

5-30-2002

## Minutes, May 30, 2002

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TELEPHONE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

University of Connecticut  
Merlin D. Bishop Center  
Storrs, Connecticut

May 30, 2002

**OPEN SESSION**

Call to order at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Chairman Roger Gelfenbien. Trustees who participated by telephone were: Christopher Albanese, Louise Bailey, William Berkley, Michael Cicchetti, , Michael Martinez, David O'Leary, and Richard Treibick.

Trustees present: Philip Barry and Christopher Hattayer.

Trustees absent were: James Abromaitis, Shirley Ferris, Linda Gatling, Lenworth Jacobs, Claire Leonardi, Frank Napolitano, Denis Nayden, Theodore Sergi, and Anne George, who represents the Governor's Office.

University Staff present were: Chancellor and Provost for University Affairs Petersen, Vice Chancellor for Business and Administration Dreyfuss, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Triponey, Ms. Carolc Henry, Executive Director of Housing and Food Services, Mr. Larry Schilling, University Architect, Assistant Attorney General Shapiro, Assistant Attorney General McCarthy, Dr. Schurin, and Ms. Locke.

All actions taken were by unanimous vote of the Trustees present.

**1. Public Comment** (limited to agenda item)

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Board.

**2. Chairman's Report**

(a) Item requiring Board discussion and approval:

- (1) Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)  
Greek Community Campus and Central Dining Facility

Chairman Gelfenbien directed Trustee attention to page two of the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) and asked if the fraternities and sororities would share space in one building.

Ms. Henry responded that the fraternity/sorority chapters would reside in separate buildings, either a 15-person sub-unit or a 30-person sub-unit, which would have separate entrances. The University will save on utility costs by configuring the building in a duplex style that allows for separate entrances for residential purposes.

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Chairman Gelfenbien asked if the sub-units would have common walls. Ms. Henry agreed that there would be common walls and in some cases mechanicals or utility systems, which is more cost effective.

Trustee Berkley asked how long was the lease. Ms. Henry responded that the lease would be for ten months, which is a traditional time frame for residence halls.

Trustee Berkley asked if each fraternity/sorority has a lease. Ms. Henry noted that each chapter has a lease as does each student within a chapter.

Mr. Berkley asked how long the lease would be for fraternities/sororities. Ms. Henry responded that a lease would automatically be renewed unless the organization or the University gives notice.

Mr. Berkley asked how much notice would the University be required to give. Ms. Henry responded that 90 days notice was needed.

Mr. Treibick joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Berkley expressed concerns about issues that other institutions have had and wanted to ensure that the University was not putting itself in a difficult position.

Chairman Gelfenbien asked what would happen to the space if one of the sororities/fraternities disbanded. Ms. Henry responded that other group housing would utilize the space. She noted that ROTC has indicated an interest as well as non-Greek fraternal organizations, such as the honors fraternity.

Chairman Gelfenbien directed Trustee attention to the phrase in paragraph three of page two of the EIE regarding "...recovery of existing facility space for other purposes." He asked for what other purposes the space might be used.

Ms. Henry responded that there has been a request to develop additional orientation classroom space in the Towers dormitory complex. She noted that all freshmen, not just those residing in Northwest, will be arriving one day early this year, so that all incoming freshmen will have a common experience. There have also been requests for more space for orientation and for First Year Experience (FYE) classes in other residence halls. She emphasized that the space would be used primarily for student support in an effort to be responsive to both co-curricular and academic needs. Next year, some of the floors in the Towers complex will be made into "special interest" floors, such as an engineering floor, and others possibly linked to academic majors. Ms. Henry also noted that last year one of the dining halls was converted into a hall director apartment and another hall was converted recently in the same manner to accommodate two live-in professional staff persons for this complex, which houses over one thousand students.

Chairman Gelfenbien referenced the fourth paragraph of page two and asked if the phrase "the new building" referred to the central dining hall. Vice Chancellor Triponey agreed. He further noted

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that the document indicates that the dining facility would seat a minimum of 415 people and asked what the maximum seating capacity would be.

Mr. Schilling responded that the entire facility has the capacity to hold approximately 500, which accounts for 415 in the traditional dining hall and another 100 seats in the café.

Chairman Gelfenbien asked if the space could be used for other purposes. Vice Chancellor Triponey responded that the space is intended to be multi-purpose, so that there could be a special event held after the dinner hour.

Chairman Gelfenbien asked if the space would be used for events like those held in Rome Commons. Vice Chancellor Triponey responded that the events would probably not be of that magnitude and would be more student-oriented, not external events. The administration believes that there is enough demand for the residence halls and the Greek community in that area.

Chairman Gelfenbien directed Trustee attention to the first paragraph of page five regarding lighting and landscaping and asked if there would be emergency phone boxes in the area. Mr. Schilling responded that there would be Code Blue phones in the area.

Chairman Gelfenbien referred to the paragraph entitled "Air Quality" on page seven and made reference to the statement "no net increase in the student population will result...." He noted that he thought that there would be additional students. Mr. Schilling responded that the population would most likely be relocated to other sections of campus or off campus, which would not present an increase in the student population on campus.

Chairman Gelfenbien asked if there would be an increase in housing after the completion of this project than the University had prior to project. Mr. Schilling agreed and clarified that there will be additional housing on campus only.

Mr. Hattayer asked what the phrase "short-term displacement" referred to, which is noted in paragraph one of page four. Mr. Schilling responded that currently there are students who reside in existing Greek houses located at the project site. During the construction process, the old houses will be demolished and those students will need to be relocated at the time of demolition and until the project is complete.

Mr. Hattayer asked where the students would be located. Ms. Henry responded that the students currently living in these structures have been offered on campus housing. The sorority from which the University purchased the house chose to rent apartments off campus. The University offered the sorority an office for a lounge at Putnam Refectory for the upcoming year.

Mr. Barry asked how many fraternities/sororities applied for access, but will not be admitted to the Greek campus. Ms. Henry responded that currently there are three chapters that will be placed on a waiting list. She noted that one of the houses is currently vacant and Campus Activities will work with the three chapters to ascertain which chapter is in the most viable position to reside in the vacant house.

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Vice Chancellor Triponey indicated that there are behavioral standards that are factored into the screening process, so that if a chapter falls into trouble, it may not be permitted to rent a house or it may be eliminated from a house.


On a motion by Mr. Berkley, seconded by Mr. Martinez, **THE BOARD VOTED** to approve the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the implementation of the Greek Community Campus and Central Dining Facility.

**3. Adjournment**

Chairman Gelfenbien announced that the next meeting of the Board will be the Annual Budget Workshop and Board of Trustees' meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2002.

There being no further business, the Board meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Louise M. Bailey  
Secretary