



Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#04-60



RESOLUTION

concerning

CONTINUATION OF THE WEATHER CENTER
AT

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

November 4, 2004

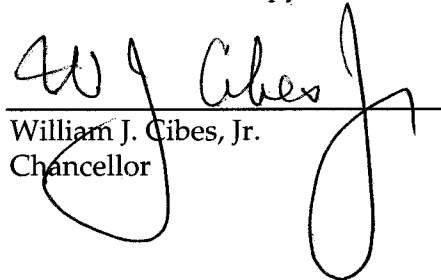
WHEREAS, The Weather Center was established at Western Connecticut State University by Board Resolution 81-28, and

WHEREAS, The President of Western Connecticut State University has evaluated the work of the Center and has recommended its continuation, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System authorizes the continuation of the Weather Center at Western Connecticut State University and requires that the President of Western submit a report to the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System evaluating the performance of the Center and recommending continuance or discontinuance by September 1, 2009, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Weather Center at Western Connecticut State University has a sunset date of December 31, 2009, unless the Board of Trustees acts to the contrary.

A Certified True Copy:


William J. Cibes, Jr.
Chancellor

ITEM

Continuing the Weather Center at Western Connecticut State University

BACKGROUND

The Weather Center was established in 1981 at Western Connecticut State University. In 1999 its administrative status was changed to support the dual focus of Weather Center and Weather Center Science Lab. The Center is a client-centered weather forecasting enterprise that runs independent of the university; the Science Lab is an academic science laboratory and is an integral of the degree program in meteorology.

ANALYSIS

The self-supporting Weather Center provides forecasting and forensic products to newspapers and major companies in Connecticut, as well as providing reports to attorneys, insurance companies, the State Public Defender's and Attorney General's offices, and regional police and fire departments. The Science Lab is the primary laboratory for the university's Meteorology program and provides hands-on practical experience. Academic needs constitute 55% of the Lab's usage.

The entire Weather Center also provides a vital community service, including educational experiences for local high schools and their students, such as *A Day of Weather*, which drew 700 students to the campus. The Center also produces internet programs, including *The Weather People*, now in its third year. The two components create a synergy between the academic component of the Meteorology program and the business aspect of weather forecasting.

The Center continues to function under the direction of a full-time faculty member from the department of Physics, Astronomy and Meteorology and three other faculty receiving partial reassigned time. The Center's revenue supports all staff and programs.

President Schmotter has recommended the reauthorization of the Center.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the reauthorization of the Weather Center at Western Connecticut State University with a sunset date of December 31, 2009, if the Center is not recommended for continuation.