Board of Control Windsor, CT October 14, 2020

The statutory meeting of the Board of Control was held on this date at the Valley Laboratory, 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor, CT, with some members participating via ZOOM video conferencing because of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

<u>Present</u>: Messrs. *Cohan, *Fikrig, *Hurlburt, Jones, O'Neill, White, and Ms. Nichols. Messrs. *Capone, Elmer, LaMondia, Larson, and Last were present by invitation. *Attend via ZOOM.

Absent: Ms. Maroney.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 10:00AM.

Vice President Jones introduced and welcomed the Board of Control's two newly appointed members: Dr. Frederick Cohan, appointed by the Board of Trustees at Wesleyan University and Dr. Michael P. O'Neill, appointed by the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut.

<u>Minutes</u>: On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Dr. White, the minutes of the August 5, 2020, meeting were approved unanimously.

<u>News Articles and Correspondence</u>: Dr. White briefly reviewed the many news articles and press releases since the last Board meeting.

<u>Fiduciary Investment Advisors</u>: Mr. Jeff Capone reported on the Board's investment portfolio as of 9/30/2020.

<u>Budget Update</u>: Dr. White updated the Board on the submission of the Experiment Station's FY 2022 and FY 2023 operating and capital budget to the Office of Policy and Management.

Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt moved that Mr. Paul Larson, who was formerly the appointed representative from the University of Connecticut, be appointed a special advisor to the Board of Control. This position would not be a voting member of the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously.

<u>Coronavirus (COVID-19) Agency Update/Status</u>: Dr. White reported that the agency continues to follow state public health guidelines. The agency is open and operational with 50% daily staff occupancy and utilizing the state's Emergency Telework Policy.

Status of Building Projects:

- ➤ <u>Valley Laboratory</u>: A request for additional funding of \$6.3 million was submitted to the Office of Policy and Management on 9/1/2020.
- ➤ <u>Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses</u>: The Department of Administrative Services will put the project out to bid once the final contract documents are received from the architect, Christopher Williams.
- Farmhouse Renovations: Mr. Last reported that the farmhouse renovation is complete, and a certificate of occupancy has been received by the Town of Hamden.
- Signage New Haven Campus: New signage is being installed at the New Haven campus with the agency's new imaging logo.

<u>General Fund, Grants, Capacity Funds – 5 Years</u>: Mr. Last reviewed funding sources from FY 2016-FY 2020. In Fiscal Year 2020, federal and other grants comprised of 42.70% of the agency's operating budget.

<u>Valley Laboratory Centennial (1921-2021)</u>: Dr. LaMondia, Chief Scientist at the Valley Laboratory, gave a brief history of the Windsor facility. The facility first opened in 1921 and was known as the Tobacco Substation. A celebration will be planned for September 2021.

<u>Louis A. Magnarelli Fellowship - 2021</u>: Dr. O'Neill moved that an amount not to exceed \$240,000 by authorized to fund a new two-year fellowship. Year two funding will be contingent on the progress of the project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously. The anticipated start date is May 1, 2021.

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, LaMondia, Larson, and Last were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Dr. White and passed unanimously at 11:34AM.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:15PM.

Ms. Nichols moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. O'Neill and passed unanimously at 12:24PM.

A tour of the Valley Laboratory ensued after the meeting with State Senator Cathy Osten.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. White, Secretary Pro Tem