

Bridgewater State University  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 15, 2025  
6:00pm  
Heritage Room, Maxwell Library  
Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Antonucci, Battaglino, Cesero (Zoom), Giles (Zoom), Koutoujian, Prince, Rose, Taylor, Turchon, Ulett, Vieira

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; Interim Provost Alcon; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Bell, Jason, Croft, Gentlewarrior, Jean, Powers, Shropshire, Zuromski; CDO Oliver; Senior Advisor deMacedo

Under the order suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, as declared on March 12, 2020 by former Governor Baker, having been complied with, and a quorum of the Board present, the Board of Trustees held a meeting on April 15, 2025 with Chairperson Taylor presiding.

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:22pm. He put forth a motion that a unanimous vote will be deemed to eliminate the need for a roll call. If a vote is not unanimous, then a roll call vote will be conducted.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee Cesero-yes, Trustee Rose-yes, Trustee Vieira-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Ulett-yes, Trustee Battaglino-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee Antonucci-yes, Trustee Koutoujian-yes, Trustee Giles-yes, Trustee Taylor-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees dispense with a roll call vote for each unanimous vote for the duration of this meeting.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Prince) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on February 18, 2025.  
(Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

**Chairperson's  
Report**

Chairperson Taylor introduced and welcomed the Board's newest member, Robert Antonucci. Trustee Antonucci is grateful to serve as a BSU Trustee. He hopes to assist in continuing BSU's great trajectory. Chairperson Taylor mentioned that there will be an opportunity to honor

former Trustee Dave Alexander later this year to thank him for his service to BSU. He also thanked everyone for their contributions to Giving Day. There was a 71% increase in giving this year which is of historical proportions.

#### Student Trustee Update

Trustee Rose introduced her brother Thomas Rose (BSU student). Mr. Rose shared his remarkable journey while at BSU. He currently works in the IT security office, and he has an internship with CyberTrust due to a partnership BSU has with that organization. He will graduate in May and is excited about his future opportunities.

Trustee Rose also noted that SGA elections were recently held and the new Student Trustee-elect is Dhareen Jean-Michel. They gave him the floor to introduce himself. Mr. Jean-Michael learned about the student trustee position when he met Rose in the SGA office and is excited about this opportunity.

### **President's Report**

#### President Clark's Updates:

- In this current climate, it is important to continue our path forward, and he expressed his gratitude to the Board of Trustees.
- He welcomed new Trustee Robert Antonucci.
- Cindy Kane is moving on to a new position at the Gardner Institute. Interim Provost Alcon expressed her gratitude for the work that Cindy has accomplished while working at BSU.
- It was with sadness to announce the loss of Faculty members Ed Brush and Tom Curley as well as a distinguished alum Jack Jones.
- Karim Ismaili's inauguration was a successful and prideful event.
- B.K. Ravi from Koppal University, India was hosted on campus.
- A rally was organized by union leaders for 'BSU to Stand Together'.
- BSU will be 185 years old this year. It is important for us to not forget that education is the great equalizer against the privileged. We provide education for all by providing equity interventions for all. Equity also means service to others.

#### Service Trip

Vice President Bell provided a presentation on recent BSU service trips. There were 41 students during spring break who participated. She outlined each trip and then introduced the video collage of trips. (Attachment)

#### CASE Presentation

Director Jennie Aizenman provided a presentation on the Center for the Advancement of STEM Education (CASE). The program promotes literacy in STEM for K-12. In total, there are about 20,000 participants each year (11K students, 3.5K BSU students, 3.5K community members,

517 teachers). This number dropped during the COVID pandemic, but numbers are back up.

(Attachment)

## **EXECUTIVE**

### Approval of Student Government Association's Revised Constitution

Chair Taylor noted that Trustee Rose and SGA President Sophia Pinaretta presented to the Executive Committee members about the steps taken to revise the SGA Constitution.

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the revised version of the Student Government Association's Constitution as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated April 9, 2025.

(Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

### Contract with R. Mullen Associates for Tillinghast Hall Faculty Office Upgrades

Vice President Shropshire noted the contract for the office upgrades will be brought at a later date for Board approval.

### BSU Surplus Property

Chair Taylor noted the property located on Hale Street will be released to the state for the purpose of building housing units. Net proceeds will be provided to BSU.

(Attachment)

### Update on Enterprise Risk Management

Vice President Zuromski and AVP Pacheco provided an update on risks at the committee meeting.

(Attachment)

### Honorary Degree Recipient – Spring Commencement 2025 and June Event

The committee discussed the speaker/honorary degree recipient for the May 2025 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony and also an Honorary Degree recommendation for former president of Cape Verde, Pedro Pires, which will be presented to him at an event in June.

## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### Promotions to Rank of Full Professor

Provost Alcon was pleased to name the 15 faculty members who are recommended for the promotion to full Professor.

