

Board of Control  
Windsor, CT  
October 13, 2021

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.

Present: Messrs. 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: Mr. Cohan.

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

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Maroney, seconded by Dr. White, the minutes of the August 4, 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 9/30/2021. There were no recommendations.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Governor's Executive Order 13G (Vaccination): Governor Lamont's Executive Order 13G required all state employees to be vaccinated by October 4, 2021. Those not vaccinated could submit to COVID testing weekly. The agency staff is currently 94% vaccinated and 100% compliant with the Governor's Executive Order.

Status of Building Projects:

- Valley Laboratory: Amendment to architect's design contract is being negotiated at DAS and will be forwarded to the State Properties Review Board. A bonding request will be submitted to OPM by DAS for submittal on a future bond commission agenda.
- Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses: The Jenkins-Waggoner greenhouse renovation will be put out to bid by DAS shortly.
- Steam Leak – New Haven Campus: DAS contracted to have the problem evaluated. The project will commence in the spring of 2022.

- New Gas Pump – New Haven Campus: Mr. Last reported that the agency replaced the gasoline pump.

New Scientist Recruitment: Dr. White reported that Dr. Carlos Tamez joined the Department of Analytical Chemistry on 8/16/2021 and Dr. Leigh Whittinghill joined the Department of Forestry and Horticulture on 10/8/2021. There is an active search for an environmental scientist and a scientist to work on adult-use cannabis.

Update on 2022 Retirement Wave and Reorganization Plan: Dr. White reported that between 20-30% of current staff members could retire before July 1, 2022. Four Department Heads have announced interest in retiring.

Budget Update – FY 2023: Mr. Last reported that technical adjusts were submitted for consideration, which include three (3) positions and funding for the Adult-Use Cannabis Regulatory Testing Program.

Adult-Use Cannabis Regulatory Testing Program Update: Dr. White reported that two of the three positions have been filled (technician, quality control manager) and a research scientist is being recruited. The state program will commence on May 1, 2022.

Licensing Agreements/Royalty Payments: The Experiment Station received \$107,347.90 in tobacco licensing and royalty fees in Fiscal Year 2021. Dr. O'Neill moved the approval and distribution of royalty payments in compliance with the Station's policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Louis A. Magnarelli Post-Doctoral Program – 2022: Dr. O'Neill moved that an amount not to exceed \$250,000 be authorized to fund the 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.

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. Messrs. Elmer, Larson, and Last were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 11:51AM.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:24PM.

Dr. O'Neill moved to approve the Director's recommendation to promote Dr. Jatinder Aulakh from Assistant Agricultural Scientist II to Associate Agricultural Scientist effective October 22, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

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Ms. Nichols moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. O'Neill and passed unanimously at 12:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael O'Neill, Secretary