

Board of Control
New Haven, CT
August 2, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day at Lockwood Farm, 890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518.

Present: Messrs. Cohan, Fikrig, Jones, Hurlburt, Venkitanarayanan*, and White. Messrs. Capone*, Last, and Ms. Maria Cruz (OPM) and Triplett were present by invitation. * = attended via Zoom

Absent: Ms. Maroney and Nichols.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 1:21 p.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Commissioner Hurlburt, seconded by Dr. Fikrig, the minutes of the April 19, 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 June 30, 2023. There were no recommendations.

Status of Projects:

- Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouse Renovation – The project is out to bid. A mandatory pre-bid walk-through was held on July 14, 2023 and bids are due on August 23, 2023.
- Valley Laboratory – The General Assembly authorized an additional \$10 million for the project. The total bonding for the project budget is \$36,800,000. The design work will move forward in the fall of 2023.

Update on Recruitment and Hiring: Dr. White gave a report on staffing. The Experiment Station lost 24 staff members to retirement or transfer since April 1, 2020. By the end of calendar year 2023, there will be 35 new staff hires.

Storage Building for Greenhouses at Lockwood Farm: Mr. Last reported that the pre-built building for the greenhouses at Lockwood Farm has been delivered and put in place.

Agency Budget – FY2024 and FY2025: Mr. Last reviewed the budget authorized by the General Assembly for FY2024 and FY2025. The budget will fund current services, adds a position to test agricultural soil for PFAS, and three positions for adult use cannabis regulatory testing.

J-1 Visa Sponsor Extension: Mr. Last announced the Station's J-1 sponsorship program for foreign exchange visitors was extended to May 2025 by the United States Department of State.

Budget to Support J-1 Exchange Visitor Program: Commissioner Hurlburt moved to authorize \$10,000 to help support the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. Dr. Cohan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Licensing Agreements/Royalty Payments: The Experiment Station received \$183,750 in tobacco licensing and royalty fees in fiscal year 2023. Commissioner Hurlburt moved the approval and distribution of royalty payments in compliance with the Station's policy. The motion was seconded by Dr. White and passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Hurlburt 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 3:06 p.m.

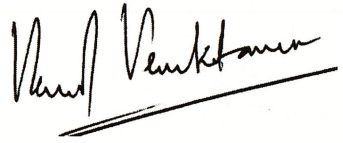
The Executive Session adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved the promotion of Ms. Tanya Petruff from Agricultural Research Technician I to Agricultural Research Technician II, and Dr. Nubia Zuverza-Mena from Assistant Agricultural Scientist II to Associate Agricultural Scientist effective August 11, 2023. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cohan and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to authorize \$105,000 for three research awards of \$35,000 each. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cohan and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cohan and passed unanimously at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kumar Venkitanarayanan
Secretary