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approve the candidates for Promotion to the

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

Rank of Full Professor as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated March 18, 2025.  
(Attachment)

Tenure Recommendations

Provost Alcon was pleased to name the 9 faculty members who are recommended for tenure.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Rose) it was that the Board of Trustees approve the Tenure Recommendations as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated March 18, 2025.  
(Attachment)

Orientation Reimagination

A presentation was provided at the committee meeting by staff in Vice President Croft's division. Vice President Croft gave thanks to Cindy Kane who laid the foundation for this work in the early days of working in Student Affairs. A new position will be opening up for orientation work because it is so important.

(Attachment)

**FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

Contract with Pappas Industries, Inc. for Boyden Hall Cupola and Main Entry Stair Renovation

Vice President Shropshire noted that Pappas was the lowest responsible bidder and they met the goals for minority- and women-owned entities.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Vieira, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the contract with Pappas Industries, Inc. (Boyden Hall and Main Entry Stair Renovation) as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated March 18, 2025.  
(Attachment)

Bookstore Contract

Vice President Jason noted an RFP was put out for BSU's on campus bookstore. E-campus was the final choice. Students will be able to purchase their books online and the store will provide merchandise only. This is a revenue-generating contract; therefore, it does not need Board approval.

(Attachment)

Residence Hall Rent Schedule – AY2025-26

Vice President Shropshire noted the rent schedule is brought as an information item. The Building Authority sets the residence hall rates.

The average increase is 4.6% and the increase range is between 3% - 7%.

(Attachment)

#### FY2026 Budget

Vice President Shropshire noted they have finished reviewing budgets for each division and will meet with President Clark to review all of the budget requests. They are optimistic about enrollment and anticipate moderate growth in the budget. President Clark is hopeful for level funding and that there will not be any 9C cuts. They will plan for a conservative budget up front.

### **ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### FY2025/Q2 Alumni and Development Dashboard

Committee Chair Turchon stated total dollars received for Annual Giving was \$207K. Major and Planned Giving resulted in two large gifts (\$1M and \$1.5M). Total commitments are at \$4,361,820 and the endowment stood at \$72+M.

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Vieira) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2025/Q2 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended by the Alumni and Development Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated March 18, 2025.

(Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

### **ADHOC ENROLLMENT AND MARKETING**

#### Fall 2025 Enrollment Report

Committee Chair Vieira noted first-year students show an increase of 2% in applications, acceptances are up over 4% and deposits are up over 13%. They are also experiencing growth in transfer students. Graduate admissions is looking strong as well with completed applications and deposits up about 23%.

(Attachment)

#### Update on Strategic Enrollment Plan

Committee Chair Vieira noted an institutional strategic enrollment plan has been developed to include action plans. The plan was designed to attract traditional high school students. There is also an international recruitment plan and a 4+1 action plan to assist in retaining students.

(Attachment)

### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

#### Elevating Business Marketing Campaign

Committee Chair Battaglino spoke about a business marketing drive through ads on TV and radio. The attempt is to shift the perceptions of leaders and businesses. This is not a recruitment effort. This is to give BSU students a seat at the table. She noted the staff in Vice President Jean's division did a remarkable job in creating the ads which saved the University money.

#### Expanding Business Outreach and Engagement

Committee Chair Battaglino noted there are strategies to expand BSU's influence on chambers and to expand our reach to the Boston area. It's important to increase the visibility of our students and programs (Photonics, Optical Engineering, Cybersecurity, etc.) so that the extended community knows BSU is more than a teaching university.

#### EXCEL: Expanding Outreach and Engagement

Committee Chair Battaglino reported BSU is expanding outreach to the community with approximately 75 students in the program, which makes this the largest program in the country. The students will now have an opportunity for pathway to employment.

#### BSU Economic Impact Report

Mr. Mike Hogan has been instrumental in steering this work. Plymouth County's impact to the state is \$182M. For every \$1 spent, it generates \$1.5 in GDP (Gross Domestic Product). The average college student in Massachusetts spends \$341/mo. for off-campus groceries and \$410/mo. for off-campus dining. BSU's combined 9,550 undergraduate and graduate students are estimated to spend \$64.5M in off-campus purchases in the Bridgewater/Plymouth County area.  
(Attachment)

### **STUDENT SUCCESS AND DIVERSITY**

#### Gardner Institute Update

Dr. Michael Young provided a report to the committee. They are working on curricular analytics to determine how students work through their majors and if they can complete their majors in a reasonable time. This year they will focus on: Foundations of Excellence: First Year Redesign; Curricular Analytics Community; and Teaching and Learning Community.  
(Attachment)

#### Recruitment and Retention Practices

Vice President Gentlewarrior reported out on the recruitment and retention practices. Retention activities are being piloted to assist with both recruitment and retention, specifically for Latin X students.  
(Attachment)

**OTHER  
BUSINESS**

None

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Koutoujian, Battaglino) it was that the meeting be adjourned (8:07pm).

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Turchon*

Carolyn Turchon  
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:  
Tracey Keif