The University of Connecticut

Philip E. Austin, President
Mark A. Emmert, Chancellor for University Affairs
Leslie S. Cutler, Chancellor for Health Affairs

Established in 1881
Statutory Authority Chapter 185b, General Statutes
Route 195, Storrs, Conn. 06269

Number of full-time employees: 2,365 (Health Center)
Recurring Operating Expenditures: 1996-97 $316,713,091 (Health Center)

Organizational Structure: Public State University

Mission Statement:
The vision, mission and values articulated in the University of Connecticut's Strategic Plan are briefly summarized as follows: The University of Connecticut aspires to be the outstanding public university in the nation...a center for lifelong learning which excels in both teaching and research...a diverse community whose values promote mutual respect, inspire intellectual curiosity and encourages service to society...an environment that fosters academic and artistic achievement as well as productive and responsible student life...an institution with a global perspective that recognizes its special obligation to enhance the quality of life and economic well-being of Connecticut.

Statutory Responsibilities:
The General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and the Morrill Act of the US Congress have charged the University of Connecticut (UConn) 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.

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. In Norwalk, CT two engineering students and a professor of Mechanical Engineering worked closely with engineers at US Surgical Corporation to design and develop medical devices for the company. This two-year design program exemplifies how a public-private partnership can be a terrific learning experience. This year alone there have been five private companies applying for patents on projects which were designed by UConn students.

Ellen Cromley, an associate professor of geography, uses digital maps to help fight Lyme disease, monitor public drinking water and support HIV/AIDS education efforts. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Cromley has worked closely with several sectors of the state Department of Public Health. Armed with GIS, Cromley has also contributed to projects examining the distribution of childhood lead poisoning, birth defects, cancer, teen births and AIDS cases. State officials use the information to assess the distribution of health problems in the state and evaluate programs.

With habitat destruction a serious threat to wildlife, the University is stepping up its efforts to protect the natural environment through the creation of the Wildlife Conservation Research Center. The center will conduct scientific research that addresses the ecological needs of wildlife populations and their habitats. Its goals include enhancing public knowledge of conservation issues, encouraging environmentally sound management
techniques, and promoting cooperation among all facets of society for wildlife conservation. Its initial focus will be on Long Island Sound.

Researchers at the UConn Health Center have identified the gene causing a form of glaucoma in newborns and infants. Mansoor Sarfarazi, an associate professor in the Dept. of Surgery, led the work which has made it possible to test blood for the abnormal gene. Significant research will be required for further development and trials for efficiency, but his discovery means development is now likely. The report of the discovery is carried in the April issue of Human Molecular Genetics.

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

The University saw many highlights and achievements this past year. Among them was the inauguration of UConn's 13th President, Philip E. Austin in April of 1997. In Austin’s first commencement as President, over 4,800 degrees were conferred. Robert W. Fiondella, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Phoenix Home Mutual Insurance Company was the keynote speaker for 2,846 undergraduates. David Lee, a Cornell University physicist, UConn alumnus and co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in physics addressed the 1,325 master's degree candidates, 252 doctoral students and 21 educators who received their sixth year certificate. State Supreme Court Justice, Joette Katz, addressed 225 law school graduates at the graduation ceremonies. Doctor of Medicine degrees were presented to 84 students and Doctor of Dental Medicine degrees were awarded to 39 aspiring dentists during the 26th UConn Health Center Commencement. Health Center graduates were addressed by Sherwin
Nuland, author of the critically acclaimed *How We Die*, and a former surgeon at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev ended the University’s year-long commemoration of human rights with resounding support for democracy in Russia and a plea to rise against aggression and conflict around the world. The 1990 Nobel Peace Prize winner has been credited with bringing an end to the Cold War and a half century of distrust and suspicion. Gorbachev ended the celebrations of “50 Years After Nuremberg: Human Rights and the Rule of the Law” with pleas to spread the roots of democracy throughout the former Soviet Union. A variety of exhibits, lectures, films and courses were scheduled throughout the year on human rights issues.

The University was at the center of two Nobel Prizes in October 1996. UConn alumnus David M. Lee ’55 received the Nobel Prize in physics for his discovery of superfluidity in helium-3. Richard E. Smalley, the Gene and Norman Hackerman Professor of Chemistry and a professor of physics at Rice University in Texas, was on campus to deliver a lecture when the news that he had won the Nobel Prize in chemistry was announced. The following are some of the other major achievements this year:

- Two UConn students have been selected Goldwater Scholars, the most prestigious award for undergraduates in Math and Science. Jaren Madden, an ecology and evolutionary biology major, and Michelle Harris, who is majoring in molecular and cell biology, were among 282 winners in a national competition. The Goldwater Scholarship program, named for the late Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, is designed to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of math, engineering and the natural sciences.
- Storrs freshmen enrollment was up 7.1% from last year.
The freshmen class of 1996 included 7 Nutmeg Scholars, 55 Presidential Scholars, 72 Chancellor Scholars, 11 Day of Pride students and 35 Leadership Scholars.

