

# TELEPHONE MEETING

Board of Trustees  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

University of Connecticut

October 24, 2023

8:30 a.m.

## AGENDA

### Meeting held by Telephone

Public Call-In Number:

(415) 655-0002 US Toll

Access Code: 2625 069 0951

Public Streaming Link (with live captioning): <https://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.)*

Call to order at **8:30 a.m.**

### 1. Public Participation\*

\* Individuals who wish to speak during the Public Participation portion of the Tuesday, October 24, meeting must do so 24 hours in advance of the meeting's start time (i.e., 8:30 a.m. on Monday, October 23) by emailing [BoardCommittees@uconn.edu](mailto: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](mailto:BoardCommittees@uconn.edu)), and all comments will be transmitted to the Committee.

### ACTION ITEMS

2. Minutes from the September 26, 2023, Meeting (Attachment 1)
3. Designation of Emeritus Status (Attachment 2)
4. Sabbatical Leave Recommendations (Attachment 3)
5. Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition in the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources (Attachment 4)
6. Graduate Certificate in Financial Risk Management in the School of Business (Attachment 5)

7. Establishment of the Vergnano Endowed Chair for Inclusion (Attachment 6)
8. Modification of the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Cyber-Physical Systems in the College of Engineering (Attachment 7)
9. Appointment of Professor Xiao-Dong Zhou to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability in the College of Engineering (Attachment 8)
10. Appointment of Associate Professor Fei Miao to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering (Attachment 9)
11. Reappointment of Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Diane J. Burgess to the Pfizer Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology in the School of Pharmacy (Attachment 10)
12. Reappointment of Professor Marie A. Smith to the Dr. Henry A. Palmer Professorship in Community Pharmacy Practice in the School of Pharmacy (Attachment 11)

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

13. Academic Program Inventory (Attachment A)
14. Executive Session (as needed)
15. Other Business
16. Adjournment

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**TELEPHONE MEETING**  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

University of Connecticut  
September 26, 2023

Committee Trustees: Jeanine Gouin, Joshua Crow, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Bryan Pollard, Philip Rubin

Other Trustees: Daniel Toscano, Shari Cantor

Senate Representatives: D. Betsy McCoach

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Anne D’Alleva, Sarah Croucher, Nathan Fuerst, Amy Gorin, Kazem Kazerounian, Gladis Kersaint, Rachel Rubin, Michelle Williams, Reka Wrynn

Vice-Chair Gouin called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

1. Public Participation

No members of the public signed up to address the Committee.

2. Minutes from the August 4, 2023, Meeting

On a motion by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2023, meeting.

3. Tenure at Hire

4. Designation of Emeritus Status

5. Sabbatical Leave Recommendations

On a motion by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Items #3-5 to the full Board for approval.

6. Proposal for naming of the College of Engineering, including the School of Computing and School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering

There was a general discussion regarding the expected growth projections of UConn engineering programs and the demand from students for engineering education across the state of Connecticut and nationally.

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #6 to the full Board for approval.

7. Appointment of Associate Professor Ali Bazzi as the Charles H. Knapp Associate Professor in Electrical Engineering in the School of Engineering
8. Appointment of Associate Professor Matthew Stuber to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering
9. Appointment of Associate Professor Liang Zhang to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering

On a motion by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Items #7-9 to the full Board for approval.

10. Title Change from Regional Campus Director to Campus Dean and Chief Administrative Officer
11. Academic Program Inventory

Items #10-11 were provided to the Committee as informational items.

12. Student Affairs Reorganization Update

Provost D'Alleva briefly reviewed the reorganization of the Division of Student Affairs including units absorbed by the newly renamed Division of Student Life and Enrollment and the Division of Academic Affairs. There was a general discussion regarding the gained efficiencies of intertwining these units and the need to enhance support of student success.

13. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

14. Executive Session (*as needed*)

There was no Executive Session.

15. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis M. Lohrey  
Secretary to the Committee

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

**University of Connecticut Department of Human Resources**

**Emeritus Retirees**

**October 25, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>DEPARTMENT</u></b>	<b><u>SCHOOL/COLLEGE*</u></b>	<b><u>RETIRED</u></b>	<b><u>HIRED</u></b>
<i>Faculty meeting “automatic” criteria for emeritus status</i>					
Leyden, Diana	Professor	Law Instruction and Research	School of Law	7/1/2023	7/7/1999
Simmons, Louise B.	Professor	Social Work	School of Social Work	7/1/2023	2/25/1977
Sylvester, Christine M.	Professor	Political Science	CLAS	7/1/2023	1/1/2012
Utz, Stephen G.	Professor	Law Instruction and Research	School of Law	7/1/2023	9/1/1983

Key

\*CLAS – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

## **ATTACHMENT 3**



University of Connecticut Office of the Provost

Sabbatical Leave Recommendations Requiring Board of Trustees Approval

October 25, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting


**SABBATICAL LEAVE REQUESTS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>SCHOOL/COLLEGE</b>	<b>PAY</b>	<b>PERIOD</b>
Blesso, Christopher Neal	Assoc Professor	Nutritional Sciences	Agriculture, Health, Natural Rcs	Full	Fall 2024
Dixon, James A	Professor	Psychological Sciences	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Half	AY 2024-2025
Dudas, Jeffrey R	Professor	Political Science	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Full	Spring 2025
Glaz, Joseph	Professor	Statistics	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Full	Fall 2024
Huang, Ling	Assoc Professor	Economics	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Half	AY 2024-2025
Majumdar, Suman	Assoc Professor	Statistics	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Full	Fall 2024
Pressman, Daniel Jeremy	Professor & Director	Political Science	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Full	Fall 2024
Rueckl, Jay G	Professor	Psychological Sciences	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Half	AY 2024-2025
Sarkar, Debapriya	Asst Professor	English	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Half	AY 2024-2025
Seemann, Jeffrey R	Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Bio	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Full	Fall 2024
Siedlecki, Samantha A	Assoc Professor	Marine Sciences	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Half	AY 2024-2025
Siegle, Del	Professor	Educational Psychology	Education	Full	Fall 2024
Zhong, Xiaobo	Professor	Pharmaceutical Science	Pharmacy	Full	Spring 2024
Zou, Bin	Assoc Professor	Mathematics	Liberal Arts and Sciences	Full	Spring 2024

## **ATTACHMENT 4**

October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.   
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition.

BACKGROUND:

The Graduate Certificate in Plant-based Food and Nutrition program provides advanced, evidence-based knowledge in human nutrition from plant-based foods for individuals working in healthcare, private practice, and industry. Due to increasing awareness of the environmental impact and health concerns of animal-based food products, the population of vegans, vegetarians and flexitarians has grown dramatically over the past decade. As more consumers shift to plant-based diets or incorporate more plant-based food products into their diet, healthcare professionals must guide their clients on following nutritionally well-balanced plant-based diets with the goal of health, well-being, and disease prevention/management. Also, it is highly important that the food industry is better prepared to develop highly nutritious plant-based food products with less environmental impact using research and evidence-based knowledge and principles. Students in this program will gain an understanding of nutrition from plant-based diets and apply the knowledge to the development of plant-based food products to promote health and prevent chronic diseases.

The Department of Nutritional Sciences currently offers both an in-person Master of Science in Nutritional Science, a 30-credit online Master of Science in Personalized Nutrition (MSPN), and a 12-credit online Graduate Certificate in Precision Nutrition. The proposed graduate certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition is designed to attract a part-time student audience to a fast-growing and emerging food science and nutritional specialization. The graduate program in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition is a four-course, 12-credit, online graduate certificate program. Two of the four required courses are already developed and offered as part of our existing online program suite. The Plant-Based Food and Nutrition Graduate Certificate program provides advanced knowledge in human nutrition and food science with a primary focus on plant-based food ingredients and their health impacts and is primarily designed for individuals working in healthcare, private practice, and industry. The program anticipates having 5 students enrolled in year 1, 10 students enrolled in year 2, and 15 students enrolled in year 3 and beyond.

