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Minutes, October 17, 1997

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The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chairman Gelfenbien. Those in attendance were Governor Rowland, Trustees Bailey, Berry, Ferris, Leonardi and Smith; Abromaitis, Cicchetti, Collins, Downey, Heist, Jacobs, Napolitano, Saslow, Treibick, and Mr. Ellef, who represented the Governor’s Office.

Trustee Berkley participated by telephone. Trustee Sergi was absent from the meeting.

University staff present were: President Austin, Chancellor and Provost for University Affairs Mark Emmert, Chancellor and Provost for Health Affairs Leslie Cutler, Vice Presidents Allenby and Jones, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Services, Carmen Vance, Attorney Shapiro and Drs. McFadden and Schurin.

All actions taken were by unanimous vote of the Trustees present, except as otherwise noted. All members of the Board noted above were present at this time.

Chairman Gelfenbien called upon President Austin who welcomed Governor Rowland, President of the Board, and turned the meeting over to him for his comments regarding Division 1A football.

Governor Rowland explained that he was present today not to discuss Division 1A football, but rather to discuss the future of the university as it relates to the stadium. He reminded everyone that the executive branch, the legislature, the Board, and the citizens of Connecticut have and will continue to invest $1 billion dollars over the next ten years in the University of Connecticut. The decision to invest in the University is about vision and imagination, not only about bricks and mortar.

The Governor reminded the audience that ten years ago no one would have thought that the men’s and women’s basketball teams would have brought so much pride, success, and recognition to the University of Connecticut. No one can deny that those two teams have brought tremendous attention to the state as well as tremendous fund raising capabilities, recruitment and pride to the state. Governor Rowland assured the audience that the success the University has enjoyed could be duplicated by elevating the football program. The Governor noted the obvious benefits to going to Division 1A. Among them are the thousands and thousands of people who will have an opportunity to visit the University of Connecticut for many years to come.
Governor Rowland indicated that an interesting combination would take place. Fans will come to see the stadium, the football team, and will have an opportunity to see UConn 2000 and its investment over the next ten years as the University grows from its infancy.

The Governor dispelled the myths that other Connecticut universities will suffer as a result of this decision. There are plans for the other institutions that will be announced over the next few weeks. The Governor reassured the audience that the operating budget, UConn 2000 and academics would not suffer. He indicated that this Division IA upgrade decision would affect the children and grandchildren of Connecticut residents, and those are the young people that the University wants to attract. Institutions of higher education are not competing with each other, nor are we competing with the two programs.

Governor Rowland urged the University and the state to put behind them the notion that has evolved over the years that it will always be athletics versus academics. The two can go hand and hand successfully. He noted that over the last several years we have been able to take the success of the basketball programs and use it to catapult our academic programs. Now we have an opportunity to use the academic programs to catapult the scholar programs.

Governor Rowland noted that his message was that “yes, we want to see our athletes go to the NBA, but we’d like to see them go there with an MBA. That is the focus of this university and of this administration”. The State of Connecticut will be bearing the cost of a new stadium and bonding the cost. Governor Rowland said that he was planning to meet with the legislative leaders within the next week, and to have a special legislative session in the month of November. The UConn 2000 $1 billion dollar plan will become the UConn 2000 $1.1 billion dollar plan. He made it clear that the State is not changing any of the UConn 2000 focus, not substituting or deferring, but rather enhancing the UConn 2000 plan by $100M to build the stadium. The Governor asked that in return, the University continue to keep its focus on the students. This is a great opportunity for the University and its scholar athletes. The state owes them a quality education and a promising future.

Governor Rowland urged the Trustees to keep the ceiling of expectation high. We can have the same kind of successes with this program that we have enjoyed with our academic programs if we maintain our vision and imagination. The State wants accountability and a school that puts students and academics first. Locating this facility on the Storrs campus relays that message. We can be the best if we continue to work together.

Chairman Gelfenbien thanked the Governor for his comments and for his past support of the University. On behalf of 110,000 UConn Alumni, Trustee Frank Napolitano thanked the Governor for his comments and voiced his support for the Division IA football upgrade. He commented that he was pleased to hear that there will be no impact on the progress that has been made on the operating budget and income of the University. On behalf of the student body, Trustee Collins indicated support for the upgrade as long as the burden of the expense was not placed on the students. Trustee Bellafiore noted that student enthusiasm for this upgrade is high, and that he believed it would serve to bring students and community
together. Trustee Saslow expressed his appreciation to Governor Rowland for his support in locating the stadium on the Storrs campus. Trustee Ferris echoed the sentiments of others and indicated her pleasure at the Governor’s comment that funds used to build the stadium would not come from UConn 2000.

Skip Holtz, Coach of the football team, was introduced by Chairman Gelfenbien. The Governor left the meeting at this time.

On a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Leonardi, THE BOARD VOTED to go into Executive Session at 11:25 a.m. to discuss personnel matters, litigation and collective bargaining. The Chairman noted that on the advice of counsel only the staff members whose presence was necessary to provide their opinion would be permitted to attend Executive Session.

All members of the Board noted above were present at this time.

1. Personnel matters were discussed. President Austin, Chancellor and Provost for University Affairs Emmert, Chancellor and Provost for Health Affairs Cutler, Vice Presidents Allenby and Jones, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Services, Carmen Vance, Attorney Shapiro and Drs. McFadden and Schurin, were present for this discussion.

2. Litigation matters were discussed. President Austin, Chancellor and Provost for University Affairs Emmert, Chancellor and Provost for Health Affairs Cutler, Vice Presidents Allenby and Jones, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Services, Carmen Vance, Attorney Shapiro and Drs. McFadden and Schurin, were present for this discussion.

3. Collective bargaining matters were discussed. President Austin, Chancellor and Provost for University Affairs Emmert, Chancellor and Provost for Health Affairs Cutler, Vice Presidents Allenby and Jones, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Services, Carmen Vance, Attorney Shapiro and Drs. McFadden and Schurin were present for this discussion.

Executive Session ended at 12:30 p.m. The Board recessed for luncheon and the meeting of the Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student Committee.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 1:07 p.m.

The following members of the public addressed the Board on the topics noted:

- Caroline Miner: Division 1A Football
- Alphonse Avitable: Tri-Campus Initiative
- Betty Hutchinson: Division 1A Football
- Peter Halvorson: Division 1A Football
Where provided, copies of individual public statements are attached to the file copy of the Board minutes. Chairman Gelfenbien assured the audience that there would be an opportunity for public comment on Division IA football for the community. He indicated also that he felt that the legislature would provide such an opportunity as well.

A. The Report of the Chairman included the following items:

   It was noted that Attachment D, Policy for Negotiation of Construction Bids-Revised, had been further revised with the omission of a word to clarify the language.

   1. On a motion by Ms. Leonardi, seconded by Ms. Smith, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the following items (Attachments B through F) listed on the Consent Agenda (Attachment A) as follows:
      (a) Approval of Proposed Revisions to the Laws and By-Laws, Article XVI Section G, Naming of Buildings (Attachment B)
      (b) Purchase of Property Known as Lot 2, Located at 64 Separatist Road, Mansfield, CT (Attachment C)
      (c) Policy for Negotiation of Construction Bids-Revised (Attachment D)
         Note: further revision distributed at this meeting
      (d) Awards and Donations (Attachment E)
      (e) State Matching Gift Guidelines (Attachment F)

   2. On a motion by Ms. Leonardi, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the formal lists of the awards of tenure, promotions, sabbatic leaves, changes in salary and moving expenses as recommended by the President and as listed on the personnel list. Background information listed as agenda Attachment G is attached to the file copy of the Board minutes.

   3. It was noted that the Audit Subcommittee of the Board would meet in November. Time and location to be announced.

B. The Report of the President included the following items:

   1. President Austin called upon Chancellor Emmert to give a report on the tri-campus initiative. Chancellor Emmert indicated that his report today is meant to inform the Board of the progress of this initiative. Next month a proposal for action will be presented to the Board which will include a full range of documentation about the recommendations that will be made. He reminded the Board of the context within which the process is taking place. He noted that the strategic plan approved by the Board a few years ago included a charge to the Chancellor to evaluate the academic offerings, the programs, the role, scope and mission, and the administrative structure at all of the regional campuses.

