



RESOLUTION

designating

WILLIAM A. O'NEILL

to fill

THE WILLIAM A. O'NEILL ENDOWED CHAIR  
IN PUBLIC POLICY AND PRACTICAL POLITICS

at

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

July 14, 2000

WHEREAS, Central Connecticut State University has achieved \$1,000,000.00 in subscriptions to support the establishment of The William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics, and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System has approved the establishment of the Center for Public Policy and Practical Politics and so designated it as a Connecticut higher education center of excellence, and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System has approved an application to the Board of Governors for Higher Education for the establishment of the William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics, and

WHEREAS, Section 10a-20a of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System shall "select candidates to fill the endowed chair and shall develop a budget for expenditures associated with the chair," and

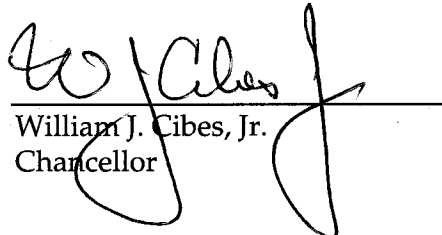
WHEREAS, In order to recognize the extremely generous contributions from the private sector and general support for the creation of the William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics, it is appropriate to fill the William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics at this time, and

WHEREAS, The endowed chair should be filled by a public figure who has fulfilled the highest ideals of distinguished public service, and who is recognized for an outstanding contribution to the understanding and shaping of public affairs at the state or local level, and

WHEREAS, The President of Central Connecticut State University, Richard Judd, has recommended that the endowed chair be filled by former Governor William A. O'Neill, who holds the title of Central Connecticut State University Honorary Professor, and

- WHEREAS, Governor O'Neill, a former CCSU student himself, dedicated his career to serving the citizens of the State of Connecticut, and
- WHEREAS, Governor O'Neill was Connecticut's longest-serving governor in modern times (1980-1991), and
- WHEREAS, Governor O'Neill reorganized Connecticut's system of Higher Education, created the Connecticut State University System, and made our public universities and colleges a model for the nation, and
- WHEREAS, Governor O'Neill established the Education Enhancement Act, to make Connecticut's teachers the best trained and paid in the nation, and
- WHEREAS, Governor O'Neill's demonstrated compassion, deep understanding of people, and personal experiences in politics bring an academic dimension to the classroom that cannot be found in textbooks, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System designates William A. O'Neill, Central Connecticut State University Honorary Professor, to fill the William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics at Central Connecticut State University, pending approval of state funding for the Chair by the Board of Governors.

A Certified True Copy:

  
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William J. Cibes, Jr.  
Chancellor

**ITEM**

Designating William A. O'Neill to fill the Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics established at Central Connecticut State University.

**BACKGROUND**

Under the provisions of Section 10a-20a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Governors of Higher Education may establish and administer an Endowed Chair Investment Fund. Applications for the establishment of endowed chairs are accepted by the Board of Governors on April 1 and October 1 in each year funds are available.

In a separate action the CSU Board of Trustees is expected to approve a request by CCSU to submit an application for the establishment of an Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics at Central Connecticut State University.

Section 10a-20a also provides that the Board of Trustees "shall select candidates to fill the endowed chair and shall develop a budget for expenditures associated with the chair." Board Resolution #99-46 outlines the procedure to be followed by the universities to comply with this statutory requirement.

**ANALYSIS**

President Richard Judd of Central Connecticut State University has recommended that the endowed chair be filled, at no additional compensation, by William A. O'Neill, former Governor of the State of Connecticut. The materials submitted by CCSU in support of this recommendation meet the provisions of Board Resolution #99-46 and provide compelling evidence to support the University's objective that the endowed chair should be filled by a public figure who has fulfilled the highest ideals of distinguished public service, and who is recognized for an outstanding contribution to the understanding and shaping of public affairs at the state or local level. As CCSU's materials demonstrate, Governor O'Neill dedicated his career to serving the citizens of the State of Connecticut and was Connecticut's longest-serving governor in modern times (1980-1991). He also was responsible for the reorganization of Connecticut's system of Higher Education and the creation of the Connecticut State University System. His selection as the initial occupant of the endowed chair in public policy and practical politics at CCSU is highly appropriate.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the recommendation that William A. O'Neill fill the Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics at Central Connecticut State University, following approval of funding for the establishment of the Chair by the Board of Governors.

Schedule B

**WILLIAM A. O'NEILL**

William Atchison O'Neill, of East Hampton, was inaugurated as the 84<sup>th</sup> Governor of Connecticut on December 31, 1980.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut on August 11, 1930 to the late Frances and Joseph O'Neill, "Billy" O'Neill was raised in East Hampton, where his parents ran a neighborhood restaurant-tavern, named O'Neill's.

Mr. O'Neill attended New Britain Teacher's College (which evolved into Central Connecticut State University), and the University of Hartford. In 1950, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a combat flyer in the Korean War.

In 1954, Mr. O'Neill won election to the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee, where he continued to serve as a member for the next 25 years.

In 1966, Mr. O'Neill was elected to the State House of Representatives from the 52<sup>nd</sup> House District, then re-elected in 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974 and 1976. During his tenure in the House, he served as Assistant Majority Leader in the 1971 and 1972 sessions, Assistant Minority Leader in the 1973 and 1974 sessions, and as Majority Leader in the 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 sessions.

Mr. O'Neill was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1978. On December 31, 1980, he was inaugurated as the 84<sup>th</sup> Governor of Connecticut, succeeding Ella T. Grasso, who had resigned for health reasons. He was elected to a four-year term as governor in 1982, and re-elected to a second four-year term in 1986.

Mr. O'Neill has received numerous honors and awards, including: the American Legion, Department of Connecticut Award for Outstanding Legislative Leadership; the Distinguished Humanitarian Award of the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center; and the Ella T. Grasso Award for outstanding contributions to the growth and development of Connecticut Hospice. He has received Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees from Fairfield University, the University of New Haven, Briarwood College, the University of Hartford and the University of Bridgeport. The Connecticut State University Board of Trustees designated Mr. O'Neill an Honorary Professor of Political Science at Central Connecticut State University.

Since 1962, Mr. O'Neill has been married to the former Natalie (Nikki) Scott Damon. The O'Neills reside at their home on a lake in East Hampton.