

Board of Control
Windsor, CT
October 18, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day at the Valley Laboratory, 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095.

Present: Messrs. Fikrig*, Jones, White, and Ms. Maroney and Jaime Smith* (representing Commissioner Hurlburt). Mr. Last, Ms. Rocha and Triplett were present by invitation.

* = attended via Teams

Absent: Messrs. Cohan, Venkitanarayanan and Ms. Nichols.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. White, seconded by Dr. Fikrig, the minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

News Articles and Correspondence: Dr. White briefly reviewed published news articles and correspondence since the last board meeting.

Research Report – Dr. Raquel Rocha: Dr. Raquel Rocha joined the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology in February 2023. She gave a research update on “Unraveling the Molecular Strategies Used by Plant Pathogens to Cause Disease.”

Building Projects:

- Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouse Renovation – Bids have been received and there is a project scope meeting with the lowest bidder on 10/24/23.
- Valley Laboratory – The Bond Commission allocated \$3.2 million for the project on 10/06/23. This funding will allow the continuation of design and the creation of bid documents.

Update on Recruitment and Hiring: The Experiment Station is currently recruiting for a Technician (PFAS), Secretary I, Administrative Assistant and Assistant Scientist II (Modeling).

Solar Panels – New Haven/Hamden: Mr. Last reported that the agency’s energy costs have almost doubled over the past 18 months. He has contacted the CT Green Bank to discuss the installation of solar panels in New Haven and at Lockwood Farm in Hamden. A proposal will be presented to the Board at a future meeting for consideration.

CAES Research Awards Update: Dr. White reported that he has received 13 proposals. The agency will award three (3) projects for \$35,000 each.

Louis A. Magnarelli Post Doctoral Fellowship Program - 2023: Ms. Maroney moved that \$250,000 be authorized to fund a new two-year post doctoral program. Year two funding will be contingent upon the progress of the program. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fikrig and passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Maroney moved that an Executive Session be held to discuss Board Funds, Personnel, and the Director's Report. Mr. Last and Dr. Triplett were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Dr. White and passed unanimously at 11:17 a.m.

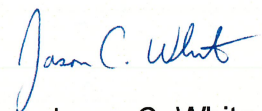
The Executive Session adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Ms. Maroney moved to empower the Board of Control's Executive and Finance Committee to meet with Fiducient Advisors and authorize any recommended changes to the investment portfolio. Fiducient Advisors will meet with the full Board annually at the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. White and passed unanimously.

Ms. Maroney moved the promotion of Dr. Quan Zeng from Associate Agricultural Scientist to Agricultural Scientist effective October 20, 2023. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fikrig and passed unanimously.

Dr. White moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. White
Secretary Pro-Tem