

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

Meeting held via Telephone

May 23, 2023

Committee Trustees: Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Andy Bessette, Sanford Cloud Jr.,  
Marilda Gándara, Aanya Mehta, Bryan Pollard

Other Trustees: Daniel Toscano

University Senate Representative: Angela Rola

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Anne D’Alleva, Lloyd Blanchard, David  
Embrick, Nathan Fuerst, Jeffrey Geoghegan, Jeffrey Hines,  
Rachel Rubin, Franklin Tuitt, Michelle Williams

Vice-Chair Dennis-LaVigne called the meeting to order at 12:49 p.m. Prior to the start of the meeting, some information items were presented.

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)

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

2. On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Gándara, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022, special meeting.

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, including Aanya Mehta, the new Undergraduate Student Trustee.

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), including its strategic goals, accomplishments, challenges.

a. Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) Campus Center – Dr. Jeffrey Hines, Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, UConn Health

Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Jeffrey Hines updated the Committee on Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation at UConn’s framework, vision and goals, and its potential impact on UConn and the state at large.

The Committee discussed the update.

5. U.S. Anti-Black Racism Course – Drs. Franklin Tuitt, VP/CDO and Anne D’Alleva, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Tuitt and Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Anne D’Alleva updated the Committee on the University Senate’s approval of the U.S. Anti-Black Racism Course as a required one-credit course in the Fall 2024 and plans for implementation.

The Committee discussed the update.

6. Faculty & Staff Diversity Data at UConn – Dr. Anne D’Alleva, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost D’Alleva reported on the data for faculty and staff diversity related to race/ethnicity and gender.

The Committee discussed the update.

7. Faculty & Staff of Color Townhalls – Dr. David Embrick, Associate Professor of Sociology & Africana Studies Institute

Associate Professor David Embrick reported on the purpose of the faculty and staff of color townhalls and the emerging themes.

The Committee discussed the update.

8. Executive Session (as needed)

There was no Executive Session.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Cloud, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The Committee meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

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