## Request for New Academic Degree Program

### General Information

Name of degree program:	Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition
Name of sponsoring Department:	Department of Nutritional Sciences
Name of School/College	College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources
Type of Proposal:	New
Type of Program:	Graduate Certificate
Anticipated Term Initiation:	Spring 2024
Location:	Online
Program Payment Type:	Fee-based

### Justification for the New Program

With increasing awareness of the environmental impact and health concerns of animal-based food products, the population of vegans, vegetarians, and flexitarians has grown dramatically over the past decade. The number of vegans increased by 600% from 2014 to 2018, and in response to the consumers' demand, the plant-based food market grew by 29% between 2017 and 2019 in the US. Notably, the global vegan food market size is expected to grow from \$26.83 billion USD in 2021 to \$65.4 billion USD in 2030 (Fig). According to a 2018 Gallup poll, 5% of US adults identified as vegetarian and 2% as vegan. As more plant-based food is incorporated into consumers' diets, healthcare professionals should be knowledgeable of evidence-based principles about plant-based food and nutrition to guide their clients toward health and disease prevention/management. Also, food scientists in the food industry and culinary medicine chefs should be better prepared to develop and prepare highly nutritious plant-based food products and meals as the need for nutritionally well-balanced plant-based food products is expanding.

To meet rapidly-growing interests and demands for professionals knowledgeable of plant-based food and nutrition in the healthcare and food industries, the Department of Nutritional Sciences desires to build a 12-credit online Graduate Certificate Program in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition. This proposed Graduate Certificate Program in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition will provide advanced knowledge in human nutrition and food science, primarily focusing on plant-based food ingredients and their health impacts, for individuals working in healthcare, private practice, and industry. Students in this program will gain a deep understanding of nutrition from plant-based diets and apply the knowledge to developing plant-based food products to promote health and prevent chronic diseases. The UConn Department of Nutritional Sciences maintains a highly reputable human nutrition program, ranked in the top 10th percentile among 103 similar programs in the US . The department already has two established online programs, both offering an excellent curriculum and which meet projected enrollment goals: the Master of Science in Personalized Nutrition and the Graduate Certificate in Precision Nutrition. Therefore, this new Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition is expected to be very successful and quickly become a leading program in the field.

The new certificate will sit in a mixed portfolio of in-person and online programs in Nutritional Sciences. As well as the two online programs, the Department of Nutritional Sciences currently offers an in-person Master of Science and PhD in Nutritional Science, online Master of Science in Personalized Nutrition. The proposed Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition will add to these offerings by attracting a part-time student audience to a fast-growing and emerging food science and nutritional specialization. The new graduate certificate provides advanced knowledge combining human nutrition and food science, complementing existing online programs. This program requires four graduate-level courses (12 credits in total), two of which are already developed and offered as part of the Department's existing online programs.

Although "Plant-based nutrition" has been a buzzword for several years, there appears to be no other similar graduate online program that would compete with our new Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition. No other programs are offered at the graduate level, but the range of certificates that have been developed show the demand for education in this area. Loma Linda University in California offers an online MS in Plant-based Nutrition designed explicitly for registered dietitians. Cosumnes River Community College in California has a Plant-Based Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture pre-baccalaureate certificate program, requiring three undergraduate courses, one of which must be focused on sustainable agriculture. The online non-credit Plant-based Nutrition Certificate by eCornell lasts six weeks in total and has a formal outcome limited to Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The University of Guelph in Canada offers an online Plant-based Nutrition certificate program through their continuing education unit. Comparison with this limited range of existing programs shows that our Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition is unique in that it will provide in-depth, science-driven knowledge needed for professionals in the healthcare and food industries at the graduate level.