The University was only 1 of 3 public research institutions nationwide to receive the Council for Advancement and Support of Education 1997 Circle of Excellence in Education Fund-Raising Award. The award honors outstanding fund-raising programs across the country. It was based on fund-raising results from fiscal year 1996, when the UConn Foundation reported a 62% increase in total private contributions.

The UConn Puppet Arts Program will receive the Puppeteers of America Award for its prestigious and long-standing program for puppeteers, its distinction as the only puppet arts training program in which students can earn a bachelor of fine arts, master of arts, master of fine arts, and its Museum of Puppetry. UConn graduates have gone on to work with Jim Henson Productions, Steven Spielberg Productions and Walt Disney Productions. Their work appeared in such films as Jurassic Park and Batman Returns.

The Board of Trustees approved a new master’s degree in Insurance Law, enabling the School of Law’s Insurance Law Center to continue its efforts to meet industry and academic needs.

The University Festival Chorus and Orchestra, under the directions of Dr. Peter Bagley, performed Durugle’s Requiem, Op. 9 in Carnegie Hall on June 22, 1997. The group was invited to perform because of its excellent reputation through a special invitation from MidAmerican Productions.

A UConn engineering professor, Anthony DeMaria, whose research opened new instrumentation opportunities for monitoring the behavior of atoms and molecules has been elected to the National Academy of Science (NAS), a rare honor achieved by only 80 engineers in the nation.
• The women's polo team won the national championship for the second consecutive year.

• Four faculty members have received prestigious research awards from the U.S. Navy, Army, Air Force and the National Science Foundation. Nintin P. Padture, Ranga Pitchumani and Lang Tong were awarded Young Investigator Grants by the Navy. Only 34 such grants are presented nationwide, so three won by UConn faculty is a remarkable achievement. Padture also received a grant from the National Science Foundation and from the Air Force’s Office of Scientific Research. Fred L. Ogden received a Young Investigator Grant from the U.S. Army.

• The University’s Precision Manufacturing Center has received a $2 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The grant will be used to construct a building that will house facilities for the Precision Manufacturing Center and space for start-up manufacturing businesses.

• Two graduate students and one undergraduate have been selected as this year’s Gant Scholars. Julia McQuillan, a doctoral candidate in sociology, and Kam Wing Tang, a doctoral student in oceanography are the two graduate winners. Kandree Kicks, a rising senior majoring in Spanish and cultural politics is this year’s undergraduate Gant Scholar. The Gant Scholarships, named for Edward V. Gant, a former provost and professor of civil engineering, are open to students from all the schools and colleges of the university. They are awarded on the basis of academic excellence, professional potential, dedicated service and personal integrity.

• UConn and five other universities in the United States, Canada and Mexico will work together in a new North American Free Trade (NAFTA) Agreement program in 1997. The three year Canada-Mexico-U.S. (CAMUS) academic exchange project will
enable UConn students to study in Canada or Mexico and even land an internship there while earning college credit.

- Eugene Thomas, a professor of human development and family relations, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to conduct research on the elderly in Turkey.

- A graduate student in marine sciences has been selected as a prestigious Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow, and will spend a year in Washington, D.C., working with a White House science program. Christos Michalopoulos of Montville was among 24 applicants selected nationwide to participate in the policy fellowship, which is part of the National Sea Grant College Federal Fellows program. The fellows spend a year in Washington working on marine policy issues with a member of Congress or with an executive agency.

- The University has received a $650,000 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education to support graduate students in the School of Education’s doctoral program. The grant will support eight students a year for four years. The grant is just one of 10 awards nationally this year in the field of special education. “This grant confirms UConn’s status as one of the premier teacher education programs in the country,” said Stan Shaw, a professor of educational psychology and the principal investigator in the project.

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 has made great strides toward the 21st century and toward the goal of reducing bureaucratic waste. Class directories have recently become available on the World Wide Web, as well as on-line diploma registrations and a listing
of key dates for registration. Students are also now able to access transcripts dating back to 1973, along with current semester schedules and unofficial transcripts. A ranking of the nation’s “most wired” colleges places UConn third among public universities - and the University is 17th overall in rankings published in the May issue of *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine. The rankings cover a number of criteria, from the number of student-owned computers and the number of computer ports available, to the range of course materials offered on line and the availability of e-mail and other online student services.

