

Board of Control
Hamden, CT
August 4, 2021

The Statutory Meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day at the Cottage at Lockwood Farm, 890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT.

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

*Attended via ZOOM.

Absent: None.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 1:12PM.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Dr. White, the minutes of the April 14, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Fiducient Advisors: Mr. Jeff Capone reported on the Board's investment portfolio as of June 30, 2021, and presented a recommendation for consideration. Dr. O'Neill moved to move the 5% in PGIM Global Total Return 2 to PGIM Global Total Return R6. Ms. Maroney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This will result in a reduction of fees. Ms. Nichols moved to move 5% into Principal Diversified Real Assets. The motion was seconded by Dr. White and passed unanimously. Ms. Nichols moved to approve the revised investment policy to include the new asset allocation table: 40% domestic equity, 25% international and emerging equities, 30% fixed income, and 5% broad real assets. Dr. O'Neill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Several staff members continue to telework up to 50% of the work week. The agency continues to follow all CDC and Connecticut Department of Public Health recommendations.

Status of Building Projects:

- 1) Valley Laboratory: Design contracts will be submitted to the State Properties Review Board (SPRB). DAS will request bond funds to be allocated in September 2021.
- 2) Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses: DAS has informed the agency that the construction package will be submitted soon for public bidding.

- 3) Steam Leak – New Haven: DAS Construction Services will assign a contractor for repair before the fall.

New Scientist Recruitment: Dr. Leigh Whittinghill has accepted the Station's offer for the Urban Agricultural position in the Department of Forestry and Horticulture. She will begin October 8, 2021. Interviews are being scheduled for the Agriculture in the Environment and Analytical Chemistry positions.

Update on 2022 Retirement Wave/Agency Reorganization: The estimated number of staff members who will retire before July 1, 2022, is estimated to be between 20-30% of total staff.

Budget Update: Mr. Last reviewed the agency's FY 2022 budget. The Adult-Use Marijuana funding was not appropriated in the budget and the program will be funded with carry-over funds from Fiscal Year 2021.

Adult-Use Marijuana: The Experiment Station was approved for three positions to work on the Adult-Use Marijuana program. An Assistant Scientist will be recruited and hired effective October 1, 2021, to lead the program.

J-1 Visa: Mr. Last reported that the U.S. Department of State approved the Exchange Visitor program for an additional two years. The Station is approved to sponsor ten (10) J-1 Visas annually.

CAES Updated Scientist Emeritus Policy: Dr. O'Neill moved to approve the revised Scientist Emeritus Policy to include Associate Agricultural Scientists. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Requests for Emeritus Status: Dr. O'Neill moved the approval of Emeritus status for Dr. Brian Eitzer and Dr. Abigail Maynard, consistent with the Emeritus policy approved by the Board of Control on August 4, 2021. The Board will provide, subject to availability and financial resources, the facilities and support relating to continued research and services to the residents of Connecticut. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt and passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Nichols 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. Maroney and passed unanimously at 2:58PM.

The Executive Session adjourned at 3:37PM.

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Dr. White moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 3:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael O'Neill, Secretary