

Board of Control
New Haven, CT
April 14, 2021

The Statutory Meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day in the Director's Board Room, Slate Laboratory, CAES, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511.

Present: Messrs. *Fikrig, *Hurlburt, Jones, *O'Neill, White, and *Ms. Nichols. Messrs. *Capone, Elmer, *Larson, and Last were present by invitation.

*Attended via ZOOM.

Absent: Mr. Cohan and Ms. Maroney.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 10:04AM.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Dr. White, the minutes of the January 19, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

News Articles and Correspondence: Dr. White reviewed news articles and correspondence since the last meeting. He also noted the revised CAES brochure and a draft copy of the Notice of Order of Quarantine for the spotted lanternfly.

Fiducient Advisors: Mr. Jeff Capone reported on the Board's investment portfolio as of March 31, 2021, and presented recommendations for consideration. Ms. Nichols moved to change the target allocation from 65% equity and 35% fixed income to 70% equity and 30% fixed income and include a real asset allocation. The motion was seconded by Dr. O'Neill. After discussion, Dr. O'Neill withdrew his second and Ms. Nichols withdrew her motion. Ms. Nichols continued by moving that the target allocation be changed from 65% equity and 35% fixed income to 70% equity and 30% fixed income and include a 5% real asset allocation to be reviewed and approved by the Executive and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. O'Neill and passed unanimously.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Agency Status: Dr. White reported that the agency is open and following CDC and the Connecticut Department of Public Health guidelines.

Status of Building Projects:

- Valley Laboratory: Mr. Last reported that the Governor recommended an additional \$6.3 million for the project. If approved by the General Assembly, the construction budget would be \$17.8 million.
- Jenkins-Waggoner Laboratory: Mr. Last stated that the final bid documents are being prepared by DAS – Construction Services. The project will be released for bidding this spring.

New Scientist(s) Recruitment: Dr. White updated the Board on the request, approval, and recruitment of three (3) new scientist positions.

Update on 2022 Retirement Wave and Agency Reorganization: Mr. Last reviewed the staff members that will be eligible for normal retirement on or before June 1, 2022. Nearly 26% of the staff will be eligible to retire. The reorganization of departments was also discussed.

Budget Update: Mr. Last reviewed the Governor's recommended budget for the Experiment Station. The budget included additional funding for the Mosquito Surveillance Program. The capital budget included an additional \$6.3 million for the renovation and addition to the Valley Laboratory. Funding may be available for regulatory testing for a proposed recreational marijuana testing program.

Plant Science Day: Dr. White reported that planning has begun for an "in-person" Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm on Wednesday, August 4, 2021.

Staff Changes: Dr. White reviewed staff changes since the last meeting.

Dr. White moved that an Executive Session be held to discuss Board funds, personnel, and the Director's report. Messrs. Elmer, Larson, and Last were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously at 11:44AM.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:16PM.

Ms. Nichols moved to promote Dr. Andrea Gloria-Soria from Assistant Scientist I to Assistant Scientist II and transfer her funding to the General Fund (Mosquito Surveillance), effective July 2, 2021. This action is contingent on the General Assembly authorizing an additional \$150,000 to the Mosquito Surveillance Program, as recommended by the Governor. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fikrig and passed unanimously.

Dr. White moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously at 12:19PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael O'Neill, Secretary