Mission Statement:

Founded in 1881, the University of Connecticut (UConn) serves as the flagship for higher education and the sole doctoral degree granting public institution in the state. The University serves as a center for research, dedicated to excellence in higher education and fulfillment of its land grant status. It is committed to meeting the educational needs of its undergraduate, graduate, professional and continuing education students and providing its faculty with the means to develop their intellectual capacity through teaching, research and interaction with society. Through the integration of teaching, research and service, the University shall provide an outstanding experience for each student.

Statutory Responsibilities:

The General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and the Morrill Act of the US Congress have charged the University with the responsibility for the education of Connecticut youth in scientific and classical studies, agriculture and mechanic arts and liberal and practical education. General Statutes have given
it “exclusive authority for programs leading to doctoral degrees and post-baccalaureate professional degrees.” Its constitutional mandate, “excellence in higher education”, is accomplished in its traditional triad of academic responsibilities: teaching, research and service. The University has the mission to be the outstanding public university in the nation: a center for learning providing excellence in both teaching and research. It will focus its efforts on ensuring that the student experience fosters the transmission of knowledge and inspires intellectual curiosity in each student. It will serve the state and its citizens in a manner that enhances the social and economic well-being of its communities.

Public Service

The University continues to strengthen the partnership with the state’s industry by developing economic collaborations and applying faculty research expertise to economically relevant problems. The following are some of the services the University assisted in improving the state’s economy. The Health Center and the Hartford Health Care Corporation formed an alliance to augment the number and diversity of educational and research opportunities for the School of Medicine, while expanding access to clinical programs. The 5th Economic Impact Study determined that the UConn Health Center leveraged $80.7 million in direct state support into $389 million in direct economic impact to Connecticut towns and cities. It is estimated that economic activity stimulated by the Health Center supported employment of 16,620 Connecticut residents.

The Critical Technologies Research Program was expanded to cover seven areas: advanced materials, biomedical imaging, biotechnology, drug design, environmental research, marine science and photonics. The Precision Manufacturing Institute (PMI) worked with the Torrington Company on a high speed grinding
machine which placed Connecticut in a leadership role in precision machining. The Environmental Research Institute (ERI) was a key factor in Encap Inc.’s decision to relocate to Connecticut. ERI collaborated with EnCap to develop a lead paint containment system with the potential for a major economic impact in the state’s urban areas. The Photonics Research Center served as the catalyst for the formation of an industry cluster of photonic companies which will improve the environment for high tech businesses in the state.

The Institute for Violence Reduction at the School of Social Work has received a $150,000 grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to implement its method of establishing and maintaining peace between gangs in the city. The W.R. Berkeley Corporation assisted UConn with a generous grant which has allowed the university to launch its “Mentor Connection Program”. The program brings talented high school students from diverse cultural, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds to Storrs for apprentice-base involvement in faculty research. Psychology Professor Jeffrey Fisher was awarded a $2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health to create AIDS education programs for teens. A committee called “Team Connecticut” was formed to stimulate economic development and attract new business to the state.

This past fiscal year saw 44 new inventions and/or discoveries, 18 patent applications, eight United States and foreign patents issued, six new commercial development agreements and income of $457,000 generated by technology transfer.

**Improvements/Achievements 1995-96**

A highlight of the year was a visit to the Storrs campus by the President of the United States – a first in UConn history. President Bill Clinton spoke at the opening of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center to begin the celebration of “50 Years After
Nuremberg: Human Rights and the Rule of the Law. William H. Gray III, a former US Representative from Pennsylvania, who now heads the United Negro College Fund, joined President Clinton, UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright and Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel as leading participants in the four day program to commemorate human rights and the 50th anniversary of the Nuremberg war crime trials. A variety of exhibits, lectures, films and courses were scheduled throughout the year on human rights issues.

UConn 2000 and the Strategic Plan (described in another section) continue to improve the University environment. Through UConn 2000, the University was able to 1) enter the bond market in its own name, 2) enter into a partnership with the state to specifically provide infrastructure funding, and 3) be the first public university in the nation to secure such strong state support.

