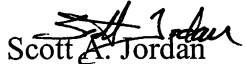


September 26, 2018

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: 
Scott A. Jordan
Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

RE: Development of a new Ice Hockey Arena on the Storrs Campus

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to execute agreements necessary for any portion or all of the design, construction, financing, and operation of a new ice hockey arena on the Storrs campus, provided that the arena meets the minimum requirements of the Hockey East Association, and provided further that, at or before the Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for October 31, 2018 and prior to execution of any agreements relating to the ice hockey arena project, (i) the Chief Financial Officer shall have submitted to the Board of Trustees a Plan of Finance which will include a description of the final scope of the ice hockey rink project, the projected schedule for completion of the project, the projected capital and operating costs of the project, the projected sources and uses of funds to be used to finance construction and operation of the project and related enabling projects and the principal terms of the agreements to be entered into by the University in connection with the project, (ii) the Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee and the Financial Affairs Committee shall have approved the Plan of Finance and (iii) the Plan of Finance shall not have been rejected by the Board of Trustees at its meeting scheduled for October 31, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the University of Connecticut joined the Hockey East Association for Men's and Women's ice hockey. In our acceptance of the offer of membership in Hockey East, dated June 21, 2012, UConn committed to meet the Hockey East requirement of an on-campus arena with a capacity of 4,000 seats, and that construction would begin in 2017. After investigation, the University determined that the existing Freitas Ice Forum cannot be expanded to accommodate the required number of seats, but the locker rooms and training facilities can be updated to current standards.

Subsequently, UConn Athletics has communicated to Hockey East our intention to address locker rooms and training facilities first, and that because Freitas cannot be expanded, our timeline for arena construction would be delayed. The Freitas Ice Forum Renovation and Addition, Phase I, approved by the Board of Trustees in August, 2018, is in the design phase and

includes the renovation of existing public space, locker rooms, coaches' offices, equipment room, and the addition of strength and training spaces.

The University is currently engaged in efforts to further reduce the scope and projected cost of a new arena. The Freitas Ice Forum Renovation and Addition, Phase I project, described above, will eliminate the need to construct locker and training facilities. In September 2018, the University submitted a request of Hockey East to reduce the number of seats in the arena to 2,500, and on September 20, Hockey East approved the University's request.

Concurrent with our efforts to manage the scope and schedule of the project, the University has worked to procure a development partner for construction of a new arena. In September, 2017, the University posted a public Request for Expressions of Interest for development of a new on-campus ice hockey arena. The University received three financial development responses, incorporating design, construction, and financing, and three qualifications-only responses. Interviews with the three full-development respondents were conducted in December, 2017.

Following the agreement with Hockey East on the number of seats, the Chief Financial Officer will submit to the Board of Trustees, before the Board meeting scheduled for October 31, 2018 and prior to execution of any agreements relating to the ice hockey arena project, a Plan of Finance which will include a description of the final scope of the ice hockey arena project, the projected schedule for completion of the project, the projected capital and operating costs of the project, the projected sources and uses of funds to be used to finance construction and operation of the project, and related enabling projects and the principal terms of the agreements to be entered into by the University in connection with the project. The University will proceed with the project if approved by the Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee and the Financial Affairs Committee and the Plan of Finance shall not have been rejected by the Board of Trustees at its meeting scheduled for October 31, 2018.