

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 14, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 April 14, 2021 with Chairman Durgin presiding.

Due to technical difficulties with Chairman Durgin's audio, Vice Chair MacCormack called the meeting to order to order at 4:15pm.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Alexander-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 February 25, 2021.
(Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

Vice Chair MacCormack noted Executive Session minutes listed below were reviewed and approved by Chairman Durgin and Secretary Caulfield under the delegation of authority.

Executive Session Minutes

May 26, 2016, Executive Committee – Approved and Released
June 1, 2016, Audit Committee – Approved and Released
October 11, 2017, Audit Committee – Approved and Released
December 6, 2017, Executive Committee – Approved and Remain Sealed
February 27, 2018, Executive Committee – Approved and Remain Sealed
October 15, 2018, Audit Committee – Approved and Released
October 10, 2019, Executive Committee – Approved and Released
March 17, 2020, Board of Trustees – Approved and Remain Sealed
May 20, 2020, Executive Committee – Approved and Remain Sealed

**Chairman's
Report**Recognition of Financial Aid and Student Accounts

Vice Chair MacCormack, President Clark, Vice Presidents Oravec and Shropshire recognized the staff in Student Accounts and Financial Aid Office for their incredible work in assisting students through this pandemic and quickly preparing to work remotely. Their efforts and dedication is truly appreciated.

MSCA Remarks

MSCA Chapter President Seceleanu introduced Dr. Maria Hegbloom who provided remarks concerning the DCGE contract. Dr. Hegbloom stated they appreciate the work of the administration, but the issues they face are not just administrative problems. The pandemic, enrollment and funding issues affect the lives of faculty and librarians. She stated the faculty need to be included in seeking solutions and shaping the future direction of the university. Part-time faculty have suffered with unstable employment, lack of benefits and low salaries, and they have disproportionately shouldered the burden of cost-saving measures. It's important to address the inequity. Faculty will remain on the front-line in the classroom where it's the one place for learning. Dr. Seceleanu commented there is a proposal for a zero percent stipend increase for the next 3 years. Funding for DCGE contract is not approved through state appropriation, therefore, management could offer a pay increase in the DGCE contract to recognize their work and efforts this past year as well as in the future.

(Full remarks attached)

Update from Student Trustee

Trustee Benson noted elections were recently held and he was pleased to introduce Artie Kopellas as the newly-elected student trustee.

Trustee Benson provided the following updates: SGA has been working on elections for the next academic year; the Impact Awards will be held on April 29 where outstanding students, groups, faculty and staff will be recognized; student housing selection process is underway for next year; and he acknowledged the time and dedication SGA put forth for the university's pass/no pass policy which was passed by governance. Lastly, Trustee Benson thanked President Clark and others for their efforts for the commencement ceremonies which will be held in-person at Gillette stadium.

**President's
Report**

President Clark offered his congratulations to the faculty promoted to full professor and those who will receive tenure.

President Clark provided the following updates:

*The House of Representatives budget came out today and it looks favorable for BSU (\$10M was added for financial aid).

- *Overall, student enrollment is down 8%.
- *Residence Hall occupancy is at 33% for fall and spring semester.
- *Lost 67% of revenue for housing and dining.
- *There was zero revenue for the parking trust fund. There is still debt service for facilities and the garage.
- *Lost \$32.1M in revenue for FY20; absorbed about \$2M in COVID costs.
- *BSU will receive \$49M in stimulus funding of which \$26M is for the institution and \$23M will be allocated to students, resulting in \$8M loss over two years. Stimulus funds cannot be used for salaries and operating expenses.
- *A total of 34,000 COVID tests were conducted with 1% positivity rate. There were zero cases of transmission from a classroom setting.
- *An update on the fall return plan will be provided to the Board.
- *Commencement efforts have received positive feedback from the students.
- *The BSU At-A-Glance report shows the faculty to student ratio has dropped; was 19:1 in AY2019 (Fall of 2020 was 18:1; Spring 2021 is 17:1).

29 Who Shine

President Clark introduced Sydne Marrow who nominated student Melissa Adilas as the 29 Who Shine recipient. Ms. Marrow proudly served as Melissa's mentor. Ms. Adilas is majoring in Public Health with a minor in African American Studies. Upon graduation, she plans to complete a year with AmeriCorps and then pursue a Master's Degree in Public Health with a concentration on Maternal and Child Health Policy Leadership. Ms. Adilas holds remarkable accomplishments and is deserving of this recognition.

ACTION/ INFORMATION ITEMS

EXECUTIVE

Committee Report

Vice Chair MacCormack noted the committee recently met. Updates were provided for the Strategic Plan, budget, COVID, Racial Justice Task Force and commencement plans. The IT division was also recognized for their tremendous efforts this past year.

President's Expenses (November 2020 – March 2021)

The president's expenses for November, 2020 through March, 2021 were presented as an information item.
(Attachment)

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Promotions to Rank of Full Professor

Vice Chair MacCormack noted there were 8 faculty recommended for

promotion to the rank of full professor.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Alexander-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 candidates for Promotion to Rank of Full Professor as recommended and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated April 9, 2021.
(Attachment)

Tenure Recommendations

Vice Chair MacCormack noted there were 9 faculty recommended to receive tenure.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Alexander-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Tenure Recommendations as recommended and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated April 9, 2021.
(Attachment)

Provost Update

Provost Ismaili highlighted some key initiatives. He thanked faculty, librarians, staff and administrators for their work thus far. A Letter of Intent for Childhood Studies has been approved by the BHE and it has been fast tracked resulting in a new undergraduate program which will be available for our students shortly. He was pleased to announce a new Masters in Mathematics as well. Advanced work is proceeding in the area of cyber security and acknowledged the work of Vice President Zuromski. Cyber security is a key area for the U.S., the world and our region. Two international dialogues were hosted by BSU: partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Cape Verde to bring together institutions to talk about how we can work together to advance research scholarship and capacity building in Cape Verde. The second was an international gathering where presidents, provosts and senior international officers from partner institutions gathered and talked about BSU and how we can assist in connecting the many institutions.

Provost Ismaili also recognized faculty, staff and administrators for their work on: accreditation, engagement in the RJTF, the Safe Return Task Force, etc.

At-A-Glance

Data points were provided as an information item in the At-A-Glance report.
(Attachment)

PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW AND COMPENSATION

President Clark stated there will be no compensation adjustments for anyone on campus this year. He will provide his self-assessment for review by the Presidential Review Committee and for Board approval possibly in June as guidelines from the state have not yet been provided.

OTHER
BUSINESS

Trustee Longo encouraged Trustees to participate in the Day of Giving, Paying it Forward, on April 21 and 22. Leadership boards are asked to pledge money as part of a matching gift incentive. He is hopeful for 100% participation from the Board.

On motion duly made via roll call vote, Trustee MacCormack-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Alexander-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Denterlein-yes, Trustee Benson-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, it was that the meeting be adjourned (6:30 pm).

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq.

Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq.
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif