

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DECEMBER 5, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Alexander, Caulfield, Denterlein, Durgin, Benson, Longo, MacCormack, Oliari, Murphy, Turchon and Pimental (via telephone),

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; Provost Ismaili; Vice Presidents Molife, Powers, Jean, Jason, Gentlewarrior, Oravec, Shropshire; Interim Vice President Zuromski; and Chief of Staff Leuenberger

The provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A having been complied with, and a quorum of the Board present, the Board of Trustees held their meeting on December 5, 2019 in the Heritage Room, Maxwell Library with Chairman Durgin presiding. He noted Trustee Pimental participated via telephone pursuant to Remote Participation 940 CMR 29.10(5) due to geographic distance.

Chairman Durgin called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. He recently attended an awards ceremony by the regional Boy Scouts where President Clark received the Distinguished Citizen of the Year award.

Consideration of Minutes

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Denterlein) it was that the minutes from the October 10, 2019 meeting be approved. (Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

**CHAIRMAN'S  
REPORT**

Chairman Durgin asked Trustee Benson to provide an update on behalf of the students. Trustee Benson noted President Clark and his cabinet members attended a SGA meeting and answered questions by the students. Student senate is very active this year. A few projects they are working on: grade appeal policy; traffic and parking concerns; helping Bears Who Care (food pantry). Student Advisory Board is working on several things and many students are involved. One item of discussion is ideas for the ground floor of Tillinghast Hall. He noted Interim Vice President Zuromski talked to SGA about IT ideas and their interest in helping students. With the recent passing of a fellow Bear, Ash Valente, students provided a wonderful event in honor of Ash.

Maria Hegbloom, MSCA Chapter President, addressed the Board on behalf of the MSCA members. A few faculty have attended the Board committee meetings and it is appreciated. She is here on behalf of the Executive Committee representing 31 members who are elected by the faculty. Over the past semester, there have been a lot of issues focusing on: enrollment, retention and mental health. These issues are felt within the classrooms and challenges continue to grow for the faculty. Our mission is for our students. As we move forward, it would be helpful to think about the classroom experience and solving problems. Think about what faculty can bring to these conversations. Faculty bring knowledge about how students are experiencing things in a new way. These issues were discussed with President Clark and Provost Ismaili.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Clark thanked Dr. Hegbloom for the continuing partnership and for her remarks. He agrees with her remarks and faculty need to be involved. Regarding salaries, the University has funded the state's obligation. BSU was the first to fund credit equivalencies. What is most meaningful is what happens in our classroom and many resources have flowed to this effort.

President Clark congratulated Trustee Benson and the SGA for the event they organized to support each other in honor of the life of Ash Valente. We also lost another student, Nicole Dondero. He, Vice President Oravec and Chairman Durgin met with her parents and her parents said that Nicole felt she was part of a caring community. The parents have been invited to participate in the May graduation commencement exercises. President Clark also acknowledged the accident of student Maddie Neas who is currently in the hospital and appreciates the campus coming together to support her. Dodie Dunn recently passed away at the age of 90. She will be missed. We recently lost a staff member, Moira O'Brien, who worked here for 12 years.

Homecoming was a success with a record crowd. Lt. Governor Polito recently presented a \$1.4M grant for photonics. A \$300,000 grant was received for Aviation. Our accreditation was on the line but over the spring and summer, the entire team did remarkable work to turn the issue around. Santander donated \$125,000 for the Bridge Partnership program. The U.S. State Department agreed to again designate BSU for the Mandela program for the fifth year. New hires are: Dr. Mary Grant and Mr. Vinny deMacedo. Mr. Steve Zuromski will now be the acting vice president for Information Technology. He has done a tremendous job over the past six months. President Clark wished everyone a happy holiday and a joyous new year.

Career Services

President Clark noted a ribbon cutting ceremony was held earlier this afternoon for the Career Services corridor in the Campus Center. Vice President Molife commented the new space will have a terrific impact for our students. John Paganelli, director of Career Services, provided a presentation. Career Services is a professional organization for our students. Many of our students are first generation students, so this office is important to them in transitioning to the work place. He thanked President Clark, Vice President Molife and the Trustees for approving, supporting and investing in the new office space. They are experiencing more traffic and have received terrific positive feedback. Career Services works each and every day on career development and student success. The faculty at BSU allow the staff to go into the classrooms to educate students and faculty about what is taking place. There were 20 classroom visits in the fall; 115 workshops during the year which are requested by faculty and RA's. They reach out to sophomore and junior students for summer employment opportunities. They showcase alumni who are invited to campus. An Etiquette dinner is held for our students. A first destination survey is sent out. Individual appointments and drop-in hours are held. They connect with about 6,600 students throughout the year. Approximately 15-20 human resource managers come to the campus and work with our students. They reach out to new faculty hires and invite them to have a tour and highlight their services. Career panels, practice interviews, annual job and internship fair and an education career fair are organized. They are changing their platform and moving to a more sophisticated model called Hand Shake.

Trustee Alexander acknowledged the work of this office is very important for our students. The staff make it possible for students to climb the ladder and we are serving them well.

**ACTION/  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS**

**EXECUTIVE**

Letter of Intent

Provost Ismaili spoke about the potential of a Photonics and Optical Engineering program and recognized the incredible efforts of Professors Kling and Deveney, as well as Dean Porter-Utley and others in spear heading this effort.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Denterlein) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of a Letter of Intent to the Board of Higher Education for a new B.S. degree in Photonics and

CARRIED

Optical Engineering at Bridgewater State University as described in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 27, 2019.  
(Attachment)

Strategic Plan Update

Chairman Durgin noted Chief of Staff Leuenberger provided an update at the committee meeting. They will begin working on Strategic Plan 2.0.

Personnel Update and Recommendations

President Clark provided an update on personnel at the Executive Committee meeting.

President's Expenses and Upcoming Travel (August-October, 2019)

Chairman Durgin noted President Clark provided his expenses for the past quarter as an information item.  
(Attachment)

Delegation of Authority – Approval of Contract (Bear Paw Pavilion)

Chairman Durgin noted a contract was approved by the Executive Committee under the Delegation of Authority for the construction of the new Bear Paw Pavilion.  
(Attachment)

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**Sabbatical Leave Requests

Committee Chair MacCormack spoke about the sabbaticals. This is an investment we make in our faculty and it is the heart of what we do. She appreciates the efforts of Provost Ismaili to make this possible.

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Alexander) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts the Sabbatical Leave Requests as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 20, 2019.  
(Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIEDUniversity Fact Sheet, Five Year Trends

The fact sheet was provided as an information item.  
(Attachment)

Enrollment Update

Committee Chair MacCormack stated with the current demographic enrollment downturn, administration is focused on enrollment and trends.

BSU is down about 100 students but are holding our own due to the efforts of many staff on campus as an interdivisional priority.

### **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

#### FY2020/Q1 Trust Funds Report (7/1/19-9/30/19)

Committee Chair Murphy noted the reports are consistent with the expectations set at the beginning of the year.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Murphy, Oliari) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2020/Q1 Trust Funds Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 14, 2019. (Attachment)

#### Meal Plan Rates for AY2020-21

Committee Chair Murphy was pleased to report the meal plan rates will not be increased for the upcoming academic year. He thanked Vice President Jason for her negotiation efforts.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Murphy, Alexander) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Meal Plan Rates for AY2020-21 as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 14, 2019. (Attachment)

#### Burnell Debt Authorization

Committee Chair Murphy commented this is a significant project for BSU. The committee received an extensive presentation on the renovation of Burnell Hall for the College of Education and Health Sciences. BSU is soliciting a significant appropriation from the state and expressing our willingness to borrow \$8M in funding upon receipt of \$22M from the state. Should the project go through, there will be another presentation to the Board. This is just an expression of our willingness to move forward with this potential appropriation.

President Clark noted the application will be submitted on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The \$8M will come from reissuing existing debt from the Tinsley Center. This project will not cost our students.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Murphy, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees approves borrowing \$8 million for the Burnell Renovation Project contingent upon receipt of \$22 million in state funding for the project as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee

and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 14, 2019.  
(Attachment)

FY2020/Q1 Budget Report (7/1/19-9/30/19)

Committee Chair Murphy stated the quarterly budget report is going as expected.  
(Attachment)

FY2020/Q1 Contracts Report

The list of contracts awarded for the past quarter was provided as an information item.  
(Attachment)

Capital Projects Update

The Capital Projects report was provided as an information item.  
(Attachment)

**ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT**

FY2020/Q1 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Longo noted the combined assets are currently around \$55M. This past quarter \$315,000 was raised. There are a number of new affinity groups. There is a shift to more web based solicitations.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2020/Q1 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended by the Alumni and Development Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 14, 2019.  
(Attachment)

Development Update

Committee Chair Longo stated new policies and procedures have been created to assist all staff in this division.

**STUDENT SUCCESS AND DIVERSITY**

Retention Data

A thorough presentation was given to the committee. Retention data is a work in progress. The committee looks at factors that affect retention.  
(Attachment)

Retention Activity Overview

Current retention activities were shared with the committee.  
(Attachment)

Trustees and Racial Equity and Justice Work

Committee Chair MacCormack and Trustee Alexander served on a panel at the Leading for Change conference and presented on the trustee role. Participants came away with a sense that there is work to be done on the part of many institutions. BSU is further along in looking at this and there were very productive discussions which took place. Leading for Change highlights the areas that BSU is working on and puts us in a collaborative situation. She offered her congratulations to Vice President Gentlewarrior.

FY20 Divisional Initiatives

Vice President Gentlewarrior's initiatives were presented to the committee.  
(Attachment)

Vice President Gentlewarrior truly appreciates the commitment of BSU's Trustees. Schools are calling her for further information to replicate our good work.

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS**Dashboard for Division of Outreach and Engagement

Committee Chair Denterlein commented much of the work being done is a result of the Strategic Plan. A dashboard for internships was presented and they are on their way to meeting the goal of 700.  
(Attachment)

Personnel Updates for Division of Outreach and Engagement

Mr. Vinny deMacedo recently started his employ at BSU as the new director of Regional Partnerships.

FY20 Divisional Initiatives, Outreach and Engagement

The divisional initiatives were provided as an information item.

Website Redesign

Vice President Jean provided a report on the new website redesign at the committee meeting.

FY20 Divisional Initiatives, Marketing and Communications

The divisional initiatives were provided as an information item.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Turchon) it was  
that the meeting be adjourned (8:20pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Davede Alexander  
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:  
Tracey Keif