   These concerns were raised to be sure that the regional campuses were included in the strategic plan, and because the regional campuses were then and continue today
to have significant enrollment declines. The regional campuses in aggregate since 1990 have lost approximately one-third of their enrollment.

A task force of faculty, staff and students drawn mostly from the regional campuses, chaired by Fred Maryanski, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Administration, was empowered to formulate a proposal for Board review of a significant shift in the long term role and mission of the regional campuses. The Board approved the report in April 1996. The task force’s recommendation included two dominant themes. First, it recommended that the regional campuses should begin to migrate its academic offerings from predominantly lower division courses to include the opportunity for baccalaureate study at the regional campuses in order to address the academic needs of those communities, particularly of site bound students.

A copy of the task force report was submitted to the Division of Higher Education and the Department of Higher Education. Work was then begun with each of the campuses to develop specific proposals for those campuses. The Department of Higher Education then requested that separate role and mission statements for each campus be formulated, and that work is in process. It is those role and mission statements that will be brought back to the November meeting for Board approval.

There has also been significant discussion about administrative arrangements by which those three campuses would be governed, and there will be more discussion about those arrangements as they move forward. A final recommendation will be brought to the Board next month.

Chancellor Emmert strongly urged Trustees to note that this is a dramatic debarkation from where the University has been with regard to the regional campuses. It is a departure from thirty-five years of history when the regional campuses were relegated to two-year status. This action is a clear response to the interests and needs of those communities. It is an extremely important transition that can work well for the faculty and staff of those campuses.

The University is deeply committed to having those regional campuses grow and prosper. The current model is a strategy that will continue to see declines in enrollment at the regional campuses and that has to be turned around aggressively. The only avenue to accomplish that turnaround is through a restructuring of academic programs at those campuses.

The Board has also instructed the Chancellor to restructure the University’s administrative processes to be as efficient and effective as possible. The structure that has been proposed, and that we will continue to be debated extensively, includes a director who would be in charge of the integration of those three campuses. It also includes the creation, for the first time, of an associate dean within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
which offers the vast majority of the courses offered on the regional campuses. This position’s sole function would be to pay attention to the regional campus curriculum and the staffing of those programs. The associate deanship will be staffed with an existing faculty position and will be a member of the faculty to avoid increased administrative costs. The University clearly wants to have administrative leaders at all of the regional campuses and for them to retain their identities as regional campuses, identified by the names that they currently have. University administrators want to find ways to take the resources available and deploy them in the most effective and efficient ways to provide the education that these communities want.

President Austin, Chancellor Emmert, and others will continue to talk in Hartford, Waterbury and Torrington to citizens, students, and faculty to explore more options, and the final recommendations will be brought to the Board.

2. President Austin noted that the Institutional Advancement Committee reviewed and endorsed the proposal to approve the naming of the concourse within the new Stamford Campus the Rich Concourse at its October 2, 1997 meeting and recommended approval by the Board. On a motion by Ms. Leonardi, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the naming of the concourse within the new Stamford Campus the Rich Concourse. Background information listed as agenda Attachment H is attached to the file copy of the Board minutes.

C. Chairwoman Smith’s Report for the Health Affairs Committee included the following items:

1. On September 24, Dr. Cutler, Chancellor Emmert, and Ms. Bysiewicz met with the Department of Defense in Washington. Congressman Gejedensen facilitated a positive interaction with the three important DOD officials who can help resolve the issues before us. They have agreed to assist us in obtaining the delay needed to get the Connecticut legislature to change the law that will protect students with military scholarships, all federal student aid and our federal research funding.

2. Ms. Smith noted that the Health Center is in discussion with Women’s Health Connecticut to explore arrangements, negotiations and to prepare definitive agreements.

3. The construction of the research building is progressing well. On October 17, the steel structure is scheduled to be finished. The façade will be started on November 1, and in December the roof will be put on. Completion of the project is due in the fall of 1998.

4. The Commissioner for the Office of Health Care Access turned down the request for the Surgical Center which was discussed at the September meeting.
5. The John Dempsey Hospital lost $875,000 for the period ending in August. A 
of $300,000 was received for the malpractice fund, but a $1.175M loss is expected 
for August. The Department of Correction income is especially important during 
these times.

