

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES**

University of Connecticut  
Wilbur Cross Building  
North Reading Room  
233 Glenbrook Road  
Storrs, Connecticut

February 28, 2024

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Board Chair Daniel D. Toscano.

The following Trustees participated in person: Trustees Andy F. Bessette, Charles F. Bunnell (part of the meeting), Shari G. Cantor, Sanford Cloud, Jr., Joshua Crow, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Jeanine A. Gouin, Aanya Mehta, Bryan K. Pollard, Thomas D. Ritter, Philip E. Rubin, and Daniel D. Toscano.

The following Trustees participated by video or telephone: Trustees Marilda Gandara, Daniel H. O’Keefe (part of the meeting), and Jonathan Dach (part of the meeting), Governor Lamont’s designee.

Trustees Mark L. Boxer, Bryan P. Hurlburt, Rebecca Lobo, Kevin J. O’Connor, and Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, were not in attendance.

The following University Senate Representatives attended the meeting in person: Jeffrey McCutcheon, Angela Rola, Michael White, and Edward Weingart.

The following University Senate Representatives participated by video or telephone: Alexander Agrios, Karen Bresciano (part of the meeting), and Joseph MacDougald.

The following University staff attended the meeting in person: President Radenka Maric, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Anne D’Alleva, Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Geoghegan, UConn Health Interim Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Chief Executive Officer Bruce Liang, Executive Secretary to the Board Rachel Rubin, Chief of Staff Michelle Williams, General Counsel Nicole Gelston, Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Nathan Fuerst, Vice President and Chief Information Officer Michael Mundrane, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship S. Pamir Alpay, Associate Vice President for Communications Michael Kirk, Interim Associate Vice President for Facilities Operations Stanley Nolan, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer Lakeesha Brown, Executive Director for Employee Relations Karen Buffkin, and Labor Relations Associate Zachary Broughton.

**OPEN SESSION**

1. Public Participation

Students Marie Nour, Alexander Kueny, and Nell Srinath, along with faculty members Oskar Harmon, Mary Beth Allen, and Sebastian Wogenstein, addressed concerns about proposed budget reductions.

Student Chris Coolbeth, representing UNCHAIN, asked that the University not associate with military-related companies.

Student Jenna Rabah raised concerns about the war in Gaza.

Graduate Student Emma Paynter addressed the Board on environmental sustainability on behalf of Fossil Fuel Free UConn.

Student Grian Wizner, representing Revolution Again Rape, raised concerns about security on campus.

February 28, 2024

## 2. Chairman's Report

## (a) Matters Outstanding

Board Chair Toscano welcomed to the Board Mr. Daniel O'Keefe as Commissioner-designate of the Department of Economic and Community Development, who replaces Alexandra Daum who resigned in December.

Board Chair Toscano also welcomed UConn Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer Amy Yancey.

## (b) Minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2023

On a motion by Trustee Bessette, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2023.

## (c) Consent Agenda Items:

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Gandara, the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda items.

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| (1)  | Contracts and Agreements<br>(Trustee Ritter abstained from voting on Attachment 1.)  | (Attachment 1)  |
| (2)  | Project Budget (Design) for Werth Residence Tower<br>High Humidity Mitigation  | (Attachment 2)  |
| (3)  | Project Budget (Revised Final) for Freitas Renovation  | (Attachment 3)  |
| (4)  | Project Budget (Planning) for the UConn Health Labor &<br>Delivery Infant Protection System Replacement                          | (Attachment 4)  |
| (5)  | Project Budget (Design) for the UConn Health Building F &<br>Building M Roof Replacement   | (Attachment 5)  |
| (6)  | Project Budget (Design) for the UConn Health Southington<br>Clinic Expansion   | (Attachment 6)  |
| (7)  | Project Budget (Design) for the UConn Health<br>LINAC Unit Replacement   | (Attachment 7)  |
| (8)  | Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health<br>KB034-036 Research Lab Renovation   | (Attachment 8)  |
| (9)  | Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health Garage 1, 2 & 3<br>Electric Vehicle Charger Installation                             | (Attachment 9)  |
| (10) | Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health Connecticut<br>Tower (CT) 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Med-Surg/Observation Unit Renovation | (Attachment 10) |
| (11) | Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health<br>Outpatient Pavilion 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Backfill                                | (Attachment 11) |
| (12) | Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health Outpatient<br>Pavilion X-Ray & Blood Draw Relocation                                 | (Attachment 12) |
| (13) | Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health<br>Musculoskeletal Institute Rehabilitation Expansion                                | (Attachment 13) |
| (14) | Designation of Emeritus Status   | (Attachment 14) |
| (15) | Sabbatical Leave Recommendations   | (Attachment 15) |

February 28, 2024

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| (16) | Establishment of the Department of Geography, Sustainability, Community and Urban Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences   | (Attachment 16) |
| (17) | Establishment of the Department of Social and Critical Inquiry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences                              | (Attachment 17) |
| (18) | Appointment of Professor Bahram Javidi to the SNET Professor of Communications and Information Technology in the College of Engineering | (Attachment 18) |
| (19) | Appointment of Professor Stephany Santos to the Vergnano Endowed Chair for Inclusion in the College of Engineering                      | (Attachment 19) |
| (20) | Appointment of Professor Cristina Wilson to the Judith M. and Henry M. Zachs Chair in Social Work                                       | (Attachment 20) |
| (21) | Naming Recommendation for the Marlene L. Cohen and Jerome H. Fleisch Chair in Vascular Biology in the School of Medicine                | (Attachment 21) |
| (22) | Naming Recommendation for the RTX Technology Research Center (Science 1 Building)   | (Attachment 22) |
- (Trustee Mehta abstained from voting on Attachment 22.)

### 3. President's Report

President Maric announced that the University has reached a tentative agreement with the union representing the Postdoctoral Research Associates. Executive Director for Employee Relations Buffkin provided a brief overview of the process.

After the overview, Trustee Dennis-LaVigne motioned, seconded by Trustee Crow, to add to the agenda the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the University of Connecticut and the Postdoctoral Research Associates Union. The Board voted unanimously to add this item to the agenda.

On a motion by Trustee Crow, seconded by Trustee Mehta, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the University of Connecticut and the Postdoctoral Research Associates Union.

### 4. University Senate Report

Senate Executive Committee Chair, Dr. Laura Burton

### 5. Academic Affairs Committee Report

- (a) Report on Committee activities
- (b) Presentation: Community Engagement  
Presenter: Kazem Kazerounian, Dean  
College of Engineering

Dean Kazerounian discussed several strategic initiatives for College of Engineering and introduced the following presenters:

Kylene Perras, Assistant Dean, Operations & Strategic Initiatives, College of Engineering  
National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology

February 28, 2024

Dr. Kay Wille, Director, Advanced Cementitious Materials and Composites Lab

Dr. Stephany Santos, Executive Director, Verngano Institute for Inclusion

Dr. Eric Jackson, Executive Director, Connecticut Transportation Institute

- (c) Informational Item:
- (1) Faculty Consulting Program (Attachment 23)
- The University of Connecticut Consulting Program FY 23 Annual Report
  - Report on the University of Connecticut's Compliance with CGS 1-84(r) Faculty Consulting Program: Report Issued by the Faculty Consulting Oversight Committee
6. Financial Affairs Committee Report
- (a) Report on Committee activities
- (b) Presentation: Budget Update (Attachment 24)  
 Presenter: Jeffrey Geoghegan, Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
7. UConn Health Report
- (a) Report on UConn Health activities  
 There was no Report on Committee activities.
8. Joint Audit and Compliance Committee Report
- (a) Report on Committee activities
9. Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee Report
- (a) Report on Committee activities
10. Construction Management Oversight Committee Report
- (a) Report on Committee activities
11. Student Life Committee Report
- (a) Report on Committee activities
- (b) Item requiring Board discussion and approval:  
 On a motion by Board Chair Toscano, seconded by Trustee Crow, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Okanagan Charter.
- (1) University Adoption of Okanagan Charter (Attachment 25)
- (c) Informational Item:
- (1) Student Health and Wellness Reproductive Health Plan (Attachment 26)  
 (Public Act No. 23-41, Access to Reproductive Health Care by Students at Public Institutions of Higher Education)
12. Institutional Advancement Committee Report
- (a) Report on Committee activities

February 28, 2024

13. Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report
  - (a) Report on Committee activities
14. Committee on Compensation Report
  - (a) Report on Committee activities  
There was no Report on Committee activities.
15. Committee for Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Report
  - (a) Report on Committee activities
16. Other Business  
Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Fuerst addressed the Board about the Admissions cycle.
17. Executive Session anticipated

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:15 p.m. regarding:

1. Records, reports and statements of strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining [CGS Section 1-210(b)(9)].

The following Trustees were in attendance: Bessette, Cantor, Cloud, Crow, Dennis-LaVigne, Gandara, Gouin, Mehta, Pollard, Ritter, Rubin, and Toscano.

The following University staff were in attendance for the entire Executive Session: Maric, D'Alleva, Geoghegan, Broughton, Brown, Buffkin, Gelston, Kirk, Rubin, and Williams.

The Executive Session ended at 12:45 p.m., and the Board returned to Open Session at 12:46 p.m.

18. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Crow, seconded by Trustee Mehta, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The Board meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan K. Pollard  
Secretary