

Bridgewater State University  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 17, 2021  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Durgin, Caulfield, Benson, Denterlein, Longo, Murphy, MacCormack, Oliari, Turchon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Alexander

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

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 Governor Baker, having been complied with, and a quorum of the Board virtually present, the Board of Trustees held a zoom conference call meeting on June 17, 2021 with Chairman Durgin presiding.

Chairman Durgin called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 14, 2021.  
(Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Durgin recognized guests in attendance: Dr. Cindy Kane and several of her grad students, Dean Emerita Battaglino and Student Trustee-elect Artie Kopellas. He also recognized Dr. Mary Grant noting that her contribution to the university was appreciated and wished her well in her new role as president at Mass College of Art. Lastly, he expressed his appreciation to Student Trustee Erik Benson and Trustee Murphy for their time on the Board and dedication to the students and university.

**President's Report**

President Clark thanked Mary Grant for her remarkable work during her time at BSU. He also thanked Trustee Benson as he appreciated hearing the student voices this past year. Trustee Murphy's service was very thoughtful and he helped in many areas along the way, especially with racial justice. President Clark welcomed Artie

Kopellas who is also another powerful voice for our students.

Looking to the fall, they will incorporate lessons learned from this past year and he's hopeful the campus will be together again. The mask policy will be dropped, BSU vaccine site will close and housing occupancy has exceeded 80%.

President Clark recognized Dean Emerita Battaglino for the years of work on the Burnell project (more than ten years in the making). Vice President Jason provided a brief presentation on the Burnell project. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$39M (based on 2019 figures). DCAMM will contribute \$25M; BSU \$14M. The project will be managed by DCAMM. They are in the design selection process followed by design phase, public bid, then phase construction.

Fall Return Planning Update

To be discussed at the Board retreat at the end of June.

ACTION/  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS

EXECUTIVE

Board of Trustees Budget – FY2022

Chairman Durgin noted the budget is level funded and there were only a few expenses from this past year.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, it was

that the Board of Trustees approves the Board of Trustees Budget for FY2022 as recommended by the Executive Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 3, 2021.

(Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

President's Accrued Vacation and Sick Time

The president's accrued vacation and sick time was provided as an information item.

(Attachment)

Personnel Update

Chairman Durgin recognized the new role for Dr. Ismaili as the Executive Vice President and Provost. In this role, he will bring together many initiatives across campus. Mr. Vinny deMacedo's new title is Special Advisor to the President. The projects he has undertaken are invaluable and we look forward to working with him in his new role.

Presidential Review

Chairman Durgin noted the Executive Committee reviewed President Clark's self-assessment as well as a letter to the Commissioner outlining his performance. The evaluation is due to the Commissioner by June 30.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees accepts President Clark's performance self-assessment as provided in the attachment dated June 8, 2021 for transmittal to the Commissioner of Higher Education along with the Board's performance evaluation.  
(Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

## FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Continuation Budget for FY2022

Committee Chair Murphy stated the continuation budget is in place until the legislature votes on the appropriation. Vice President Shropshire noted the amount will carry the university through until the Board meets in the fall. Registration is continuing but we are lagging. Predictive analytics shows a 3.1% decline. Occupancy rate is going well. Hiring pause will continue until we know more about enrollment.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Denterlein, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee, Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Continuation Budget for FY2022 in the amount of \$58,794,704 (prorated expenditure level for 3.5 months) as recommended and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 10, 2021.  
(Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

FY2021/Q3 Trust Fund Report

Vice President Shropshire noted there were shortages on the revenue side, specifically the Res Life Trust Fund. Overall, there was a \$2.9M deficit which was better than expected.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein it was

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2021/Q3 Trust Fund Report as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 10,

CARRIED

2021.  
(Attachment)

Student Fee Schedule for AY2021-22

Vice President Shropshire commented there will not be an increase in student fees which presents a tremendous opportunity for them. The state appropriation assisted with this decision and finances have been managed well.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, it was

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

that the Board of Trustees approves no mandatory student fee increase for the AY2021-2022 as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 10, 2021.

(Attachment)

FY2021/Q3 Contracts Report

Committee Chair Murphy noted this is a standard report and presented as an information item.

(Attachment)

FY2021/Q3 Budget Report

Committee Chair Murphy commented budget losses were anticipated, but did not occur. This is a great credit to the institution to balance the budget and he appreciates the efforts from the state and federal government. Vice President Shropshire noted a conservative estimate of appropriation really assisted with this.

(Attachment)

Capital Projects Update

Vice President Jason noted \$24M worth of construction and capital projects occurred this past year which reduced deferred maintenance. She is grateful for the one-time federal funds. They actively engaged with DCAMM to conduct an energy assessment of the campus.

(Attachment)

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Letter of Intent (LOI) M.S. Degree in Mathematics

Committee Chair MacCormack stated there are two programs ready for the BHE's expedited approval. Provost Ismaili spoke about the ideas that emerged into a proposal which were recommended by the faculty. Extensive market analysis was completed to determine the market need (2019), workforce need, etc. Once the LOI is approved by the Board, this will be presented to the BHE for approval followed by an external review by other institutions and then final approval by

this Board. Provost Ismaili acknowledged the work of Deans Boehm, Porter-Utley and Alcon.

Provost Ismaili noted the Public Relations Master's degree will be BSU's first fully online program. The Mathematics Master's degree builds on the excellence of our program. He commended the faculty in moving these programs forward.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Board of Higher Education (BHE) for a new M.S. Degree in Mathematics at Bridgewater State University as described in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 10, 2021. (Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

#### Letter of Intent (LOI) M.A. Degree in Public Relations

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Board of Higher Education (BHE) for a new M.A. Degree in Public Relations at Bridgewater State University as described in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 10, 2021. (Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

#### UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

##### FY2021/Q3 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Longo stated the endowment's performance has done very well; total assets are almost \$65M. Through the pandemic, new donors were acquired. He appreciates the work of the division and raising funds to assist our students through scholarships.

CDO Oliver stated everyone has come together and have made commitments which will help focus on building a pipeline. A major gifts officer will be hired to qualify leads that are in the pipeline. As of yesterday, there was a 23% increase in gifts over last year; 39% increase in donors over last year; 25% increase in alumni donors over last year; 70% increase in employee donors over last year and up 61% in new donors.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2021/Q3 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 10, 2021. (Attachment)

NOMINATING

Slate of Board Officers – AY2021-22

Trustee Longo reported that the Nomination Committee met and voted on the following slate of officers: Gene Durgin as Chairman, Jean MacCormack as Vice Chair and Margaret Caulfield as Secretary.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Slate of Board Officers for AY2021-22 as recommended by the Nominating Committee in the attached memorandum from Secretary Caulfield dated June 10, 2021. (Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari it was that the meeting be adjourned (5:40 pm).

Respectfully submitted,

*Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq.*  
Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq.  
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:  
Tracey Keif