

Expanded Campaign Statement – Dr. Robert W. Makuch

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve as an informed and effective Alumni Trustee on UConn's Board of Trustees. This impactful position aligns with my long-term commitment to UConn, supporting its exceptional faculty, alumni, and students. My ten-year membership on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's External Advisory Board, receiving a Distinguished Alumni Award, establishing two endowed funds, and extensive participation in UConn's educational, social, and athletic activities have all prepared me for this important role.

I possess a wealth of experience serving in various leadership positions at the local, national, and international levels. Notable activities include being an invited member of the O.T.A. Congress Working Group on Unconventional Treatments, serving as the Head of the Biostatistics and Data Management Section at the National Cancer Institute, and directing the Yale Regulatory Affairs Track. Locally, I collaborated with non-profit organizations to address economic and food instability. Internationally, I established a core facility at the first translational healthcare research center in Fukuoka, Japan, in collaboration with Fukuoka University and IBM. Additionally, I spearheaded an initiative to implement best practices for clinical trial conduct and analysis at the National Cancer Center in Tokyo, Japan. Finally, I have served on several international corporate boards.

In all these leadership roles, I focused on strategic thinking and setting long-term goals while collaborating effectively with organizational members. My objectives included building trust through personal integrity, maintaining an innovative mindset, making informed decisions, and promoting transparent communication. These principles are foundational to my approach in all aspects of my work.

Moreover, my extensive knowledge of UConn, gained from ten years on the CLAS Dean's External Advisory Board, has allowed me to engage in strategic discussions about significant future-oriented issues affecting CLAS. We addressed challenges facing CLAS and explored emerging educational trends. Topics of discussion included curriculum development and refinement, faculty hiring and retention for future growth, staff concerns, student life both on and off campus, effective planning and review of coursework and practical experiences for maximizing each student's future potential as an alumnus, budgeting, and integrating regional and community campuses into a holistic approach for adult education in Connecticut.

My long-term involvement with UConn has given me a comprehensive understanding of CLAS's numerous and complex challenges within the broader University context. My Board membership has enabled me to witness how UConn identifies its challenges, proposes and finalizes solutions, and executes successful outcomes in addressing complex issues. These past experiences and my deep passion for enhancing the flagship University's reputation for academic excellence have prepared me well to effectively represent the alumni.

Finally, my thirty-eight years as a tenured faculty member at Yale University have provided me with invaluable insights into the myriad challenges universities face and the strategies employed to address them. I want to leverage this unique blend of experience and wisdom to benefit the UConn Board of Trustees during these challenging times.