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Dear Governing Board Member:

As a nonprofit committed to preserving academic excellence, academic freedom, and accountability in higher education, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) understands that budget deficits pose a daunting task for university leadership. The future of the University of Connecticut may well depend on the willingness of its trustees to make clear decisions about academic priorities and spending.

When faced with a budget deficit, one of the most important questions trustees must ask is how can the institution meet the same (or better) standards of success while reducing its level of spending? The answer is not sweeping or broad-based budget cuts across the institutional landscape. This will undoubtedly have a negative effect on teaching and learning. Rather, boards need to be intentional and strategic about their expenditures and fund allocations.

For over 28 years, ACTA has worked with trustees and public officials across the country to ensure that all Americans can receive a high-quality education at an affordable price. In this spirit, I would like to share with you an ACTA guide authored by Dr. Robert C. Dickeson entitled, *Setting Academic Priorities: A Guide to What Boards of Trustees Can Do*. This guide explains both why and how trustees should prioritize academic programs at their institutions and provides a framework for establishing academic review policies.

Warm regards,

Armand Alacbay,
Chief of Staff and SVP of Strategy

Enclosures

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