

## INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION

### COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees  
May 24, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.

Committee Trustees : Philip Rubin, Sandy Cloud, Jr., Marilda Gandara  
Other Committee Members: Richard Vogel, Konstantine Drakonakis  
Other Trustees: Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Noah Frank, Daniel Toscano  
University Senate Representative: Edward Weingart  
University Staff: Radenka Maric, Abhijit Banerjee, Pamir Alpay, David Noble

After resolving technical issues, Vice Chair Philip Rubin convened the Committee at 1:27 p.m. Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting could not be conducted and adjourned at 1:28 p.m. The participants engaged in the following presentations/discussions.

#### Presentation/Discussion Items:

Vice-Chair Rubin and Interim President Maric noted several important visits to UConn from the Secretary of Energy and the Director of National Science Foundation.

Update on the Visit of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Director  
Dr. Pamir Alpay, Interim Vice President for Research, Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Dr. Alpay thanked those present for their support and recounted the numerous elected officials who joined in person, virtually, and with live and recorded messages. The Director lunched with several faculty members and deans and rode in the hydrogen car on loan from Toyota.

Update on the UConn Genomic & Mechanistic Metabolism Group (GMMG)  
Ji-Young Lee, Professor and Department Head of Nutritional Sciences and Director of UConn Genomic & Mechanistic Metabolism Group (GMMG)

Dr. Lee noted that GMMG includes faculty from the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources (CAHNR), the School of Pharmacy, and the School of Medicine. The group has expertise in two main areas: Nutrition and Exercise for Optimal Health and Genome Based Therapeutics. There is a general focus on liver health and its ability to metabolize pharmaceuticals and nutrients and as well as tissue regeneration. Research accomplishments include grants from the NIH and USDA. Moving forward, GMMG would like to identify 2-3 projects to consider for grant application and subsequent pilot studies as well as work towards establishing a UConn center focused on liver health and disease.

Update on the TIP Innovation Fellows Program  
Caroline Dealy, Director

Dr. Dealy emphasized the importance of this program at UConn and for innovation and student success and discussed the specifics of a fellowship, with focus on the learning experience and enrichment to students' academics.

Update on the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CCEI)  
Jennifer Mathieu, M.Ed. – Executive Director

Ms. Mathieu discussed the Venture Support and Entrepreneurship program, which help students with the creation of a business model, customer discovery, and foundation support to get start-ups ready to launch. Ms. Mathieu also discussed Experience Entrepreneurship, which pairs students with start-ups.