

Board of Control  
New Haven, CT  
April 20, 2022

The Statutory Meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day in the Director's Board Room, Slate Laboratory, CAES, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511.

Present: Messrs. Fikrig,\* Jones, O'Neill,\* White, and Ms. Maroney and Nichols.\* Messrs. Capone, DePalma, and Last were present by invitation.

\*Attended via Zoom.

Absent: Messrs. Cohan and Hurlburt.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 10:06AM.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Dr. O'Neill, the minutes of the January 18, 2022, meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Principal Financial Group: Mr. Joseph DePalma, Relationship Manager, Principal Financial Group, reviewed the custodial transition from Wells Fargo to the Principal Financial Group, effective 2/22/2022.

Fiducient Advisors: Mr. Jeff Capone reported on the Board's investment portfolio as of 3/31/2022. There were no recommendations. The Board of Control is concerned with any investments in Russian companies. The Board requested that Fiducient investigate and provide information on any investments that may be with Russian companies.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Dr. White gave an update on agency operations. Only about 20% of staff members have applied for a telework schedule.

Status of Projects:

- Valley Laboratory: Mr. Last reported that he met with project architect TLB and DAS to discuss the project budget. The April 2022 construction budget estimate is \$24.850 million. There is currently \$17.8 million authorized for the project, creating a \$7.050 million funding shortfall. Dr. White has requested assistance from DAS and will contact OPM.
- Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses: The current estimate to complete this project is \$1.123 million. The total funding authorized and available is \$350,000. A request has been made to the General Assembly for \$773,000.

- Steam Leak – New Haven Campus: A contract has been signed with Connecticut Boiler Repair to fix the steam leak between the Britton Building and Osborne Library. The work will be completed in May 2022, once the central heating plant is closed for the season.
- Renovated Workspace – Johnson-Horsfall: Mr. Last reported on renovation of the former Johnson-Horsfall Library. The space was converted to 17 workstations.
- Paving – Lockwood Farm: Mr. Last reported that the paving project at Lockwood Farm is complete. The Board approved a budget of \$82,153 at the 1/18/22 meeting. The final cost of the project was \$76,485.20.

Update on 2022 Retirement Wave, Recruitment, and Hiring: Dr. White updated the Board on retirements and the status of hiring at the agency.

Proposed Organizational Structure as of June 1, 2022: Dr. White reviewed the proposed organizational structure to include the merging of the Departments of Forestry and Horticulture and Environmental Sciences. The new structure would have the Tick Testing Laboratory and Mosquito Surveillance and research programs moving from Environmental Sciences to the Department of Entomology.

Lockwood Probate Trust Accounting (2019-2021): Mr. Last reported that the Norwalk Probate Court approved the trust accounting for the William Lockwood Trust Fund for Fiscal Years 2019 through 2021. The accounting is presented for approval every three years.

Plant Science Day – 2022: Dr. White announced that Plant Science Day will be held Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at Lockwood Farm. The Planning Committee is meeting monthly.

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

Dr. O'Neill 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 Dr. Fikrig and passed unanimously at 11:35AM.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:07PM.

Dr. O'Neill moved the promotion of Dr. Goudarz Molaei from Agricultural Scientist to Chief Scientist effective June 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fikrig and passed unanimously.

Ms. Maroney moved the approval of emeritus status for Dr. Walter Krol (Analytical Chemistry) and Dr. Kimberly Stoner (Entomology). Approval would be 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 service to the residents of Connecticut. The motion was seconded by Dr. O'Neill and passed unanimously.

Ms. Nichols moved the approval of a Board of Control Research Award in the amount of \$20,000. The award would be paid in Fiscal Year 2022, after a competitive process. Dr. Fikrig seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Fikrig moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. White. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael O'Neill, Secretary