



September 21, 2022

Board of Trustees
University of Connecticut
352 Mansfield Road, Unit 1048
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-1048

Board of Trustees:

The UConn Labor Coalition (UCLC) is an alliance of the five higher education unions that collectively represent ten thousand faculty, staff, graduate student employees, and postdocs at UConn and UConn Health. We write as a coalition to express our grave concern about the stability and reputation of UConn and the current presidential search process, which has failed to include meaningful participation from faculty, students and staff.

There have been three presidents in the last year and a half. And during that time morale has continued to decline leading to significant turnover of staff, faculty, and administrative leadership positions. UConn is hemorrhaging talent and failing to pick the correct leader a fourth time would be disastrous. We cannot stress enough the gravity of your decision.

The new president must be eminently qualified to lead the university. That means selecting someone who will value and respect all employees, the significant roles they play, and the labor organizations that represent them. It means selecting someone who will foster a culture on campus where students of all identities and backgrounds have access to the resources they need to thrive. And it means selecting someone who appreciates the importance of UConn Health as the only public health system in the state. The residents of Connecticut who rely on and benefit from the essential services provided by UConn and UConn Health deserve nothing less.

If the current candidates do not meet these high expectations, the Board of Trustees must declare a failed search and continue the process until we find a candidate who is qualified to lead Connecticut's flagship university and only public health center with the competence the state, local communities, faculty, staff, patients, and students deserve.

It is also imperative that students, faculty, and staff have a voice in selecting the next President. As such, the Advisory Committee must be more than a formality. This means giving the Advisory Committee a chance to interview an adequate number of candidates, and that the Board of Trustees consider substantive feedback from the Advisory Committee before a decision is made.

We care deeply about this institution and we want to see it thrive. That is why we implore the Board of Trustees to be judicious, and if necessary, patient in selecting the next president.

Sincerely,

UConn Labor Coalition



Kathy Fischer
President

University of Connecticut Professional
Employees Association (UCPEA)



Lauren Dougher
President

UConn Graduate Employee and
Postdoc Union (GEU-UAW)



William Garrity
President

University Health Professionals
(UHP)

Laura
Haynes

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Laura Haynes
President

University of Connecticut Health
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Association of University Professors
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Jeffrey Ogbar
President

University of Connecticut Chapter
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University Professors (UConn-AAUP)

cc: Governor Ned Lamont