

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 1, 2020
Virtual 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 Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Powers, Oravec, Shropshire, Molife; Acting Vice President 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 conference call meeting on June 1, 2020 with Chairman Durgin presiding.

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

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Alexander) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on May 20, 2020.
(Attachment)

**Chairman's
Report**

Chairman Durgin recognized Mary Ankomah who was selected as BSU's student recipient for 29 Who Shine. Due to unfortunate circumstances this year, the celebration did not take place. Narratives from mentors recognizing her were superlative. Mary represents BSU in its entirety. Eileen Estudante, director of Outreach in Student Affairs, spoke about Mary's accomplishments and that she is a shining example of a BSU student. Mary graduated this year with a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

**President's
Report**

President Clark welcomed Matt Noyes, director of Trustee and Governmental Relations, to the meeting. He also congratulated Mary Ankomah on her recognition. She embodies all of our values at BSU and wished her well. They are currently working with diversity and social justice in acknowledgement of the outbreak following the death of Mr. Floyd. A message will be sent out to the community. President Clark also acknowledged the passing of Jonathan Holmes, professor,

in the department of Psychology. He joined BSU in 2000 and was widely viewed as a student's professor. Dr. Holmes advocated for students and was a prolific scholar and wonderful colleague. He was awarded the Presidential Award for Distinctive Teaching and served as chair of his department. He was the partner of Professor Sandy Nearing.

The faculty and staff have done their best to reach out to our graduates. He thanked Trustee Oliari who put on an actual commencement at his office building for his employee and a BSU graduate who was greatly surprised. The new date for the 2020 commencement ceremony will be announced soon. Graduate students will join the class of 2021 on May 13, 2021. Class of 2021 undergrads will be on May 15 and then Class of 2020 will be held on May 22.

President Clark provided an update on student Maddie Neas who was hit by a truck in the fall and has been in the hospital ever since. Thankfully, tomorrow she is going home and a social distance celebration has been planned. She has progressed significantly.

He thanked members from across the entire campus for the student support provided in many ways. Students have been helped one student at a time. \$1M has been awarded to students through Financial Aid. Marketing and Communications has been assisting with messaging to keep people informed. He shared a video which was just released. He thanked Vice President Jean and his team for their continuous work.

Health Services

President Clark noted the Safe Return Task Force has been hard at work. A report will be provided at the next meeting. A critical piece will be the testing, tracing and quarantining. They have utilized the expertise of our Wellness Center staff. Vice President Oravec introduced Dr. Chris Frazer, executive director of the Wellness Center, who provided insight to his team and the operation of the Center. Cindy Calderon and Lynn Grabau were introduced. The staff have assisted Res Life and Housing in regard to quarantine protocols and keeping students safe. They are working with Facilities on cleaning and disinfecting (air exchange rates, etc.), occupational health for PPE equipment, Athletics for coordination of our athletes coming back, training and testing efforts as well as contact tracing.

Chairman Durgin commented he has heard wonderful praises for the wellbeing of our campus and acknowledged Dr. Frazer and his staff who have spearheaded this effort and owe a debt of gratitude for making this happen. Challenging days are yet to come and the Board appreciates their efforts.

Student Fee Schedule for AY2020-21

President Clark noted at this point in time, they are proposing no fee increase for the next academic year. This is the right time to do this for our students. Vice President Shropshire stated money was put into a reserve account in anticipation of a time like this. We want to keep faculty and staff employed and engaged so we can continue to serve students. It is with pleasure to recommend no fee increase this year. He is confident with this recommendation. Many different scenarios have been prepared. The most likely case is \$10M deficit; worse case is \$13M. Sixty-six percent of credits are already registered which is tracking the same as last year. Today, deposits are due. This summer we are tracking 2.84% above last year for billed credits which are good indicators. Currently there is \$15M in the reserve.

Trustee MacCormack noted the university is able to do this because of the good planning under President Clark's leadership which is terrific.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Student Fee Schedule for AY2020-21 with a zero percent increase as recommended and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated May 28, 2020. (Attachment)

Renaming of Adrian Rondileau Campus Center

Trustee Benson is honored to talk about this motion. The SGA put forth a resolution to change the name. The name change states this building is for the students to have their own place of collaboration. He introduced Anna Rice, SGA President. When she was approached with this idea, she was very excited about this opportunity. The Campus Center is home to student services (clubs and organizations), lounge space, meeting space, dining, etc. This is truly a student building.

President Clark thanked Anna Rice for her leadership, courage, passion and advocacy. She helped with the message he is sending out today. This renaming does not need to go to the BHE. The building will still honor the person it was named after. He is grateful to our students in taking this on and moving it forward.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Benson) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to rename the University's Rondileau Campus Center to the Rondileau Student Union as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated May 28, 2020 (Attachment)

Naming of Wyatt Sculpture Garden

Chief of Staff Leuenberger spoke about the naming. This is the largest single donation of art in terms of value representing \$2M for BSU (14 additional bas-reliefs). Vice President Molife spoke about Mr. Wyatt's biography. His works have been exhibited in Boston and

across the world. He became acquainted with BSU through Larry and Kitty Doherty and their connections to the art world. Mr. Wyatt has worked with our art students and his work will enhance our curriculum. We foresee a cultural draw. Vice President Jason reviewed the layout of the garden and the installation process. Most of the work will be done by our trade staff. Timing of installation is August and funding is in place for FY21.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Longo) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to name the Wyatt Sculpture Garden as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated May 28, 2020.
(Attachment)

FY21 Board of Trustees Budget

Chairman Durgin noted this is a level funded budget. Two major components of the expenses are BoardEffect and catering to cover the Board dinners. Gift expense represents a recognition gift to the full professors. This budget will be adjusted accordingly as budgets are adjusted across the campus.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Longo) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Board of Trustees Budget for FY2021 as recommended and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated May 28, 2020.
(Attachment)

Personnel Update

President Clark noted he is recommending Steve Zuromski receive the title of Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer. Mr. Zuromski has served as interim for 6 months and acting for 6 months. He has done a terrific job and has continued forward with his work and has exceeded expectations from this division. Compensation will be adjusted to approximate salary of other vice presidents (a benchmark was conducted). Mr. Zuromski provided a year in review.
(Attachment)

Chairman Durgin offered his congratulations to Mr. Zuromski on a job well done.

Provost Ismaili announced Dr. Tong-Ching Wu will serve as the interim dean for the College of Education and Health Sciences. He is currently the chair of Movement Arts Health Promotion and has worked at BSU for 10 years. Dr. Wu has served with distinction. He brings a terrific health sciences perspective. Provost Ismaili acknowledged the work of Dr. Jo Hoffman who has served as the interim dean this past year. She has served the college very well and

has always been an incredible partner. She has elected to return to faculty with tenure. It was a pleasure to work with Dr. Hoffman and she will do amazing things as a professor with our students. President Clark thanked Dr. Hoffman for stepping into this role in civics education and working with K-12 partners across the state.

BSU Title IX Statistics

Chair Caulfield introduced Jocelyn Frawley, Director/Title IX Coordinator, who provided a general snapshot of what they handled this year for Title IX, EO and accommodations.

(Attachment)

U.S. Department of Education Guidelines for Title IX

A summary was provided for the Title IX regulations. Ms. Frawley highlighted the key items where there was a change. Important to note is the DOE pushed these and will limit the liability to the university. Formal investigation will change and there will now be a live hearing board. Lastly, emergency removal language has changed and have to conduct individual risk assessment on a removal. Regarding dismissals, the university cannot move forward if we do not meet the established thresholds. She will have some heavy lifting for training this summer. Training has to be publicly available. An inventory will be conducted. She is confident BSU will be in compliance by the end of August. She is collaborating with other colleges to accomplish this. BSU is spearheading the rewrite of this policy and is deep into this process.

(Attachment)

President Clark noted attorney generals across the country filed litigation to extend beyond August. The nine university presidents are opposed for a variety of reasons. They are against the cross examination by the parties as it will cause victim survivors from coming forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Durgin invited Matt Noyes to say a few words. Mr. Noyes acknowledged these are challenging times. On behalf of the Commissioner, he thanked everyone for their efforts at BSU and appreciates the efforts in working together to get through this.

MSCA Chapter President Maria Hegbloom commented there was an oversight when the Board last met. She thanked the Board for the letter which was sent to the faculty and librarians from the Trustees. Her term is ending and she extended a thank you for the openness shown and allowing her to present at the meetings. The courtesy of the Trustees is appreciated for their deep respect for the union. Thank you for the real seriousness of the Trustees acknowledging the work of the faculty and librarians. She introduced incoming chapter president Irina Seceleanu. Dr. Seceleanu noted over the past year, she attended committee meetings and thanked Board members for their support and

dedication. She thanked Chairman Durgin for his compassionate voice. Dr. Hegbloom announced a donation to the student emergency fund in the amount of \$5,000 from the MSCA chapter fund to support the students. She thanked Dr. David O'Malley for bringing forth the idea of this donation. Chairman Durgin acknowledged that Dr. Hegbloom is taking on another role as the vice president of the statewide union. The Board looks forward to seeing Dr. Seceleanu in the future and noted the Board has a great respect for our faculty.

Trustee Oliari remarked President Clark was kind to mention the private graduation ceremony and he recognized President Clark for his voluntary participation; it was greatly appreciated. President Clark took the time to honor this student and was very gracious.

Trustee Longo inquired about the virtual forum for the death of Mr. Floyd. The forum will be held this Wednesday and information will be provided to the Board. President Clark commented this is an opportunity for the campus community to come together to reflect and grieve and to use our resources for positive action to address these inequalities that lead to racial problems and violence.

Chairman Durgin commented the leadership, faculty, administration and students have been presented with something they could not prepare for. Professionalism was given and larger challenges lie ahead in which he is confident that these challenges will continue to be met. He wished everyone Godspeed and the Board's support.

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Alexander) it was that the meeting be adjourned (6:00pm).

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Davede Alexander
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif