

## MINUTES

### SPECIAL TELEPHONE MEETING

#### University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Committee for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

Committee Trustees:	Philip Rubin, Mark Boxer Sandy Cloud, Jr., Marilda Gandara
Other Committee Members:	Konstantine Drakonakis, Timothy Shannon, Richard Vogel
Other Trustees:	Andrea Dennis-LaVigne
University Senate Representative:	Edward Weingart
University Staff:	Radenka Maric, Pamir Alpay, Abhijit Banerjee, Amy Gorin, David Noble, Rachel Rubin, Daniel Schwartz, Jeffrey Shoulson

Vice-Chair Rubin convened the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)

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

2. Minutes of the Meetings of March 8, May 24, and September 15, 2022.

On a motion by Trustee Boxer, seconded by Committee Member Vogel, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 8, May 24, and September 15, 2022.

Interim Vice President for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Alpay discussed several positions in the Office of the Vice President for Research that address new requirements from several federal agencies. He announced that the New Science One building is open, which houses the Institute of Materials Science. This new building will allow UConn to compete for applications related to CHIPS Act, microprocessors, and quantum technology.

3. Potential Innovation Initiatives

See summary of Committee discussion after Item 5.

4. Potential Research and Commercialization Initiatives

See summary of Committee discussion after Item 5.

## 5. Future Meeting Topics, Discussion, and Format

See summary Committee discussion after Item 5.

Dr. Rubin read a message from Board Chair Toscano that reinforced the Committee's discussion topics.

University Senate Representative Edward Weingart asked if it would be possible to work with alumni regarding entrepreneurial activity.

Committee Member Shannon discussed start-up activity and how to attract investment in the biopharma and biotech sector. Additionally, he recommended considering the spaces in the next 10-15 years that we can put forward a strategic plan or focus.

Committee Member Drakonakis asked for further clarification about the initiative surrounding the entrepreneurship-focused hiring effort and how UConn could build upon manufacturing and military related commerce towards climate.

Trustee Gandara recommended focusing on small businesses and diversity. She asked how UConn could connect with small business organizations and chambers of commerce that can provide examples of successful business practices and ways to be mentors for our students.

Trustee Boxer hypothesized that UConn can exceed other schools if we are successful at doing a better job connecting the dots and avoiding silos when we consider our agenda. To that end, identifying ways to optimize the entrepreneurial opportunities within our programs and initiatives.

Trustee Cloud suggested gathering the thoughts of the community and casting a wide net to untapped entrepreneurs.

David Noble, Director of the Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, noted that the classroom is about knowledge rather than skill development, and the biggest contribution that could be made to ensuring a successful entrepreneurship pipeline would be opening up those skill line development avenues in all majors.

Vice Provost for Health Sciences Gorin focused on emotional intelligence as a critical skill for our students and that we can be research leaders in this space, which would interact well with tech development.

President Maric indicated that UConn must have laser focus moving forward, focusing on 3-5 priorities that consider our strengths, such as clean energy. We have the history, name, reputation; and State support to address how to use our offshore space and how UConn can play a key role. We will need to go to the private sector as well to make this successful.

## 6. Executive Session (as needed)

There was no Executive Session.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Gandara, seconded by Trustee Cloud, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The Committee adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole E. Barkley  
Secretary to the Committee