Construction has begun on the first parking garage at the Storrs campus. The facility will consist of 5 levels and hold up to 1,030 vehicles.

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. This past fiscal year saw the implementation of

Under the strategic plan initiatives (discussed in detail in the next section) the university has moved to a model that makes the deans, directors and department heads accountable for their own budgets. This action allows individual departments to be responsible for their own budgets, and reduces the amount of paper handled between offices.

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. In review of the quality of its academic programs, the University has deployed a mandatory program assessment process. The purpose is to evaluate program quality, assess program need, identify opportunities for program development and improvement, and guide allocation and reallocation decisions. Each evaluation is based on self-assessment and external evaluation. Program assessment began this semester (Spring 97) with the departments of history, economics, modern and classical languages, chemistry, environmental research and precision manufacturing.

The strategic plan calls for a center for Undergraduate Education, combining programs and elements to strengthen undergraduate education at UConn. Conceptually, that includes a
greater emphasis on active learning in and out of the classroom; reducing reliance on passive lectures; expanded seminar and small-scale interactions with faculty; more independent research opportunities; greater integration of technology into instruction; increased group-learning and interaction; a strong network for academic and social support; integration of living and learning; and clearer communication of the University’s values and expectations about academic and social life.

The most obvious sign of progress on campus is construction. With master plan designs to be completed by the fall, one of the strategic plan’s primary components is how the University will look – and how the other goals will fit in with those new buildings. The administration has established new goals for new buildings. They must be accessible and user-friendly, durable and flexible for programmatic changes, and aesthetically pleasing.

Under the strategic plan, the Task Force on Regional Campuses has big plans for the five regional campuses. Within the next decade, they will evolve to offer more programs and improve access for students across Connecticut who cannot come to Storrs for financial or family reasons. The campuses – Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford, Torrington and Waterbury – will become more integrated with the Storrs campus by providing selected four-year programs and courses that will enable students to finish their UConn education close to home.

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. All projects in Phase I of the Strategic Plan are on time and on budget.

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

- The addition to seats in the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion was finished a year ahead of schedule. And renovations to the field house are expected to be completes in July 1997, a month ahead of schedule.
- A new 199,000 square foot chemistry building is underway of completion.
- A Boston construction company with a wealth of experience in building university and hotel complexes has been named the general contractor for the new $36 million South Campus residence halls. Suffolk Construction Co., a 100 year old family firm, submitted the low bid on the four-building complex, which includes housing for nearly 700 students and a 70,000 square foot dining hall and conference center. The project is expected to be completed by September 1988.
- The relocation of the Stamford Campus to the downtown area will establish a full, four-year undergraduate campus focusing on business, communication sciences, mathematics and biology is 25% complete.
- Installation of smoke detectors, conversion of two units for handicapped access, replacement of oil-fired furnaces and hot water heaters with gas units, installation of pitched roof canopies and kitchen improvements have taken place in the Mansfield Apartments.

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 Diversity and Multiculturalism”. Other activities to enhance diversity included: conclusion of a year-long celebration of “50 Years After Nuremberg: Human Rights and the Law” that was launched with a visit by President Clinton for the dedication of the Thomas J. Dodd Center; a search for Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs, reporting to the Chancellor and Provost for University Affairs, who will focus on curricula development, recruitment and retention, and coordination of multicultural goals throughout the University; continuing implementation of the President’s ADA Task Force recommendations, including preparation for an institutional academic self-evaluation, development of University standards for new building construction and renovations, and writing a policy for handling employee requests for reasonable accommodations; maintaining a high ranking among State agencies in annual expenditures and total expenditures to women and minority-owned businesses; Affirmative Action Plan approved by CT CHRO for the 12th 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, hire of a diversity scholar in business, and create mini-professorships for minority and female engineering undergraduates.
Minority student enrollment at all levels and campus locations, including the professional schools, was 13.9%, with full-time undergraduate enrollment at 15.2% and full-time graduate enrollment at 11.6%. Over 94 countries were represented among the 1,175 undergraduate and graduate international students. The 21st 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 20th annual Minority Law Day to stimulate interest among minority persons in the study of law. The full-time work force of 3,821 (as reported in the University’s Affirmative Action Plan) included 13.2% minority faculty and staff. With these and many other programs and initiatives, the University continues to promote and enhance its diversity.