President Harry J. Hartley announced his resignation as President and, after six years in the position, will return to the faculty as President Emeritus and University Professor. In Hartley’s final commencement as President, over 4,800 degrees were conferred. Commencement speakers were Bill Cosby, Actor and Humorist, and Sanford Cloud, Jr., President and CEO of the National Conference, a major human relations organization founded in 1927. Composer and producer Quincy Jones was given an honorary degree and a musical tribute. Carol A. Fowler, President of Haskins Laboratories, was the speaker for the advanced degree commencement ceremony. There were 10 agricultural associate degrees, 2,941 bachelor’s degrees, 1,243 master’s degrees, 42 professional educational diplomas and 265 doctoral degrees awarded. The Law School had 207 graduates; the featured speaker at its ceremony was Harvard Law School Professor Martha L. Minow. The UConn Health Center held its 25th Commencement where it awarded 82 medicine and 32 dental medicine
doctorates. The following are some of the other major achievements this year:

- Freshmen enrollment was up 7% from last year.
- An endowment matching program made available under UConn 2000 generated match-eligible pledges from private sources of $9.8 million which, when received and matched by the state, will permanently increase UConn’s endowment by $19.6 million. The state’s commitment has been a significant factor in enhancing the University’s fundraising.
- The University spent 21 percent of tuition revenue in student aid, among the best in the country for public institutions. On a per student basis, UConn’s commitment has almost doubled since 1990.
- Dental Medicine School graduates ranked #1 on the National Dental Board exam scores.
- UConn was selected as the site for the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented for a second five-year period. Since 1990 UConn has led the nation in research on identifying and developing the talents and gifts of students, including the economically disadvantaged and other groups traditionally underserved.
- The School of Allied Health Professions’ program in dietetics served as the model for new dietetics programs at universities in the Czech Republic and Moldova.
- UConn led a Southern New England higher education consortium organized to restructure engineering curricula to reflect the widespread defense conversion underway in the nation.
- Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty were awarded external funds of over $17 million for research. The Departments of Molecular and Cell Biology, with $3.2 million, and Marine Sciences, with $3.0 million, were leaders in external funding.
• William Stwalley in Physics chaired the National Research Council’s Committee on Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Science.
• The School of Pharmacy ranked among the top 10 pharmacy schools in the nation, per capita faculty, in securing National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding.
• Five UConn graduate students were awarded Fulbright Scholarships to study abroad. Since 1981, 40 UConn students have received awards, more than twice the overall national average.
• Fine Arts faculty held 400 off-campus events in 90 Connecticut communities with an attendance of over 282,000. In addition, over 400 on-campus events had an attendance of 148,000.
• Jorgensen Auditorium celebrated its 40th anniversary.
• 100 years of Husky baseball and football, the oldest UConn sports, were celebrated.
• The Women’s Polo Team won the 1996 National Intercollegiate Championship.
• Ray Allen was selected as USA Basketball’s 1995 Male Athlete of the Year.
• Cooperative Extension System programs in environmental education, family and consumer education, nutrition and food safety, sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, and other topics reached an estimated 67,000 state residents.
• The Schools of Nursing, Medicine, and Dental Medicine together initiated a Center for Health Policy and Primary Care.
• The first four-year degree program at the West Hartford Campus was created in Urban Studies.
• A master’s degree program in Judaic studies was begun through a consortial relationship with University of Hartford and with the assistance of Trinity College and Wesleyan University. The program is the first of its kind in Connecticut and one of about 30 in the country.
• The School of Business Administration was reaccredited; it is the only school of business in Connecticut that has earned accreditation across the full spectrum of programs, including undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degree programs. It also has the only fully accredited, public university accounting program in New England.

Reducing Waste

This past fiscal year was no exception to UConn’s commitment to reduce waste. Major savings in personnel costs were realized through a retirement incentive program which resulted in 101 faculty, staff and managers opting to retire by June 1997.

The University identified approximately $7 million in total reductions since July 1995 as part of the University of Connecticut Health System’s reengineering. This brings the total identified savings to $17 million.

The University’s Financial Record System Purchasing Module (FRS Plus) was redesigned to help the University issue purchase orders to external vendors: to reduce the time it takes to process the paperwork when ordering and to gain better service and pricing. The University also restructured the accounts payable process to ensure prompt payment discounts from vendors. This re-organization resulted in $83,000 in savings in just nine months. By identifying competitive suppliers and standardizing purchasing procedures, in such things as computers, the University was able to save almost $2 million.

A special committee appointed by the Chancellor called the Management Information System Task Force (MIS) has been charged with developing definitions for frequently used data elements, establishing accurate numbers and accessible sources for commonly used data, and consolidating information systems.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved President Hartley’s proposal to revamp the University’s central management
structure, enabling him to spend more time on external relations and policy issues while passing day-to-day operations to the newly established positions of Chancellor of University Affairs and Chancellor of Health Affairs and to other administrators. This streamlined operations, eliminated duplication and established clear lines of responsibility and authority.

Babbidge Library now offers electronic reserve material as an alternative to copies kept on file in the reserve room. This saves space and time when students and the community need a particular reserve item.

