


September 27, 2017

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

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

RE: Notice to Board of Trustees and the Public that the University is Considering the Adoption of Procurement Policies Pursuant to Public Act No. 17-130

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt procurement policies, pursuant to Public Act No. 17-130, to provide the University of Connecticut with the option to enter into certain contracts for the purchase of goods and services or to lease personal property using procurement procedures that differ from those prescribed in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-151b(b). Drafts of the proposed policies are attached.

This memorandum is to notify the Board, interested persons, and the general public that the University is considering the adoption of the proposed policies and will be accepting comments.

BACKGROUND:

On June 30, 2017, Public Act No. 17-130 (“Act”) was signed into law. The Act authorizes the Board of Trustees to adopt policies that would allow UConn to enter into certain contracts for the purchase of goods and services or to lease personal property using procurement procedures that differ from those prescribed in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-151b(b). UConn supported this legislation during the 2017 Regular Legislative Session, as did the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The purpose of the legislation was to enable certain contracting activities undertaken by higher education institutions to be performed more efficiently and effectively.

The proposed procurement policies would cover contracts for the purchase of goods and services or the lease of personal property that (1) are made outside the United States and used abroad; (2) are made as part of a collaboration agreement; or (3) do not involve the expenditure of state or certain institutional funds.

The Act requires the Board to provide “a reasonable opportunity for interested persons to present their views on such policies prior to adoption.” This requirement is similar to the process used to amend UConn’s By-Laws, which requires that notice be provided at one Board meeting and action be taken at a subsequent meeting.

The proposed policies have been, or will be, posted to the Procurement Services webpage. Anyone interested in commenting on the proposed policies can submit written comments on the webpage or by mail to an address provided on the webpage. Comments will be accepted for thirty days following posting.

NOTIFICATION

The Board of Trustees invites all interested persons to review the proposed policies and submit written comments through a Procurement Services webpage developed for this purpose (<http://contracting.uconn.edu/draft-policies-comment-submission-form/>) or by mailing their comments to the address listed on the webpage.

The administration will collect and summarize the comments. The administration may, after reviewing the comments and making any appropriate changes, present the policies to the Board for adoption at one of its regularly scheduled meetings. Prior to adopting the policies, the Board will allow the public to provide additional comments during the public participation portion of that meeting.

A copy of this notice will be posted on UConn’s Procurement Services website no later than noon September 28, 2017 and will remain posted until the Board puts the approval of such policies on the agenda for a regular Board meeting.

Attachments: Draft Policy for Purchases for Use Abroad
Draft Policy for Purchases Made Using Outside Funds
Draft Policy for Purchasing Through Collaboration Contracts