No. 6 in Connecticut\)](#)

September 14, 2023 – Forbes

An annual ranking of the best workplaces in each state.

[Genocide Fears in Darfur Are Attracting Little Attention. Have Nations Abandoned Their Responsibility to Protect Civilians?](#)

September 18, 2023 – The Conversation

News analysis by Mike Brand, Professor of Genocide Studies and Human Rights.

[Patience is Learned. Here's How to Teach Your Kids to Wait](#)

September 19, 2023 – The Washington Post

Sometimes adults struggle with patience, too. “The difference is, as adults, we have a tool kit to go to, to help us be patient,” says [Kimberly Cuevas](#), an associate professor of psychological sciences at the University of Connecticut. As a parent, you can model how you use these tools — by taking a deep breath before acting when you’re frustrated or using time spent in traffic to listen to calming music or think aloud about your next vacation.

[Instagram Accounts Shut Down After NYC Principal Threatens to Suspend Student Followers](#)

September 19, 2023 – Chalkbeat

Preston Green, a professor of educational leadership and law at the University of Connecticut, said schools can punish students for speech that disrupts the school’s learning environment or for conduct that occurs on school grounds. But he said suspending kids for following certain Instagram accounts would likely violate their First Amendment rights. “Mere ‘following’ can’t be sufficient,” he said. “That’s going too far.”

[A Flamethrower and Comments About Book Burning Ignite a Political Firestorm in Missouri](#)

September 22, 2023 – The Associated Press

Evan Perkoski, an associate political science professor at the University of Connecticut, said it’s been “traditional” for extremist groups to use images of fire to “simultaneously intimidate people and signal their intentions to destroy what exists and to rebuild or start over. We’ve seen this time and time again from groups across countries where groups will burn effigies, crosses and other items, or even just film themselves around large conflagrations,” he said in an email to AP. “A large part of their motivation is the symbolic, frightening nature of fire.”