6. The early retirement program involved approximately 125 people. Considering the 
rehires and refills of positions, a savings of $3.2M for FY 97/98 could still be 
recognized. The Health Center appears to be hitting its targets on a net savings 
basis.

7. Chairwoman Smith reported some especially good news. A new technology 
developed by Dr. Jon Goldberg, Director of the Center for Biomaterials has been 
featured in an ad in Contemporary Esthetics. This Sculpture/FibreKor restoration 
was fully patented and licensed through the University of Connecticut and 
Jeneric/Pentron Incorporated in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Trustee Smith left the meeting at this time.

D. Chairwoman Leonardi's Report for the Financial Affairs Committee included the 
following items:

1. Several Trustees discussed the advantages and disadvantages of going Division IA 
and voiced their opinions and those of their constituencies. After much discussion, 
deliberation, and consideration, and on a motion by Mr. Saslow and seconded by Mr. 
Abromaitis, THE BOARD VOTED TO:

   1. Reiterate its prior action of September 13, 1996 and endorse the upgrade of the 
      football program to Division I-A;

   2. Approve the financial plan as contained in the report, "Analysis for the 
      University of Connecticut Upgrade to Division I-A Football," for a Storrs-based 
      stadium and football program;

   3. Approve the North Campus location for the stadium, subject to further detailed 
      analysis to confirm suitability and feasibility;

   4. Authorize the Chairman and University officials to work with the Governor 
      the General Assembly to obtain funding from State sources for the capital costs 
      associated with the upgrade with the understanding that any funding program 
      must not diminish the current level of funding for academic operations or current 
      capital programs and must not increase the levels of tuition and fees for the 
      University's students; and
5. Authorize the Chairman, on behalf of the Board, to sign all required documents and take the necessary action consistent with this recommendation to effect the upgrade of the program and construction of a stadium on the North Campus site;

6. Reconsider the decision to upgrade to Division I-A prior to the December 31, 1997 deadline if the North Campus site is deemed unsuitable and/or funding cannot be obtained from the State consistent with number four above.

Trustee Treibick voted in opposition to this motion.

2. There was much discussion about the Campus Master Plan and questions were directed to the representatives of the firm who formulated the plan. On a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bailey, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the final draft of the Campus Master Plan for the University of Connecticut. Background information listed as agenda Attachment I is attached to the file copy of the Board minutes.

D. Chairwoman Bailey’s Report for the Student Life Committee included the following items:

1. The committee met on October 8, 1997 and discussed three topics. Proposed fees for 1998-99, student behavior in and around the immediate campus, and the Trustees’ request for higher parking fines. There was mixed reaction to charging a higher room rate for South Campus. A $100/semester differential for South Campus is already built into the fee proposal.

2. Concerns were voiced about the request to increase parking fines even more than originally proposed at the September Board meeting. The Board requested that administration return to the October Board meeting with proposals for higher fines.

3. Carmen Vance, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, updated the group on the work of the committee appointed by Chancellor Emmert to address University Weekend concerns. Sharon Kipetz, Dean of Students, Police Chief Hudd, and Attorney Shapiro will be invited to the November 12 committee meeting to discuss the existing Conduct Code and how best to handle off campus violations.

F. Chairwoman Berry’s Report for the Academic Affairs Committee included the following:

1. Trustee Berry noted that there were no agenda items for action. She introduced Mr. Paul Kobulnicky, Director of University Libraries, and expressed the hope that Trustees would be able to tour the facility in the near future to view the recent renovations.
Director Kobulnicky reported that the library would be rededicated to the service of the University community and to the citizens of Connecticut in October of 1998. The library was opened in 1978 as the symbol and focus of the University's aspiration to excellence in research and learning. Mr. Kobulnicky described the University funded interior renovations that will join with the Department of Public Works funded exterior repairs project to transform Homer Babbidge Library into a state-of-the-art facility. A copy of Mr. Kobulnicky's remarks are attached to the file copy of the Board minutes.

G. There was no report from the Strategic Planning Committee or the Institutional Advancement Committee.

It was noted that the next meeting of the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 1997, at the Bishop Center at 1:00 p.m. at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, Connecticut.

No further business appearing, the Board meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise M. Bailey
Secretary