

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 11, 2023
Heritage Room, Maxwell Library
Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Alexander, Battaglino, Caulfield, Giles, Kopellas, Longo, MacCormack, Oliari, Prince, Taylor and Turchon

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; EVP and Provost Ismaili; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Powers, Shropshire, Zuromski; Special Advisor deMacedo; CDO Oliver, Acting Vice President Bell

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 present, the Board of Trustees held a meeting on April 11, 2023 with Chairperson MacCormack presiding.

Chairperson MacCormack called the meeting to order at 6:20pm. She 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 Alexander-yes, Trustee Battaglino-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Kopellas-yes, Trustee Giles-yes, Trustee Taylor-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee MacCormack-yes it was

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

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 (Caulfield, Prince) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on February 23, 2023.
(Attachment)

**Chairperson's
Report**

MSCA Remarks – Chapter President

MSCA Chapter President Torda offered remarks. She noted the unions were united in efforts to force the new Governor to revise an

insulting offer which was 5% for one year. Most employees know with rising costs, etc. this won't cover it. The current offer is now 8% with a one-year extension of their contract. This bargaining round is a coalition of unions, and it appears members will agree to these parameters. She is grateful to President Clark and his leadership team for their support and for signing the joint letter that the Council of Presidents signed. His leadership is not underestimated. The one-year contract is not acceptable and the years' worth of prep work for upcoming bargaining was for naught. The Cherish Act and Higher Education is still on the table. What will happen with the funds from the Fair Share Amendment? Dr. Torda asked Trustees to be the friend of BSU that we know you are. Do what you can do and talk to who you can talk to. This is the time to fight.
(Full statement attached to materials)

AFSCME President, Janet Cartwright, stated no one that works at BSU should be on food stamps. This increase will make a difference.

Chairperson MacCormack stated the Board recognizes the importance of faculty and staff and their work on behalf of the students at BSU to help them succeed. Trustees, too, worry about a one-year contract as they realize all the time and energy that invested in bargaining.

Student Trustee Update

Trustee Kopellas spoke about the wealth of opportunities for students this coming spring. The return of events, which are student planned, are appreciated. Seniors are excited to graduate. Lastly, they introduced the new student trustee, Zachary Allen.

President's Report

President Clark thanked the union leadership for their advocacy and highlighted the importance of the collective unions standing together to make a difference.

The Governor's budget appears to favor public higher education. BSU's budget line is level funded, but they will keep advocating for dollars. Meetings have been held with the Governor, Lt. Governor, speakers, etc.

Other updates:

- *The president of Cape Verde visited BSU.
- *Commissioner Ortega was on campus. He values BSU's leadership.
- *The NECHE process is not yet concluded as they are waiting for the official letter.
- *Admitted Students Day is taking place, which is important for recruiting students.
- *Faculty were recognized at a recent event and were presented presidential awards.

- *Employees were recently recognized for their length of service at BSU.
- *Trustees, alumni, faculty and staff donated professional clothing for students for an upcoming job fair. Clothing insecurity is a real thing for our students.
- *Commencement will be held on May 12 and 13.
- *BSU cheerleaders are 7-time national champions; they have won four years in a row, to include 2021 which was totally virtual. The squad, 20 women and one male, scored a BSU record high to bring home the NCAA trophy.

Presentation: The Maxwell Library and the BSU Community

Provost Ismaili introduced Kevin Kidd, dean of the Maxwell Library. Dean Kidd discussed recent developments in the Library and collaboration opportunities. The Library's role is to support educational, cultural and social missions and to bolster student success by removing barriers to information access. The Library should be welcoming and easy to navigate. They would like to hold exhibits to highlight the work of students and faculty.

There are many quiet study spaces, mentoring programs for student employees, social events and activities. They collaborate with the Lincoln Society, Bridgewater Library and libraries in the region. Looking to the future, the Library is the life blood of the institution and they want to be out in the community, tie into the curriculum and have flexible community learning space.

