



RESOLUTION

concerning

THE USE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

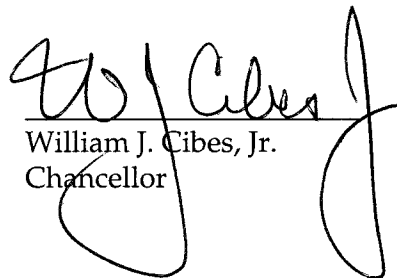
June 8, 2001

WHEREAS, Section 1-263 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that, "a state agency may allow any governmental record created, owned, used, distributed, or maintained by such agency to be signed with an electronic signature", and that such signature is to be considered a validly enforceable original signature, and

WHEREAS, The only exclusions to this statute pertain to wills and codicils, conveyances of land, and conveyances of real property pursuant to a power of attorney, as described in Section 1-261 of the Connecticut General Statutes, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That wherever the word "signature" appears in an existing or future resolution passed by the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System, that signature may be electronic in nature, except for the exclusions provided for in Section 1-261 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

A Certified True Copy:


William J. Cibes, Jr.
Chancellor

ITEM

The use of electronic signatures

BACKGROUND

In 1999, the General Assembly approved Public Act No. 99-155, later codified as Sections 1-260 through 1-265 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), which provided for the use of electronic signatures on state records. The public act stated that, "a state agency may allow any governmental record created, owned, used, distributed or maintained by such agency to be signed with an electronic signature." In addition, the act stated that an electronic signature could be certified as an original signature, and that electronic signatures are valid and enforceable. The only exclusions to the use of electronic signatures pertain to wills and codicils, conveyances of land, and conveyances of real property pursuant to a power of attorney. Section 1-260 of the CGS defines a "Signature" as, "...an identifying symbol, sound, or process of a record in whole or in part that is executed or adopted by a person as part of the record." "Electronic signature" is defined as, "...any signature in electronic form, attached to or logically associated with an electronic record", such as a password or PIN number, or an authorization created because of the use of a password or PIN number.

ANALYSIS

As technology has progressed, more and more university business, as well as business everywhere, is done electronically. Electronic signatures have become commonplace, and are an accepted form of signature, not only in state government, but in the federal government as well. This resolution will expand the definition of the word "signature" in existing Board of Trustees resolutions, as well as future resolutions, to include electronic signatures.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the interpretation of the word "signature" in existing and future Board resolutions to include electronic signatures.