### **Are there similar programs in CT or elsewhere?**

There are a number of programs that include aspects of plant nutrition as electives and part of broader nutritional science master's programs but very few specific programs that focus solely on plant-based food and nutrition. In fact, we were unable to locate any similar programs in CT and only one nationally---Loma Linda University School of Public Health in California offers an online MS in Plant-based Nutrition specifically designed for registered dietitians. There are two online certificates in plant-based Nutrition, one at the University of Guelph in Canada and another offered through eCornell, both of which are non-credit and don't require competitive admissions.

### **What are the desired learning outcomes of the program?**

At the end of this program, students will:

- Assess biochemical and physiological functions, metabolic pathways, interactions, and deficiencies/toxicities of macro/micronutrients
- Connect the nutrient composition and concentrations of plant-based foods to their health benefits and disease prevention
- Demonstrate ingredients, formulation, and techniques for processing and manufacturing plant-based food products

- Devise strategies to develop plant-based food products with high nutritional values

## **Program Description**

The graduate certificate in Plant-based Food and Nutrition program provides advanced, evidence-based knowledge in human nutrition from plant-based foods for individuals working in healthcare, private practice, and industry. Due to increasing awareness of the environmental impact and health concerns of animal-based food products, the population of vegans, vegetarians and flexitarians has grown dramatically over the past decade. As more consumers shift to plant-based diets or incorporate more plant-based food products into their diet, healthcare professionals must guide their clients on following nutritionally well-balanced plant-based diets with the goal of health, well-being, and disease prevention/management. Also, it is highly important that the food industry is better prepared to develop highly nutritious plant-based food products with less environmental impact using research and evidence-based knowledge and principles. Students in this program will gain an understanding of nutrition from plant-based diets and apply the knowledge to the development of plant-based food products to promote health and prevent chronic diseases.

## **Proposed Graduate Catalogue Copy**

This certificate program is designed for individuals working in healthcare, private practice, and industry. It provides advanced knowledge in human nutrition, and metabolism, which is crucial for devising plant-based dietary strategies and developing nutritious plant-based food products. Students must complete 12 credits.

Required Courses: NUSC 5200, 5300, 5510 and 5520.

This Certificate is offered by the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources.

## **Faculty Involvement**

- Christopher Blesso, Associate Professor, Graduate Program Director
- Sangyong Choi, Assistant Professor
- Zhenlei Xiao, Associate Professor in Residence
- Yangchao Luo, Associate Professor

## **Enrollment and graduate projections**

The program anticipates having 5 students enrolled in year 1, 10 students enrolled in year 2, and 15 students enrolled in year 3 and beyond.

## **Program Evaluation**

The program will be evaluated through the following indicators:

- 1) Course evaluations: we will examine course evaluations for all of the courses that are part of the degree program.
- 2) We will conduct an annual anonymous survey of enrolled students to gauge their level of satisfaction and engagement and seek feedback about possible areas of improvement and change.

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3) Degree completion: we will monitor the percentage of participants who complete the degree in a timely fashion, Exit interviews will be conducted with any student withdrawing from the program to identify the reasons for the withdrawal.

4) Destination and Alumni surveys: online surveys for graduates to gather data regarding their employment, satisfaction with the program.

## **Program Administration**

The program will be administered by the Graduate School and the Department of Nutritional Science. The Graduate Program Committee led by the graduate program director (Chris Blesso) will be responsible for admissions and Dr. Zhenlei Xiao will provide student advising and program oversight.

## **Funding and Financial Resources Needed**

No additional funding or financial resources is requested at this time. This program is designed to be entrepreneurial and net revenue positive. This is a fully online program. Two courses for this new graduate certificate programs have already been developed and the other two will be developed for the Graduate Certificate in Plant-based Food and Nutrition program with the support of eCampus. Therefore, there are no additional resources needed for course development. If approved, CETL has committed to providing marketing strategy and web page design, and assistance with setting up the enrollment management funnel and processes.

