



University of Connecticut
Office of the President

Philip E. Austin
President

August 1, 2007

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Philip E. Austin

For the eleventh and final time, I submit to the Board of Trustees our proposed spending plan for the year ahead. As was the case with each of the prior ten proposals, this plan represents the best collective thinking of the University administration as to how to use limited resources to meet the goals, objectives and, in a broader sense, hopes of the Board of Trustees and the entire University community.

The University of Connecticut enters the 2008 Fiscal Year and the 2007-08 academic year in a balanced fiscal position. The structural deficits that were a fact of life at Storrs in the mid-1990s have long since been eliminated, and we have weathered another challenged year at the Health Center. We have accommodated significant growth in enrollment, though major needs remain to be addressed. Restructuring of academic operations allows for a more rational allocation of resources, and administrative reorganizations undertaken over the past five years enable us to fulfill our functions in a comprehensive, efficient, and cost-effective manner. Our tuition and fee schedules continue to be highly competitive with schools in our region and with institutions at our level of quality across the nation, and represent a tremendous bargain to Connecticut residents seeking excellent education at affordable cost.

The pages that follow incorporate a great amount of data, and, I hope, analyses that will be helpful to the Board as you examine our proposal. I would draw your attention now to just two specific items.

The first concerns enhancement of faculty at Storrs and the regional campuses. During my eleven years at UConn the University's Storrs-based enrollment has risen from 22,316 to an anticipated 28,866 this Fall. During that period the number of faculty has climbed as well, from 1,106 positions in the Storrs-based programs to 1,300—a rate far lower than the climb in student enrollment. The Board has been concerned, and rightly so, that our student-faculty ratio has climbed above that of other excellent public universities. Last year you endorsed the goal of recruitment of an additional 175 faculty over the next five years, or 35 positions per year.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Gulley Hall
352 Mansfield Road Unit 2048
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-2048

Telephone: (860) 486-2337
Facsimile: (860) 486-2627
e-mail: philip.austin@uconn.edu

Following an intensive advocacy effort, the Connecticut General Assembly approved a \$1 million budget increase for this year for general faculty enhancement, and provided funding for some specifically-directed programs that will entail recruitment of additional professors. This, coupled with some reallocations and other measures, will allow recruitment of an additional 36 faculty this year, just above our initial goal. This is progress, but it is only the first step in what will be a multi-year effort to bring us to where we need to be to assure continued excellence.

The second item of special note relates to the University of Connecticut Health Center. The Board of Trustees, along with the Health Center Board of Directors, is well aware of the “academic gap”—the \$13.5 million needed if we are to continue meeting instructional needs at the highest level of quality. As was discussed in detail over the past year, the “gap” is in part the result of the high, and increasing, cost of education at all major Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, and in part a function of the fact that our hospital is no longer able to generate sufficient funds to assist in the support of instructional needs. This is a large, complex issue, heavily involved in our proposal to build a replacement hospital in Farmington. But in the short term, the General Assembly provided sufficient funds to meet the “gap” for the coming year.

These and other issues will be discussed in detail at our meeting. There will, of course, be ample opportunity for discussion both of the specifics and of the Board’s long-term goals. I look forward to a fruitful dialogue.

I would be remiss if I did not add a personal word of thanks to the many people in the University community who helped prepare this budget and those that came before. I particularly want to acknowledge Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Lorraine Aronson, whose dedication, diligence, and commitment to the University has been an invaluable asset throughout my time at UConn.