

MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT TELEPHONE MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS and RESEARCH, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

University of Connecticut
Teleconference
March 23, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Academic Affairs

Committee Trustees: Jeanine Gouin, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, and Philip Rubin

Research, Entrepreneurship

& Innovation Committee Trustees: Philip Rubin, Sanford Cloud, and Marilda Gandara

Research, Entrepreneurship

& Innovation Committee Members: Rich Vogel and Konstantine Drakonakis

University Senate Representatives:

Edward Weingart and Sebastian Wogenstein

University Staff:

Abhijit Banerjee, Nicole Barkley, Lloyd Blanchard, Sarah Croucher, Kristi Henderson, Carl Lejuez, Joann Lombardo, Radenka Maric, Rachel Rubin, and Marie Schweitzer

Vice Chairs Gouin and Rubin convened the joint meeting of the Committees for Academic Affairs and Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation at 4:00 p.m.

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Committees.

2. Innovation Faculty Hires & Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative at the University of Connecticut (UConn)

Vice-Chair Gouin welcomed the attendees and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on the Innovation Faculty Hires & Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative at UConn. Vice-Chair Gouin invited Interim President Maric and Provost Lejuez to share a brief presentation on the initiative.

Following the presentation, there was a general discussion regarding the importance of this initiative and its impact on the University and the State. Committee Member Drakonakis asked about the traditional trajectory of academia and what will attract those who are willing to be more non-traditional in support of this initiative. Interim President Maric indicated there will be opportunities

for many different paths for individuals to take in support of the initiative and that those who work towards this initiative will be those who are willing to take risks to better society and culture. Provost Lejuez added that there are a variety of positions that will be available, and the University will be flexible in supporting those who can add real value to this area, while not changing standards.

Trustee Cloud commented that the plan is extraordinarily bold and transformational, and that diversity, equity and inclusion of those recruited to participate should be taken seriously.

Trustee Dennis-LaVigne asked about the areas of investment listed in the plan. Dr. Maric stated they are listed in alphabetical order. Trustee Rubin followed with a comment that if this plan is implemented, pending approval of the issuance of funds by the State Bond Commission, that the University should remain nimble, flexible, and adaptive as the world continues to change and new areas of societal impact emerge.

University Senate Representative Weingart asked how faculty at UConn can help support this plan. Interim President Maric answered that building excitement around the plan, talking about UConn to our community, and constantly giving feedback is crucial to the success of this plan.

Vice-Chair Gouin applauded the insight of the plan and thanked Interim President Maric and Provost Lejuez for their presentation. Vice-Chair Gouin then asked for a motion and second from the Academic Affairs Committee members only. On a motion by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne and seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve the Innovation Faculty Hires & Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative at UConn.

Vice-Chair Rubin then asked for a motion and second from the Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee. On a motion by Committee Member Vogel and seconded by Trustee Cloud, the Committee for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation voted unanimously to approve the Innovation Faculty Hires & Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative at UConn.

3. Executive Session (as needed)

4. Adjournment

Trustee Rubin called a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Vogel. Vice-Chair Gouin adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis M. Cassan
Secretary to the Academic Affairs Committee