**Strategic Planning**

A new vision of the University began to materialize as the General Assembly and the Board of Trustees completed blueprints for the renaissance of Connecticut’s flagship university. The Board’s vision of renewal for the University was outlined in the Strategic Plan, adopted in February of 1995 with 8 Strategic Goals, 45 objectives, and some 200 action items. Of the Board’s many Strategic Goals and related objectives, the following organizing themes reflected initial priorities: fiscal responsibility and stability; outstanding students, faculty and staff; an exciting and engaging undergraduate experience; partners for Connecticut’s future; and enhancing the physical environment.

Substantial progress has been made this fiscal year in implementing the Strategic Plan. The 34-member President’s Advisory Committee established 10 task forces charged with recommending implementation strategies. Reports have been developed for Center for Undergraduate Education, Extended and Continuing Education, Multicultural Affairs, Outreach, Regional Campus, Research, Undergraduate Learning Experience and Resource Allocation. The Facilities Master Plan and the Program Assessment Process are being developed.
The General Assembly’s blueprint was Public Act 95-230, An Act to Enhance the Infrastructure of the University of Connecticut, the law that has come to be known as UConn 2000. UConn 2000 represents the $1 billion, as well as the responsibility and accountability, that Connecticut’s citizens decided to invest in the University in the coming decade. Although the Board’s vision of renewal for the University set the context and direction for the capital rebuilding program, the legislature’s support turned that vision into the bricks and mortar of lecture halls, research labs, and dormitories.

Phase I of UConn 2000 has already begun. On February 6, 1996, the University entered the bond market with an $83.9 million General Obligation issue secured by the state debt service commitment. Phase I projects include: construction of the new Chemistry Building, various deferred maintenance projects, equipment replacement and upgrades, the Stamford Downtown relocation, a study of the feasibility of relocating the West Hartford campus to Hartford, and Graduate Student housing renovations at Mansfield Apartment Complex.

The following are some of the other major achievements this year which have been, and continue to be, accomplished under UConn 2000:

- Physical enhancements have been taking place all over the Storrs campus, with installation of sidewalks, paving stones, and durable granite curbing.
- Exterior physical enhancements are continuing with facade repairs, window replacements, roof repairs/replacement for Beach, Wood and Manchester Halls and for Towers and Northwest Quad dorms.
- Classroom renovations continue in the Arjona and Torrey Life Sciences buildings. The School of Business Lecture Hall and classrooms in several other buildings have been scheduled for renovations.
• Construction has begun on the renovations to the Field House. Once completed, the facility will accommodate women’s athletic programs, which have been expanded since the passing of Title IX legislation, and the growth in intramural and recreational activities.

• The old South Campus residence halls have been demolished and new dorms will be constructed and equipped to bring state-of-the-art technology directly to the dorm rooms. Occupancy is planned for Fall 1998.

• Four new shuttle buses have been ordered. These buses will be accessible to physically challenged students.

• Demolition and asbestos removal activities for the Stamford Downtown Relocation project are out to bid.

**Diversity Enhancement**

The University engages in a variety of activities and efforts to promote and support a diverse and pluralistic environment for students and employees, including: Asian Awareness Month, Black History Month, Latino Awareness Month, Women’s History Month, Women in the Arts Program, and Multicultural Awareness Week, lecture series sponsored by ethnic studies institutes, and annual awards to faculty and staff by the President for “Promoting Multiculturalism and Affirmative Action”. Other activities to enhance diversity included: a year-long celebration of “50 Years After Nuremberg: Human Rights and the Law”; recommendations from a task force on an Office of Multicultural Affairs to focus on curricula development, recruitment and retention, and coordination of multicultural goals through the University; implementation of the President’s ADA Task Force recommendations; ranking 5th among all State agencies in annual expenditures and 2nd in total expenditures to women and minority-owned businesses - over $17 million; Affirmative Action Plan approval by CT CHRO for the 11th
consecutive time; and enhanced diversity and curriculum development in the Schools of Business Administration and Engineering through a $500,000 donation from the GE Fund that will assist in developing a cross-disciplinary, graduate level program focusing on technology intensive manufacturing and service enterprises, hiring a diversity scholar in business, and creating mini-professorships for minority and female engineering undergraduates.

Minority student enrollment at all levels and campus locations, including the professional schools, was 13.5 percent, with full-time undergraduate enrollment at 15.2 percent and full-time graduate enrollment at 10.9 percent. Some 86 countries were represented among the 105 undergraduate and 1,029 graduate international students. The 20th annual Day of Pride Scholarship Awards Banquet again honored outstanding minority high school seniors in the state, with the top 15 students offered early admission and full four-year scholarships. The Law School hosted its 19th annual Minority Law Day to stimulate interest among minority persons in the study of law. The full-time work force of 3,771 (as reported in the University’s Affirmative Action Plan) included 12.7 percent minority faculty and staff. With these and many other programs and initiatives, the University continues to promote and enhance its diversity.