(Attachment)

ACTION/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

EXECUTIVE

Enterprise Risk Management Update

Vice President Zuromski spoke at the committee meeting about the enterprise risk management initiative and how they are managing risks.

(Attachment)

Executive Session Minutes (February 23, 2023)

The minutes were reviewed by Chairperson MacCormack and Secretary Longo and determined the minutes shall remain sealed at this time.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Promotions to Rank of Full Professor

There are 17 candidates recommended for the promotion to the rank of full professor.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the candidates for Promotion to the Rank of Full Professor as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated March 23, 2023.
(Attachment)

Tenure Recommendations

Committee Chair Caulfield noted there were 20 tenure recommendations.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Kopellas) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Tenure Recommendations as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated March 23, 2023.
(Attachment)

Full Proposal for MA in Public Relations

Committee Chair Caulfield noted there is an academic program proposal for a new master's degree in Public Relations. The degree speaks to the market demand and an opportunity for our students. This will be BSU's first fully online graduate program and offers an accelerated time frame for students.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater State University approves the submission of a new M.A. degree in Public Relations to the Department of Higher Education as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated March 23, 2023.
(Attachment)

Admissions Update

Overall, student admissions are on track. There are conversations on merit scholarships in the hopes of increasing the overall yield. Almost 4,200 scholarship offers have been awarded as of mid-March.

Admissions and Advertising Strategy

There is a focus on advertising for recruitment and continual strategies being discussed. Varied audiences are targeted and divergent platforms are reviewed in the hopes of reaching many audiences.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

WBE/MBE Participation in Construction Contracts

A presentation was given at the committee meeting. Staff are

continually thinking about the equity agenda and how women-owned businesses are included in the process. There are barriers for minority-owned and women-owned businesses, and BSU would like to assist them in navigating the process. With the deployment of a new procurement system, it will assist in the equity agenda.

Residence Hall Rent Schedule – AY2023-24

The rent schedule was brought as an information item. The residence hall rates are based on the rate of inflation and are approved at the state level through the MSCBA. Inflationary impacts reflect the refinancing of the debt.

(Attachment)

FY2024 Budget

Vice President Shropshire is working with the departments on their budgeting for this coming year. Committee Chair Longo thanked Vice President Shropshire and AVP Beaulieu as they work through this process.

STUDENT SUCCESS AND DIVERSITY

The materials for the Student Success and Diversity Committee provided an Opening Statement from Vice President Gentlewarrior. Equity minded practices are taking place across the campus.

Acting Vice President Bell presented on Racially Equitable Internships and Careers and stated there are many internships in this region as well as globally.

Dean Davis-Street presented on “Gateways to the Airways” Diversity Initiative which is an equity-minded practice.

Assistant Provost Shanahan presented on Advancing Equity in Undergraduate Research and Honors.

And lastly, information was provided on the Racial Equity and Justice Institute and Reflections on the Shared Equity Leadership Series.
(Attachments)

PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW AND COMPENSATION

Committee Report

Chairperson MacCormack spoke about the president’s evaluation. The DHE has requested a 360 evaluation every few years for all presidents. The plan is to form a small committee of Trustees this Fall in which they will gather feedback from the campus community, and a report will be drafted and shared with the full Board.

OTHER
BUSINESS

Vice President Shropshire noted there may be contracts over \$500K which will need Board approval possibly prior to the next meeting. If so, he will reach out to the Executive Committee members for a vote under the Delegation of Authority.

Chairperson MacCormack commented the recent tragedies across the nation are difficult. The Trustees are mindful of BSU's mission and it is everyone's role to create a place in the community where diversity of opinion is valued and does not result in violence. It is important to encourage people to find alternative solutions. BSU is creating the future leaders.

On motion duly made and seconded (Prince, Turchon) it was that the meeting be adjourned (7:35pm).

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Longo

Scott Longo
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif