

April 23, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 

RE: Naming Recommendation for the Nayden Academic Excellence Center

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the naming of an academic center withing the Bailey Student Athlete Success Center on the UConn Storrs campus as the "Nayden Academic Excellence Center."

BACKGROUND:

The Bailey Student Athlete Success Center is a planned state-of-the-art student-athlete performance and academic support center on the Storrs, Connecticut campus. The proposed named space is a 12,000 square foot academic center at the core of the building where learning, testing, meeting, tutoring, and other student-athlete academic activities will occur. The academic center is expected to provide holistic programs, offering diverse services and unique opportunities for the entire student-athlete population to learn and thrive.

Both Denis J. Nayden and Britta R. Nayden have been significant lifelong donors to many programs at UConn, including Athletics, and have been instrumental in moving several projects forward during their history with the University. Mr. Nayden has served on both the UConn Foundation Board of Directors and the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees. As UConn alums, Mr. Nayden received a BA in English in 1976 and an MBA in Finance in 1977, and Ms. Nayden received a BS in Physical Therapy in 1976.

The Naydens have made charitable commitments in amounts consistent with the University's *Named Gift Guidelines*.

On April 17, 2025, the Institutional Advancement Committee recommended approval to the full Board.