

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 20, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Durgin, Caulfield, Kopellas, Giles, Longo, Prince, Oliari, MacCormack, and Turchon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Alexander

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; EVP and Provost Ismaili; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Molife, Powers, Oravec, Zuromski; Special 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 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 October 20, 2021 with Chairman Durgin presiding.

Chairman Durgin called the meeting to order to order at 4:45pm.

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

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 17, 2021.
(Attachment)

**Chairman's
Report**

Chairman Durgin noted a communication was sent this morning to the campus community on behalf of the Board recognizing their support and dedication during the pandemic as well as updates for enrollment, budget, safety, pay increases and racial justice and equity.

EVP and Provost Ismaili introduced those faculty who ascended to the rank of full professor: Ivana George, Jonghyun Lee, Ellen Scheible, Irina Seceleanu, Joe Seggio, Jonathan Roling, Heidi Bean and Jing Tan. Achieving this rank is a capstone and something the individuals strive to. Provost Ismaili, Chairman Durgin and President Clark offered their congratulations.

AFSCME Update

Janet Cartwright spoke and acknowledged how grateful union

employees are for the foresight to assure there would be no layoffs or furloughs. She acknowledged the transition everyone had to make during the pandemic and highlighted the many efforts of the staff. (Comments attached)

Student Voice

Trustee Kopellas stated their peers are excited about the activity on campus and are happy to be back. Students do understand the mask compliance and this is going well.

President's Report

President Clark welcomed the new Trustees. He regrettably acknowledged the recent passing of a student, Claire Laurent. She loved being a part of the campus community. She and her family are in our thoughts.

The AFSCME employees were here throughout the pandemic and served on the front line every day. President Clark sincerely thanked them all for their work. Update on public health: 94.4% of students are fully vaccinated; 96% of students in the residence halls are vaccinated. All attestations are accurate. COVID positivity rate is under 1%. He complimented the Board for holding itself accountable for Racial Justice and Equity. Lastly, President Clark offered his congratulations to Vice President Gentlewarrior for her work in creating a handbook on racial justice and equity on how to make a campus more equitable. It is provided free of charge to the entire country.

ACTION/ INFORMATION ITEMS

AUDIT

Draft Independent Audited Financial Statements (O'Connor & Drew)
Committee Chair Oliari noted BSU received an unmodified opinion from the auditors. Vice President Shropshire noted he is pleased with the clean opinion and reported there were no internal control issues and no management comment which is a testament to his staff. BSU received a certificate of achievement; we are one of the few higher education institutions who apply and achieve this status.

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

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

that the Board of Trustees approves the draft independent audited financial statements for FY2021 prepared by the Finance Division and audited by O'Connor & Drew as recommended by the Audit Committee and as described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 15, 2021.

(Attachment)

EXECUTIVEPresident's Budget for FY2022

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

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

that the Board of Trustees accepts and approves the President's Budget for FY2022 as recommended by the Executive Committee and as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 14, 2021.

(Attachment)

Approval to Establish a Racial Justice and Equity Committee

Chairman Durgin is pleased with the achievement in establishing this new Board committee.

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

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

that the Board of Trustees approves the formation of the Racial Justice and Equity Committee as the twelfth (12) standing committee of the Board as noted in the attached memorandum dated October 14, 2021.

(Attachment)

Revised Board of Trustees Bylaws

Chairman Durgin noted there were minor language changes and the addition of a new committee (Racial Justice and Equity) to the Bylaws.

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

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

that the Board of Trustees approves the revised Board of Trustees Bylaws as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from Chairman Durgin dated October 14, 2021.

(Attachment)

President's Goals and Objectives for AY2021-2022

The president's goals and objectives were provided as an information item.

(Attachment)

President's Expenses and Upcoming Travel (April-July 2021)

The president's expenses were provided as an information item.

(Attachment)

Delegation of Authority – R.A.D. Corporation Contract (Swenson Field)

Under the delegation of authority, the Executive Committee approved the R.A.D. Corporation Contract for the renovation of Swenson Field. (Attachment)

Enterprise Risk Management Update

Vice President Zuromski provided an update at the Executive Committee meeting. (Attachment)

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Annual Report of Grants and Sponsored Projects

Committee Chair MacCormack commented staff were very active in pursuing external funds across a wide range of disciplines and activities and were very successful in receiving the awards.

EVP and Provost Ismaili thanked the office staff as well as Dr. Young for their efforts this past year.

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

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

that the Board of Trustees accepts the Annual Report of Grants and Sponsored Projects for the year beginning July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 as described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 13, 2021. (Attachment)

Fall Admissions and Enrollment Reports

Vice President Oravec spoke of the incredible work on behalf of Admissions and other team members. For the strategic enrollment process, they are in a competitive environment and have been very thoughtful about the process. The details will be shared at the upcoming committee meeting in November. (Attachment)

Fall Residence Hall Occupancy Report

Vice President Oravec noted there are 2,754 students in housing; 83.4% of occupancy design. With the good work of his staff, they are retaining students. (Attachment)

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

FY2022 Budget

Vice President Shropshire commented this is a transition budget

due to the pandemic. Enrollment and the retroactive pay adjustments have affected the budget which was not anticipated. Significant adjustments were made.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee Giles-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2022 Budget of \$200,624,700 including utilization of up to \$2,020,000 of operating reserve funds to balance the budget as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated September 30, 2021.
(Attachment)

FY2021/Year-End Trust Funds Report

Vice President Shropshire noted Aviation, Dining, Resident Halls trust funds are down as expected. Financing flexibility was deployed last year.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Giles-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2021 Year-End Trust Funds Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated September 30, 2021.
(Attachment)

FY2021 Year-End Budget Report

Committee Chair Longo noted all in all the year-end was better than expected. Vice President Shropshire spoke about the significant impact on the budget and stated the state does not do a good job in supporting higher education. A study is under way comparing our state to other states as well as other universities and the supports they receive.
(Attachment)

Student Accounts Receivable

The Committee spoke about financial awareness for our students to understand debt while attending college. Vice President Shropshire stated there hasn't been a student fee increase for 2 years which does help with student affordability and the receipt of financial aid.
(Attachment)

FY2021/Q4 Contracts Report

The quarterly contracts report was provided as an information item.
(Attachment)

Capital Projects Update

The capital projects update was provided as an information item.
(Attachment)

Divisional Priorities (AY2021-22)

Vice Presidents Shropshire and Jason provided their divisional priorities as an information item.
(Attachment)

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITYRecent History of BSU's Work on Racial Justice and Equity

Provost Ismaili noted the campus work is moving forward. A message will soon be sent to the campus with an update on significant action steps which have been taken.

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENTFY2021/Q4 Advancement Activity Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Turchon noted there has been good growth and activity for the fourth quarter and thanked the Trustees, Foundation, Alumni Board and Cabinet members for their contributions. CDO Oliver noted the combined portfolio stands at \$59+M. Currently, the endowment is just shy of \$61M. \$2.6M was brought in last year.

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

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2021/Q4 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 13, 2021.
(Attachment)

HONORARY DEGREECommittee Report

Chairman Durgin noted the first meeting was held to review nominations and the committee will meet in a couple months to discuss nominations for 2022 commencement ceremonies.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Giles-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes it was
that the meeting be adjourned (6:10 pm).

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Caulfield

Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq.
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif