

SPECIAL TELEPHONE MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION

MINUTES

Meeting held via Telephone

November 15, 2022

Committee Trustees: Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Charles Bunnell, Sanford Cloud Jr.,
Marilda Gándara, Bryan Pollard

Other Trustees: Joshua Crow, Damani Douglas

University Senate Representative: Angela Rola

University Staff: Radenka Maric, John Armstrong, Michael Bradford, Anne
D’Alleva, Eleanor Daugherty, Nathan Fuerst, Michael Gilbert,
Fany Hannon, Jeffrey Hines, Kathleen Holgerson, Rachel Rubin,
Patrick Russell, Lesley Salafia, Franklin Tuitt, Michelle
Williams

Vice-Chair Dennis-LaVigne convened the Committee at 1:03 p.m.

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)

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

APPROVAL ITEM:

2. On a motion by Trustee Cloud, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2022, meeting.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

3. Welcome and Introductions of Committee Members – Dr. Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Dennis-LaVigne welcomed the members of the Committee, University staff, and students.

4. Update on the Office for Diversity and Inclusion – Dr. Franklin Tuitt, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer

Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Franklin Tuitt gave an update on the Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) and the Cultural Centers, the greater Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice @UConn (DEIJ) focus within undergraduate curriculum, and the disproportionate representation of students of color on UConn’s probation and subject-to-dismissal lists.

The Committee discussed the updates.

5. Discussion of U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on *SFFA v. Harvard & UNC*– Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Enrollment Planning and Management, and Lesley Salafia, Senior Associate University Counsel

Vice President for Enrollment Planning and Management Nathan Fuerst and Senior Associate University Counsel Lesley Salafia updated the Committee on the University’s preparations for the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

The Committee discussed the update.

6. Report on Retention and Graduation Rates for Students of Color – Michael Bradford, Vice Provost for Faculty, Staff, and Student Development

Vice Provost for Faculty, Staff, and Student Development Michael Bradford reported on retention and graduation statistics at UConn, highlighting the concerning trend that students of color are disproportionately represented on UConn’s probation and subject-to-dismissal lists.

The Committee discussed the update.

7. Executive Session (as needed)

There was no Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Gandara, seconded by Trustee Bunnell, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The Committee meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonelle Reynolds, Ph.D.
Committee Secretary