

Bridgewater State University  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 8, 2023  
Heritage Room, Maxwell Library  
Hybrid

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

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 June 8, 2023 with Chairperson MacCormack presiding.

Chairperson MacCormack called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. 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 (Battaglino, Taylor) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 11, 2023.  
(Attachment)

**Chairperson's  
Report**

Student Trustee Update

Chairperson MacCormack thanked Trustee Kopellas for their service and expressed appreciation for their perspective over the past two years.

**President's  
Report**

President Clark thanked Trustee Kopellas for their exceptional advocacy on behalf of the students. He also thanked MSCA Chapter President Torda for a good, productive year. Jenna Shales will serve as the APA Chapter President.

President Clark and Provost Ismaili recognized Dr. Rita Miller on her upcoming retirement. Dean Miller has provided incredible support and service to their work and has embodied the true spirit of collaboration across the campus. He also thanked Dr. Tom Wu for his efforts as interim dean. Dr. Wu's work was remarkable over the past two years. He demonstrated the best and stepped into the role during a challenging period. He was innovative and creative in working with faculty.

Other updates: The efforts of successful graduation ceremonies are truly appreciated. The NECHE process was concluded and BSU received a remarkable letter from the team which is appreciated (acknowledged BSU's equity, strategic planning and the culture at BSU). BSU continues to move forward with new programs. Equity – the anonymous donor is again in active conversation about furthering equity work. There is a focus on building community around the world; BSU has been disconnected due to the pandemic. Lech Walesa is coming to BSU to speak to the campus community due to the efforts of Bruce and Patricia Bartlett.

**Presentation: International Engagement**

Provost Ismaili introduced Dr. Wing-Kai To, Assistant Provost for Global Engagement. Dr. To spoke about global engagement which has been a priority for BSU. The five priorities are: internationalize the curriculum, educational abroad opportunities, support international students on campus with interaction, advance global learning and research and develop partnerships to foster change.

The Study Abroad program develops students' global skills. BSU has less than 200 international students each year. There are strategic partnerships with countries where BSU has a long-standing relationship. The YALI program has been on campus since 2016 (7<sup>th</sup> year); only 28 universities are selected to host this program. BSU is the only institution in New England that has been chosen.

Successes are: many scholarships have been received and hope to continue this; continue with a virtual exchange program which has connected students to about 10 countries; establish scholarships to bring international students to campus (Palestine, Guatemala, etc.); national science grant. They will continue to work on financial support for students, explore programs to provide an enriching experience and bring additional international students to BSU.

ACTION/  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS**EXECUTIVE**Board of Trustees Budget – FY2024

The Board Budget was brought for approval and is level funded.

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Giles) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Board of Trustees Budget for FY2024 as recommended by the Executive Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.

(Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIEDLetter of Intent for M.S. Degree, Cybersecurity and Justice

Provost Ismaili noted this is a collaboration effort across the campus. This will provide a graduate degree program that builds upon all the work that has been undertaken in the cybersecurity realm. Certificates, Bachelor's and Master's degrees will be available. This speaks to a need in the region and the state and BSU will deliver an exceptional program to our students.

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Taylor) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of a Letter of Intent for a MS degree in Cybersecurity and Justice to the Department of Higher Education as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.

(Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIEDTenure Approval – Marci J. Swede, Dean, College of Education and Health Sciences

Provost Ismaili spoke about the new dean for the College of Education and Health Sciences, Dr. Marci Swede, and his recommendation for her to receive tenure. He is satisfied with her portfolio and looks forward to working with her.

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Taylor) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Tenure Recommendation for Dr. Marci J. Swede as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.

(Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIEDNaming of Outdoor Athletic Facilities

President Clark stated this naming recommendation clarifies an action from 1978 in naming the athletic fields. It is now a complex named 'Edward C. Swenson Athletic Complex' and he brings the recommendation to name the football field after BSU's long-time football coach, Pete Mazzaferro. BSU's football alumni are very

active alums and are excited about this opportunity to pursue additional fundraising opportunities.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves that the athletic complex be clarified as the Edward C. Swenson Athletic Complex and that the football field be named as the Peter Mazzaferro Field as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.  
(Attachment)

#### Strategic Planning Update

Chairperson MacCormack noted work has begun for BSU's strategic plan 2.0 and that further discussion will take place at the retreat.

#### President's Accrued Vacation and Sick Time

The president's end-of-year report for accrued vacation and sick time was brought as an information item.  
(Attachment)

#### President's Expenses and Upcoming Travel

The quarterly report for the president's expenses and upcoming travel was brought as an information item.  
(Attachment)

#### Contract with Presidio Technology Capital

Chairperson MacCormack noted that the contract for Presidio will go the Executive Committee in July for approval under the delegation of authority.

### **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

#### Continuation Budget for FY2024

Committee Chair Longo stated the continuation budget is brought every year at this time as the state's budget is not finalized until July. A prorated amount is set for approval by the Board. Vice President Shropshire is expecting an increased budget from the state.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Continuation Budget for FY2024 in the amount of \$60,609,770 (prorated expenditure level for 3.5 months) as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.  
(Attachment)

#### FY2023/Q3 Trust Fund Report

Committee Chair Longo commented the report is positive and the quarter is tracking well.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Taylor) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2023/Q3 Trust Fund Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.  
(Attachment)

Student Fee Schedule

Committee Chair Longo noted the process to set fees is very thoughtful and the recommendation for AY23-24 is a 3% increase. Vice President Shropshire noted the increase is tied to inflationary projections. The increase was set knowing they are unsure of financial parameters with bargaining for salary increases and how much the state will support BSU.

President Clark was hopeful that with the Fair Share funding, dollars would come to BSU, but nothing has happened yet. The Senate budget had an exception for BSU due to the advocacy and support of Senator Rodrigues.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Longo) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a 3% total increase in mandatory student tuition and fees for the academic year 2023-2024 as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.  
(Attachment)

Contract Approval for APC Development Group Inc.

The contract with APC Development is for the renovations of the entrance for the Maxwell Library. The efforts in trying to meet with minority-owned, female-owned businesses to meet the minimum requirement is appreciated.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Longo) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with APC Development Group, Inc. for the renovation of the Park Avenue entrances, Maxwell Library, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.  
(Attachment)

FY2023/Q3 Contracts Report

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

Pending Contracts Requiring Approval by the Board of Trustees

Committee Chair Longo noted there are pending contracts that will be brought to the Executive Committee for approval under the summer delegation of authority.  
(Attachment)

FY2023/Q3 Budget Report

Vice President Shropshire stated there will be a small surplus in the budget which was accomplished through salary savings on open positions. Money was redeployed for one-time expenditures.  
(Attachment)

Capital Projects Update

The Capital Projects Update was brought as an information item. Shea Durgin renovation is going well and Vice President Jason briefly reviewed other upcoming projects.  
(Attachment)

**ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT**FY2023/Q3 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Turchon stated alumni and student engagements have been going well. There were 4 events in Florida (135 attendees) and a successful Deans' Tea. The third quarter year-to-date closed with \$982K raised (\$278K more than last year); total giving is \$4.6M with total year-to-date just over \$7M.

President Clark noted engagement with alumni is going very well. CDO Oliver stated they will continue to work to sustain relationships and have the hard conversations. For the fourth quarter, cash in is at \$1M; cumulative is \$5.7M; \$191K from Giving Day. Golf sponsorships are coming in; outstanding pledges are \$400K and planned giving bequests are \$1.1M (one for \$580K). She is hopeful to close around \$10M in commitments and bequests.

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2023/Q3 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended by the Alumni and Development Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 1, 2023.  
(Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

Foundation Update

Committee Chair Turchon stated the assets are at \$52M with Russell and Fidelity and \$6.5M for the Alumni Association. The Foundation owns five properties and they will obtain an accurate market evaluation for each. BSU students are conducting research for new investment firms.

Alumni Update

Alumni Chair Kulick-Clark reported on the activities of the Alumni Association at the committee meeting.

**UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY**Crisis Management Plan

Committee Chair Caulfield stated the focus of the committee meeting was on the crisis management plan and the protocols for an active shooter scenario. Safety is the number one priority for the university. Chief Tillinghast and Assistant Chief Froio conducted a thorough presentation at the committee meeting. BSU police have specialized training as well as the necessary tools. BSU has a CARE Team in place on campus to look at people of concern as well as the Mental Health Task Force. BSU is the 4<sup>th</sup> safest college in the U.S. (Attachment)

**PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW AND COMPENSATION**Presidential Review (AY2022-2023) and Salary Recommendation (AY2023-24)

Chairperson MacCormack noted every year the Trustees are charged to conduct an annual review of the president's performance which is reported to the Board of Higher Education. The Trustees completed a summary review of his performance and noted the strength of the president's team and their work.

On motion duly made and seconded (Alexander, Taylor) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts President Clark's Self-Assessment and the Trustee Review summarized in Chairperson MacCormack's cover letter which includes a recommendation to the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education that a merit increase be granted to President Clark per the concurrence and endorsement from the Presidential Review and Compensation Committee for the 2023-2024 academic year. (Attachment)

It is the Board's intention to conduct a presidential 360 evaluation which the BHE requires to be conducted every 5 years. This will involve consultation across the campus and with the community. The evaluation will commence in October with a report submitted by December.

**NOMINATING**

Committee Chair Longo noted the Nominating Committee met and proposed the following slate of officers: Jean MacCormack, Chairperson; Margaret A. Caulfield, Vice Chairperson; and Scott Longo, Secretary

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and second (Longo, Giles) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Slate of Board Officers for FY2023-24 as recommended by the Nominating Committee in the attached memorandum from Secretary Longo dated June 1, 2023.  
(Attachment)

OTHER  
BUSINESS

None

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Giles, Longo) it was that the meeting be adjourned (7:50 pm).

Respectfully submitted,

*Scott Longo*  
Scott Longo  
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:  
Tracey Keif