

## MINUTES

### TELEPHONE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees  
March 8, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE TRUSTEES: Philip Rubin, Mark Boxer, and Sandy Cloud, Jr.  
OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rich Vogel and Konstantine Drakonakis  
OTHER TRUSTEES: Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Noah Frank, and Daniel Toscano  
UNIVERSITY SENATE: Edward Weingart  
REPRESENTATIVE  
UNIVERSITY STAFF: Abhijit Banerjee, Radenka Maric, Pamir Alpay, David Nobel, Rachel Rubin, Dan Schwartz, and Jeffrey Shoulson

Call to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Vice Chair Philip Rubin convened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

ACTION ITEM:

2. Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee of November 16, 2021.

On a motion by Mark Boxer, seconded by Rich Vogel, the minutes from the November 16, 2021, Special Meeting were approved.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Vice-Chair Rubin offered brief opening remarks, beginning with acknowledging the considerable transitions at the University especially in relation to Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The continued plan of this Committee is to explore research and entrepreneurial activities across campuses, the State, and beyond. On behalf of the Committee, Dr. Rubin congratulated Dr. Radenka Maric and Dr. S. Pamir Alpay on their Interim appointments as Interim President and Interim Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, respectively.

3. Pamir Alpay – Interim Vice President for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Dr. Alpay began by sharing a series of slides titled “Piloting the Enterprise”; first discussing his background as a researcher, professor as well as his administration roles at the University. Dr. Alpay also shared his vision for building up the research enterprise of the University during his

role as Interim VP for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship by building on UConn's significant growth in the research enterprise; including expenditures, awards, and all funding sources over a really broad spectrum of topics. He also discussed new initiatives to bring UConn's innovation and entrepreneurship to the State; and to help students succeed at the University and in their future endeavors.

#### 4. David Noble – Director, Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

David Noble introduced Judy Reilly, Director of The Center for Neurodiversity & Employment Innovation at the Werth Institute. She discussed the Center's role, which is to offer solutions to improve employment outcomes for neuro-divergent individuals and to contribute their findings to the local and national academy. Both the Center and the Werth Institute have been able to develop creative solutions to bridge the gap between the historically excluded pool of talented applicants and the current labor shortage needs. The Center is tackling this complex problem and assisting UConn in becoming a meaningful and impactful player regarding the issue of neurodiversity and employment.

#### 5. School of Business

John Elliot – Dean, School of Business

Greg Reilly – Department Head, Management & Entrepreneurship

Jennifer Mathieu – Director, Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CCEI)

Dean John Elliot discussed how the School of Business has continued to grow and deepen their blueprint with successful competitions and opportunities for student engagement, including the Wolff Competition and Innovation Quest. He also discussed the School's alignment with the Werth Institute and CCEI along with additional collaborations with the School of Engineering.

Jennifer Mathieu, Director of CCEI, spoke on the entrepreneurial mindset of our student population, and how to help them gain translatable skills that will assist them with their careers. CCEI has collaborated with schools and colleges across the University to offer this support and mentorship to students.

Professor Greg Reilly, Head of the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, discussed the growth of the newly renamed Department of Management and Entrepreneurship. Student engagement, amongst business and non-business students, has been exceptionally high.

#### 6. Executive Session (as needed)

There was no Executive Session held.

## 7. Adjournment

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole E. Barkley  
Secretary to the Committee