## **Who can apply to this program?**

Internal applicants (current UConn students enrolled in another UConn degree or certificate program), External applicants (individuals who are not currently UConn students)

## **Admission Requirements**

- Baccalaureate degree in nutrition, or related health and science fields with a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Requirement: College-level biochemistry or equivalent or NUSC 5000
- Recommended Course Preparation: College-level nutrition and food science

## **Term(s) to which students will be admitted**

Summer, Fall, Spring

## **Program Director Name**


Zhenlei Xiao, Associate Professor in Residence

## **ATTACHMENT 5**



October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.   
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Graduate Certificate in Financial Risk Management

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a Graduate Certificate in Financial Risk Management.

BACKGROUND:

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics' predicts an "above average" rate of growth for professionals in financial risk management, and industry data shows that certifications are one of the top qualifications for financial risk managers. The School of Business' Graduate Certificate in Financial Risk Management is an opportunity to meet the growing need for credentials, and the program is designed to meet the unique needs of experienced candidates who want to validate and enhance their skills in financial risk management.

This is a graduate-level certificate program designed for working professionals looking to advance their careers, individuals pursuing a career change, and recent graduates interested in obtaining a certificate to validate their skills and commitment to the highest standard of professionalism and best practices within the risk management profession. Students must successfully complete 12 credits (4 required courses, 3-credits each). 2 courses are offered in fall and 2 courses are offered in spring.

## Request for New Academic Degree Program

### General Information

Name of degree program:	Certificate in Financial Risk Management
Name of sponsoring Department:	Department of Finance
Name of School/College	School of Business
Type of Proposal:	New
Type of Program:	Graduate Certificate
Anticipated Term Initiation:	Spring 2024
Location:	Stamford
Program Payment Type:	Fee-based

### Justification for the New Program

The creation of this certificate program is based on (1) industry data showing that certification is one of the top qualifications for a financial risk manager and (2) the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' prediction of an "above-average" growth rate for the profession. It is designed to meet the unique needs of experienced candidates who want to validate and enhance their skills in Financial Risk Management.

### Are there similar programs in CT or elsewhere?

There are no similar programs to this in Connecticut or elsewhere, currently. There is a coursera course (Harvard) and some insurance certificates that are somewhat similar, but do not include the same curriculum or focus.

### What are the desired learning outcomes of the program?

- To acquire quantitative and programming skills in risk management
- To understand risk concepts, methodologies and their implementation
- To acquire quantitative and programming skills in risk management
- To understand risk concepts, methodologies and their implementation
- To get exposure to and hands on experience with real world risk management problems

### Program Description

This is a graduate-level certificate program designed for working professionals looking to advance their careers or for career changers, and recent graduates interested in obtaining a certificate to validate their skills and commitment to the highest standard of professionalism and best practices within the risk management profession. Students will complete 12 credits (4 required courses, 3-credits each). 2 courses are offered in fall and 2 courses are offered in spring.

### Proposed Graduate Catalogue Copy

This is a graduate-level certificate program designed for working professionals looking to advance their careers or for career changers, and recent graduates interested in obtaining a certificate to validate their skills and commitment to the highest standard of professionalism and



best practices within the risk management profession. Students must successfully complete 12 credits.

Required Courses: FNCE 5313, FNCE 5341, FNCE 5322, FNCE 5332.

This certificate is offered by the School of Business.

### **Faculty Involvement**

- Michel Rakotomavo
- Yaacov Kopeliovich
- Jose Martinez
- Andrew Liu
- Jaideep Shenoy

### **Enrollment and graduate projections**

We expect enrollment to grow gradually, as has been seen with the other grad certificates. We anticipate two enrollments in spring 2024, with growth in prior semesters.

### **Program Evaluation**

The program will be evaluated in the same way as the general MS program, with focus on the four shared courses between the MS degree and Certificate.

### **Program Administration**

Admissions will be overseen by Cheryl Dondero, who oversees FRM admissions. Advising would be overseen by our program advisors. Future programmatic changes would be discussed between the Academic Director, FRM faculty, and Department Head; brought to finance faculty at large, and voted upon.

### **Funding and Financial Resources Needed**

No additional funding or financial resources is requested at this time.

