

Board of Control  
New Haven, CT  
April 19, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511.

Present: Messrs. Fikrig\*, Jones, Hurlburt\*, Venkitanarayanan\*, White and Ms. Maroney and Nichols. Messrs. Capone and Last were present by invitation.

\* = attended via Zoom

Absent: Mr. Cohan

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

Mr. Jones welcomed Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan to the Board of Control, who represents the University of Connecticut.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Maroney, seconded by Ms. Nichols, the minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Fiducient Advisors: Mr. Jeff Capone reported on the Board's investment portfolio as of March 31, 2023.

Ms. Nichols moved to approve the following recommendations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

○ Eliminate Diamond Hill All Cap	4.0%	to	0%
○ Eliminate Fidelity Extended Market	9.0%	to	0%
○ Add Vanguard Mid Cap Index	0%	to	5.0%
○ Add Hotchkis and Wiley Small Cap	0%	to	4.0%
○ Add Conestoga Small Cap	0%	to	4.0%
○ Reduce Fidelity International	20.0%	to	19.0%
○ Eliminate Harding Loevner	9.0%	to	0%
○ Add PIMCO RAE Emerging Markets	0%	to	4.0%
○ Add GQG Partners Emerging Markets	0%	to	4.0%

Status of Projects:

- Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses – Bid documents are being finalized by the Department of Administrative Service (DAS)
- Valley Laboratory – Construction estimates provided by DAS have the project over budget. CAES will work with the Office of Policy Management (OPM) and the legislature to request additional funding.
- Renovation of Greenhouses at Lockwood Farm – Four greenhouses have been renovated at Lockwood Farm, funded by the Lockwood Trust Fund.

Update on Recruitment and Hiring: 33 positions have been filled with one Assistant Scientist position currently being recruited. The Assistant Scientist will work at the Valley Laboratory.

Storage Building for Greenhouses – Lockwood Farm: Ms. Nichols moved to authorize \$10,098 from the Lockwood Trust Fund to purchase a 12 x 30 ft. storage building to be used to store supplies for the greenhouses. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Sabbatical Policy for Department Heads (Managers): Ms. Maroney moved to approve a policy to allow sabbatical leave for agency managers. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and was approved unanimously.

Sabbatical Request – Dr. DeWei Li: Ms. Nichols moved to approve the request for sabbatical leave for Dr. DeWei Li. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fikrig and passed unanimously.

Governor's Recommended Budget – FY2024–FY2025: Mr. Last reviewed the Governor's recommended budget and the budget passed by the Appropriations Committee for the fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

Seasonal Staff Members – 2023: Dr. Fikrig moved to approve the hourly wage range for Seasonal Research Assistants consistent with the DAS job description effective 5/01/23. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt and passed unanimously.

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. Mr. Last was invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 11:51 a.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Dr. White moved the promotion of Ms. Noelle Khalil from Agricultural Research Technician I to Agricultural Research Technician II, effective April 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Dr. Venkitanarayanan and passed unanimously.

Dr. Venkitanarayanan moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



April 24, 2023

Kumar Venkitanarayanan  
Secretary