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Minutes, August 1, 2000

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MINUTES OF THE TELEPHONE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

University of Connecticut Health Center
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, Connecticut

August 1, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Roger Gelfenbien. Trustees who participated by telephone were: James Abromaitis, Christopher Albanese, Louise Berry, Shirley Ferris, Lenworth Jacobs, Claire Leonardi, Michael Martinez, Frank Napolitano, and Anne George, who represents the Governor’s Office.

Trustees present were: Louise Bailey and James Donich.

Trustees absent were: William Berkley, Michael Cicchetti, John Downey, Linda Gatling, Irving Saslow, Theodore Sergi, and Richard Treibick.

University Staff present were: President Austin, Chancellor Petersen, Dean Deckers, Vice President for Financial Planning and Management Aronson, Assistant Attorney General McCarthy, Assistant Attorney General Kleinman, Dr. Schurin, Dr. Wetstone, and Ms. Locke. Vice Chancellors Dreyfuss and Triponey and Vice Provost Steele participated by telephone.

All actions taken were by unanimous vote of the Trustees present, except as otherwise noted.

A. At the request of Chairman Gelfenbien, who was in transit, Vice-Chair Leonardi presented the Report of the Chairman, which included the following items:

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Board.

1. On a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Dr. Jacobs, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 29, 2000.

2. On a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda as follows:

   (a) On a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the Contracts and Agreements for Storrs and the Health Center. (Dr. Jacobs abstained on items HC 14 and 15 of the Health Center Contracts and Agreements for Information.)

   (Attachment 1)

   (b) On a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve a five-year lease renewal with S.S. and H. Associates for 23,081 square feet at 10 Talcott Notch, Farmington, for the purpose of providing outpatient clinical and academic offices for the Departments of Orthopaedics and Psychiatry.

   (Attachment 2)

   (c) On a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to authorize the University of Connecticut Health Center Finance Corporation, on behalf of the John Dempsey Hospital, to contract with Hartford Hospital for services in support of John Dempsey Hospital’s radiation oncology program for the period September 1, 1999 through September 30, 2004, and further authorize the transfer
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of up to $5,000,000 to the University of Connecticut Health Center Finance Corporation to fund said contract. (Attachment 3)

(d) On a motion by Mr. Martínez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the School of Medicine recommendations for tenure, promotion, and reappointment. (Attachment 4)

(e) On a motion by Mr. Martínez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to add or delete language or otherwise amend the following sections of the By-Laws:

   Article VII – President of the University
   Article IX – The University Administration
   Article XII – The Divisions
   Article XV – The University Staff (Attachment 5)

(f) On a motion by Mr. Martínez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the establishment of a Masters' degree program in International Studies, with a concentration in Italian Studies. (Attachment 6)

Trustee Napolitano requested additional information regarding the implications of distance education, e.g., virtual classrooms, internet-based learning, and telecourses, for the Masters' degree program in International Studies.

Trustees Berry and Ferris participated by telephone at this time.

2. On a motion by Mr. Martínez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the sabbatic leaves and the formal list of awards of tenure, with the exception of Professor John D. Petersen, whose award of tenure will be deferred to the September Board meeting. Background information listed as Attachment 7 is attached to the file copy of the Board minutes.

4. Vice-Chair Leonardi directed Trustee attention to the 2000-2001 Board Meeting Schedule. She noted that meetings have been formally scheduled for September, November, December, February, March, April, May, June, and July. The February and May meetings are required to approve the Health Center Quarterly Reports that must be submitted to the UCHC Review Committee. A meeting has also been scheduled in October, but will not be called unless needed. (This avoids the necessity of special Board meetings.) Board members will receive ample notification regarding the details. The Meeting Schedule will be finalized at the September meeting. Background information listed as agenda Attachment 8 is attached to the file copy of the Board minutes.

5. Vice-Chair Leonardi asked Trustees to review their committee assignments and to report changes in assignments to Chairman Gelfenbien. Background information listed as agenda Attachment 9 is attached to the file copy of the Board minutes.

6. Vice-Chair Leonardi asked Trustees to complete and return the Duality and Conflict of Interest form by mail or at the September Board meeting.