### **Consultation with Other Potentially Affected Units**

This certificate could affect enrollment in the MS in FRM program. However, this certificate was also built by this department, and is seen as a potential revenue generator. It is also seen as a pipeline for students to enter into the full MS degree, since credits can transfer over into the full MS degree.

### **Who can apply to this program?**

Internal applicants (current UConn students enrolled in another UConn degree or certificate program), External applicants (individuals who are not currently UConn students)



**Admission Requirements**

Undergraduate degree from an accredited university, 3.0 GPA, shown quantitative or calculus ability, work experience preferred. A personal statement will also be required.

**Term(s) to which students will be admitted**


Fall

**Program Director Name**

Michel Rakotomavo, Professor in-Residence, Academic Director, MSFRM Program

## **ATTACHMENT 6**

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.

The Institutional Advancement Committee recommended establishment to the full Board at their meeting on October 10, 2023.

# **ATTACHMENT 7**

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.



## **ATTACHMENT 8**

October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Appointment of Professor Xiao-Dong Zhou to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability in the College of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Professor Xiao-Dong Zhou to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability in the College of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

The Nicholas E. Madonna Professorship in Cyber-Physical Systems was created with a gift by Robert Madonna, the son of Nicholas E. Madonna, on June 30, 2011, and established by the Board of Trustees in December of 2015. The Professorship supports a nationally and internationally recognized researcher, scholar and educator. By mutual agreement between the donor and the College of Engineering, the name of the professorship has been changed to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability.

Dr. Xiao-Dong Zhou is joining the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering in the College of Engineering on August 23, 2023, and will serve as the Director of the Center for Clean Energy Engineering, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Professor in Sustainable Energy, and Special Advisor on Sustainable Energies to UConn President Radenka Maric and Vice President for Research Pamir Alpay. The appointment to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability will be through August 22, 2026.

Throughout his career, Dr. Zhou has made significant contributions to the field of clean energy engineering. His research interests span theoretical and experimental studies of materials and interfaces for energy systems, including batteries, fuel cells, and electrolyzers. His research focuses on developing sustainable energy technologies and addressing global challenges related to climate change and environmental sustainability. He currently serves as the Technical Editor of the Journal of The Electrochemical Society, an Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Ceramic Society, and the International Journal of Ceramic Engineering and Science of the American Ceramic Society. He is a Fellow of the Electrochemical Society. Dr. Zhou will provide invaluable guidance and contribute to the development of sustainable energy strategies and initiatives across the university.

# **ATTACHMENT 9**

October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Appointment of Associate Professor Fei Miao to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Associate Professor Fei Miao to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

This Professorship was established by an endowment from Raytheon Technologies Corporation (formerly known as United Technologies Corporation) on November 19, 2013, and subsequently amended and restated by a new agreement dated August 29, 2022, as part of a major investment at UConn to advanced systems engineering. This Professorship supports multiple Associate Professors who are nationally or internationally recognized researchers, scholars and teachers, and who will have made significant contributions to the field of advanced systems engineering.

The appointment of Dr. Fei Miao follows the unanimous recommendations of Dean Kazem Kazerounian, the College of Engineering Executive Council and the Selection Committee of the Pratt & Whitney Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering (P&W-IASE). This appointment will be effective through August 22, 2026.

Dr. Fei Miao received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) in 2016 and was awarded the "Charles Hallac and Sarah Keil Wolf Award for Best Doctoral Dissertation" in Electrical and Systems Engineering, the highest award for Ph.D. Following a one-year postdoctoral appointment at UPenn, she joined the Computer Science and Engineering Department in the School of Engineering at UConn as an Assistant Professor in 2017 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in August 2023.

Dr. Miao is currently focusing on research related to Intelligent, Autonomous Systems and Control on Learning and Control, Multi-Agent Systems and Robotics, Data-Driven Robust Optimization, Game Theory, and CPS Security, with application areas such as Connected Autonomous Vehicles, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Transportation Decarbonization, and Smart Cities. She has been successful in securing external funding of \$1.7 million for herself and over \$6 million in funding as PI or a co-PI. Currently, she is a PI on four NSF projects. She published ten journal articles. She has been actively involved in PW-IASE research and training efforts and has been teaching SE5201 "Embedded/Networked Systems Modeling Abstractions" for the MEng students of the PW-IASE since 2018.

