

Board of Control
New Haven, CT
April 16, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day at Slate Laboratory, New Haven, CT 06511.

Present: Messrs. Duffy (representing Commissioner Hurlburt), Fikrig, Jones, Venkitanarayanan*, White, and Ms. Maroney and Nichols. Mssr. Last and Ms. Triplett and Nason were present by invitation.

* = attended via Teams

Absent: Mr. Cohan

The meeting was convened by Vice President, Terry Jones at 10:01 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Ms. Maroney, the minutes of the January 22, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Research Report: Dr. Sara Nason, Assistant Scientist II, Department of Environmental Science and Forestry, gave a report on her current research program on PFAS.

Status of Capital Projects:

- Jenkins Waggoner Greenhouses- The renovation of the greenhouses is substantially complete with the final punchlist items being addressed.
- Valley Laboratory- The renovation and additions of the Valley Laboratory is scheduled for bidding during the summer of 2025 with a construction start date in the fall of 2025. On April 11, 2025, the State Bond Commission allocated the remaining \$32.6 million for the construction phase of the project.

Probate-Lockwood Accounting: The Norwalk-Wilton Probate Court approved the accounting of the William R. Lockwood Trust Fund for the period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024.

Land Easement-Valley Laboratory, Windsor: (see attached map) A temporary and permanent land easement is requested for a greenhouse setback area and well-field area. Ms. Nichols moved approval of the requested temporary and permanent easements to the State of Connecticut for greenhouse setback and well-field areas. Dr. Jason White is authorized to sign for the Board of Control. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

CAES-150th Anniversary Update: 2025 marks the 150th Anniversary for The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Nation's first. Plans to celebrate the anniversary are

underway. Letterhead has been developed, commemorative coins, video, and a celebration dinner has been planned for Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at the New Haven Lawn Club. Ms. Nichols moved approval of funding not to exceed \$60,000 to fund the 150th anniversary of the Experiment Station. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fikrig and passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Nichols moved the appointment of Mr. Jacob Ricker, Assistant Scientist I, as State Entomologist effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Ms. Nichols moved the approval of a 6-month sabbatical for Dr. Washington DaSilva to the University of Federal Rural do Semi-Arido, Brazil. The tentative dates of the sabbatical will be October 2025-April 2026. Ms. Nichols moved the approval of the sabbatical to Brazil, seconded by Ms. Maroney. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Nichols 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 Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 11:51 a.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Dr. White moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 12:37 p.m.

A tour of the renovated Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses commenced following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Kumar Venkitanarayanan
Secretary