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Office of The Attorney General State of Connecticut

October 23, 2013

Susan Herbst, President University of Connecticut Office of the President 352 Mansfield Road, Unit 1048 Storrs, CT 06269-1048

Dear President Herbst:

In a follow up letter to this Office's formal opinion dated October 17, 2013, you have inquired whether the conclusion of that opinion -- that Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4b-21(a) empowers the University of Connecticut ("UConn") to acquire or dispose of land or interests in land without preapproval of the State's Office of Policy and Management ("OPM") and the State Properties Review Board ("SPRB") -- is confined to situations when the General Assembly is not in session. Additionally you ask whether UConn in any such circumstances must seek approval from certain joint standing committees of the General Assembly for such transactions.

As reflected in the opinion's discussion of the meaning of the term "directly" in § 4b-21(a), the purpose of the UConn 2000 Act (P.A. 95-230), and the relevant legislative history, please be advised that in our opinion UConn's authority to acquire or dispose of land or interests therein is not contingent on the General Assembly being out of session. In particular, UConn's independent authority to acquire or dispose of real estate is explicitly set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-109d(7) with respect to UConn 2000 projects. The exception covering UConn contained in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4b-21(a), passed as part of the UConn 2000 Act, extended such autonomy to non-UConn 2000 projects. For the same reasons, relevant joint standing committees of the General Assembly need not be consulted. However, consistent with the final sentence of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4b-21(c), the State Treasurer should continue to sign such instruments to ensure compliance with federal tax laws insofar as lands or

interests in land to be disposed of may have been acquired with the proceeds of tax exempt bonds.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE JEPSEN ATTORNEY GENERAL