## **ATTACHMENT 10**

October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Reappointment of Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Diane J. Burgess to the Pfizer Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology in the School of Pharmacy

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutics Diane J. Burgess to the Pfizer Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology in the School of Pharmacy.

BACKGROUND:

The School of Pharmacy unanimously supports the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutics Diane J. Burgess' reappointment as the Pfizer Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology. The Board established the Pfizer Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology on August 3, 2004. Professor Burgess' five-year reappointment will run through August 22, 2028.

Dr. Burgess joined the University of Connecticut in 1993 as an Associate Professor and was promoted to Professor in 1999. In 2009, Professor Burgess was appointed Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutics.

Dr. Burgess has demonstrated an outstanding record during her term as the Pfizer Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology. She has pushed the boundaries of pharmaceutical technology research and maintains a national and international reputation.

Dr. Burgess's has mentored numerous graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research assistant professors, and visiting research fellows. She has supported the Pharmaceutics discipline's membership in the Center for Pharmaceutical Processing Research (CPPR), and her contributions to the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Innovation (NIPTE) have significantly enriched the research landscape in pharmaceutical processing.

Dr. Burgess has secured over \$6 million in new funding from federal agencies and private entities. Equally remarkable is the success of DIANT Pharma, a startup co-founded by Professor Burgess and Dr. Antonio Costa, a former member of her research team. DIANT Pharma's achievement in continuous manufacturing equipment sales to pharmaceutical companies has already surpassed \$3 million, further contributing to economic growth and employment opportunities within our state.

# **ATTACHMENT 11**

October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Reappointment of Professor Marie A. Smith to the Dr. Henry A. Palmer Professorship  
in Community Pharmacy Practice in the School of Pharmacy

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees reappoint Professor Marie A. Smith to the Dr. Henry A. Palmer Professorship in Community Pharmacy Practice in the School of Pharmacy.

BACKGROUND:

The School of Pharmacy unanimously supports the reappointment of Professor Marie A. Smith to the Dr. Henry A. Palmer Professorship in Community Pharmacy Practice in the School of Pharmacy. The Professorship was created in honor of long-time faculty member Dr. Henry A. Palmer, who during his 40-year career as a pharmacist, educator, and scholar contributed greatly to the practice of community pharmacy. Dr. Smith is the inaugural holder of the Palmer Professorship, and she was first appointed on September 21, 2010. Her reappointment to the Professorship will be for a four-year term which will run through August 23, 2027.

Dr. Marie A. Smith, Assistant Dean for Practice and Public Policy Partnerships and Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, is a nationally recognized expert in the area of pharmacy practice transformation and health services research. Health Commissioners across the State of Connecticut rely on Dr. Smith for her expertise, especially in the Office of Health Strategy. This high placement of a UConn faculty member provides great visibility of our faculty as leaders in healthcare policy and supports these health-related departments in enhancing patient health, better utilizing available resources, and acquiring new resources from national sources.



# **ATTACHMENT A**

October 24, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Academic Program Inventory

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Higher Education maintains an inventory of approved academic programs offered by public and independent colleges and universities in Connecticut. Those listings are available to the general public through the Office's web site and provide the most accurate up-to-date information about programs of study in our state.

The information on the Inventory of Approved Academic programs is an important resource and is used to convey educational information to a broad range of constituencies, both in Connecticut and across the country. Additionally, in order for veterans to receive their earned educational benefits, they must be enrolled in a program that is accredited.

The following non-substantive changes and updates are provided to the Board for informational purposes.

- Location change: Literacy Leadership Certificate location change from Storrs to Hartford
- Location change: Literacy Specialist Certificate location change from Storrs to Hartford
- Modality addition: Addition of online modality for the Advanced Business Certificate in Business Analytics