

MINUTES

Telephone Meeting

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Committee for Research, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Thursday, September 28, 2023

Committee Trustees: Philip Rubin, Marilda Gandara

Other Committee Members: Konstantine Drakonakis, Timothy Shannon, Richard Vogel

University Senate Representative: Edward Weingart

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Pamir Alpay, Abhijit Banerjee, Lindsay DiStefano, Gail Garber, Amy Gorin, Amit Kumar, Pedro Mendes, Youngmuk Lee, David Noble, Rachel Rubin, Daniel Schwartz

Vice-Chair Rubin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Public Participation

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

2. Minutes from the June 29, 2023, Meeting

On a motion by Trustee Gandara, seconded by Committee Member Vogel, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2023, meeting.

3. Glycogen Storage Disease Research

Youngmuk Lee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Dr. Lee presented on the metabolic disorder Glycogen Storage Disease. Human clinical trials for Gene Therapy Treatment of Type 1A GSD have begun at UConn Health. It is anticipated that human clinical trials will begin in 2024 for GSD-1B.

4. Pioneering Research in Cell Analysis and Modeling

Pedro Mendes, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Cell Biology, and
Director, Center for Quantitative Medicine

Dr. Mendes presented on the history of cell biology and modeling and current operations and funding at UConn Health.

5. Other Business

Vice-Chair Rubin encouraged Committee members, especially those with experience outside of academia, to encourage innovative approaches.

6. Statement in Support of the University's Initiatives on Sustainability and the Environment:

Vice-Chair Rubin presented the following statement for Committee consideration:

The University community has rightly determined that the growing climate crisis is one of the gravest threats to humanity that this and future generations must face and collectively address to help avert global catastrophe.

We are already seeing the dire consequences of a warming planet. UConn and every research university has a critical role to play in helping to combat this crisis and build a far more sustainable future.

The Board of Trustees strongly supports the University's strategic focus on this challenge; the alignment of resources to advance research and scholarship in fields related to climate, sustainability, and clean energy; the activism shown by members of our community to help devote maximum attention to this issue; and UConn's ongoing efforts to ensure our own campuses are remade over time into models of sustainability.

The University's dual focus is both inward facing and outward looking; internally the Carbon Reduction Working Group, previous related efforts, and administrative units within the institution are working together to ensure UConn achieves carbon neutrality on its campuses by 2030, with the ultimate goal of being zero carbon by 2040.

Simultaneously, the university is aggressively supporting and investing in faculty and research that falls into the category of climate and sustainability across schools, colleges, departments, centers, and institutes.

The board is proud of the University's foresight, strategic thinking, and determination to be agents of change and progress in this all-important effort and will do all it can to help UConn meet this challenge.

President Maric offered support for the statement.

On a motion by Committee Member Vogel, seconded by Committee Member Drakonakis, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the Statement in Support of the University's Initiatives on Sustainability and the Environment to the full Board.

7. Executive Session (as needed)

There was no Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Gandara, seconded by Committee Member Vogel, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Rockwood
Secretary to the Committee