

MINUTES
SPECIAL TELEPHONE MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

COMMITTEE TRUSTEES: Philip Rubin, Mark Boxer, Sandy Cloud, Marilda Gandara, Dan Toscano
ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES: Noah Frank
COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rich Vogel, Konstantine Drakonakis
UNIVERSITY SENATE REP: Edward Weingart
STAFF: Abhijit Banerjee, Nicole Barkley, Joanna Desjardin, Radenka Maric, David Nobel, Rachel Rubin, Dan Schwartz, Jeffrey Shoulson

Call to order at 2:00 p.m.

Committee Vice Chair Philip Rubin convened the meeting at 2:01pm by telephone.

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)

There were no members of the public who wish to speak on the agenda items.

ACTION ITEM:

2. Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee of October 26, 2021.

On a motion by Rich Vogel, seconded by Mark Boxer, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2021, Special Meeting.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

3. Opening Remarks – Dr. Philip Rubin

Vice Chair Rubin welcomed all attendees and restated that the purpose of this Committee was to continue to review the breadth of research, entrepreneurship and innovation at the University. This Committee will be providing an update and a report from three different areas promoting research and innovation.

4. Research Updates and Accomplishments –
Department of Marine Sciences, UConn, Avery Point
Annemarie Seifert, Ph.D. – Campus Director, UConn Avery Point
J. Evan Ward, Ph.D. – Professor/Department Head – Marine Sciences
James O’Donnell, Ph.D. – Executive Director, CT Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)

Dr. Seifert highlighted all of the programs related to innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development at Avery Point. Dr. J. Evan Ward spoke on the background and current research capacity of the Department of Marine Sciences and its work in climate science and climate adjacent areas. Dr. Jim O'Donnell discussed CIRCA performed research on climate change and sea level rise in Connecticut as well as the history and structure of CIRCA. A review of Resilient Connecticut, a project coordinated with CIRCA involving other CT agencies.

5. Innovation Partnership Building Programs & Partnerships in Climate Adjacent Areas –
Pamir Alpay, Ph.D. – Executive Director, Innovation Partnership Building

Dr. Pamir Alpay gave a broad overview of the Innovation Partnership Building capabilities and discussed the goals and Tech Park initiatives. Dr. Alpay also discussed the current and ongoing efforts in relation to clean energy resilience and sustainability by IPB. An overview of recent successes and partnerships was also offered.

6. Technology Incubation Program (TIP) Updates
Mostafa Analoui, Ph.D. – Executive Director, Venture Development
Vivek Ramakrishnan, Ph.D. – Director, Venture Development
Paul Parker – Director, TIP

Dr. Mostafa Analoui offered quick recap of recent developments and highlights of the Technology Incubation Program and gave an overview of TIP and how they support innovators of the University and State. He introduced Paul Parker, who discussed the three TIP locations and shared data on their current statuses and successes. Dr. Analoui discussed TIP Digital in Stamford and the Data Science Initiative and its inception and current successes. Dr. Vivek Ramakrishnan spoke on Venture Development and the topline and current activities of the UConn startups.

7. Q&A and Closing Remarks

Dr. Rubin thanked everyone for their informative presentations, which illustrated many issues of profound importance and their effects on the State of Connecticut. Presentations are available for review.

8. Executive Session (as needed)

There was no Executive Session held.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Sandy Cloud, seconded by Rich Vogel, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole E. Barkley
Secretary to the Committee