7. Vice-Chair Leonardi noted that the Board will discuss a schedule for the Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student (TAFS) meeting in September.
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B. The Report of the President included the following items:

1. President Austin reported that the University held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new hotel and conference center on July 18. Trustee Downey and several members of the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Committee and the Mansfield Town Council were present for the ceremony and expressed strong support for this venture.

2. President Austin noted with sorrow the death of Ms. Sandy Schulte, Assistant Vice Provost for Sponsored Programs. Ms. Schulte began her career at the University in 1971 and for the past several years served as a Senate representative to the Board of Trustees.

C. Vice-Chair Leonardi's Report of the Health Affairs Committee included the following items:

1. Vice-Chair Leonardi reported that the Health Affairs Committee met on July 25 and prior to the Board meeting. The Committee received an update on the strategic plan process and the financial status of the Health Center. Vice-Chair Leonardi directed Trustee attention to the Health Center Quarterly Financial Report, which is to be submitted to the General Assembly's Health Center Review Committee. She reported that the Health Center ended the fiscal year with a $12.2 million deficit, before applying the special appropriations of $12.5 million. Vice-Chair Leonardi briefly summarized the quarterly activity in which the first, second, and third quarters ended with a $4.1 million, a $7.2 million, and a $1.4 million deficit, respectively, and the fourth quarter ended with a $400,000 surplus. She congratulated all Health Center personnel responsible for contributing to the revenue enhancing/cost cutting measures over the past year.

2. On a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Dr. Jacobs, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the University of Connecticut Health Center Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2000 for submission to the General Assembly's Health Center Review Committee. Background information is attached to the file copy of the Board minutes.

3. Vice-Chair Leonardi asked the Board for a motion to put the following recommendation on the agenda for approval:

   On a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mrs. Ferris, THE BOARD VOTED to add to the agenda a resolution to appoint the accounting firm of KPMG as auditors for the periods ending September 30, 2000 through September 30, 2002.

   On a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to appoint the accounting firm of KPMG as auditors for the periods ending September 30, 2000 through September 30, 2002.

   Chairman Gelfenbien abstained from this item.

   A copy of the Handout is attached to file copy of the Board minutes.

4. Vice-Chair Leonardi noted that the Health Center management will form a committee to examine the role of health affairs committees at successful academic health centers throughout the country. Dean Deckers will convene a committee this fall and will propose recommendations to the Board.

   Trustee Napolitano raised procedural questions regarding a Health Center faculty member's appeal to the Board. He asked the administration to address the Board's role in the appeal process.
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Chairman Gelfenbien responded that the Board will consider testimony from the faculty member and from Health Center administrators.

Vice-Chair Leonardi noted that she only had the opportunity to read the faculty member’s letter to the Board in which he raised concerns about the process and the procedural responsibilities of the faculty review committees at the Health Center. She asked if the Health Center’s policies and procedures were included in the informational packet that was provided to the Board. Dean Deckers assured the Board that Dr. Bruce Koeppen prepared a detailed report and will present it at the September Board meeting.

Trustee Martinez asked if the faculty member’s personnel records could be made available to Board members. Dean Deckers agreed to provide any Board member with more specific information regarding this case.

Trustee Napolitano asked if the appeal would take place in Executive Session. Dr. Schurin responded that the faculty member may appeal either in Executive Session or in Open Session. A vote must take place in Open Session.

Trustee Napolitano asked if Assistant Attorney General Shapiro has been consulted in this matter. President Austin responded that Assistant Attorney General Kleinman, who represents the Health Center, has been consulted and will be available at the September meeting.

Trustee Martinez asked if the deferral of the appeal to the September Board meeting will affect his termination date. Dr. Schurin responded that there is an agreement between the faculty member and the Health Center stating that his termination date would remain in effect. Chairman Gelfenbien noted that the faculty member would be reinstated if the Board overturned the administration’s decision to terminate his employment.

Vice-Chair Leonardi announced that the next regular Board of Trustees meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m. at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, Groton, Connecticut.

There being no further business appearing, the Board meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.  

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Louise M. Bailey
Secretary