

April 18, 2025

TO: Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee  
Members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric   
President

Dr. Anne D'Alleva   
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Innovation Faculty Hires & Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative at the  
University of Connecticut (UConn)

Pursuant to 10a-104c, as amended by Public Act 21-111, *An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes, Establishing the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board, Authorizing State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects and Making Revisions to the School Building Project Statutes*, the University of Connecticut will provide rationale and justification for bond authorizations included in Public Act 21-111 for the University's faculty hiring plan.

The bond funding authorized in Public Act 21-111 followed the enactment of Public Act 19-154, *An Act Concerning Various Initiatives at the University of Connecticut* (now codified as 10a-104c), which encouraged UConn to increase its entrepreneurship and economic development activities and specifically required: (1) The Board of Trustees to develop a new faculty recruitment plan to increase research and new business ventures; (2) UConn's president to oversee development of a plan regarding technology transfer policies and entrepreneurship and innovation at UConn; and (3) UConn's president and Board of Trustees to build and foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at UConn.

In April 2024, UConn completed its Public Act 19-154 requirements by submitting to the General Assembly a bold faculty hiring plan and an aggressive roadmap to improve tech transfer, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Funding provided in Public Act 21-111 represents an effort to provide UConn with the resources needed to implement the aspects of these two plans that will have the greatest impact on Connecticut's economy.

Implementation of the plan is contingent upon approval of the issuance of funds by the State Bond Commission.

The Board of Trustees will submit an updated faculty hiring plan in April 2026 as required by Public Act 21-111.