

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 13, 2022
Heritage Room, Maxwell Library
Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Battaglino, Caulfield, Kopellas, Giles (Virtual), Longo, MacCormack, Oliari, Taylor and Turchon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees Prince and Alexander

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; EVP and Provost Ismaili; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Powers, Oravec, Zuromski; Special Advisor DeMacedo (Virtual); CDO Oliver, Interim Assistant VP 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 December 13, 2022 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 Battaglino-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Giles-yes, Trustee Taylor-yes, Trustee Kopellas-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee MacCormack-yes, it was 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

Chairperson MacCormack welcomed BSU's newest Trustee, Mr. Michael Taylor. The Board is very pleased to have him as a member. She also acknowledged the tremendous amount of work that went into NECHE.

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Oliari) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on October 20, 2022.
(Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

**Chairperson's
Report**Student Trustee Update

Trustee Kopellas commented the semester is going well. Students are getting involved and engaging.

**President's
Report**

President Clark welcomed Trustee Taylor. His experiences will offer significant help to adult learners and BSUWorks which assists our students in employment upon graduation. He thanked the Board for its steady leadership, support and extensive involvement. He thanked faculty, librarians and staff for the tremendous hard work over the past few years and for showing compassion, dedication and selflessness.

This semester has been a good and productive semester. They are mindful that all have come through trauma and are still experiencing it. Staff will continue to support our students and focus on mental health and how to engage them. 161 Summer Street (Martin Richard Institute) will soon be open. International partnerships continue and BSU continues to have an impact. President Clark and several others (staff, senators, representatives, Brockton's Mayor, etc.) traveled to Cape Verde and visited the UNI-CV. They met with the three presidents who helped Cape Verde get out of a dictatorship rule. Education is the pathway to democracy. BSU has assisted 200 graduates with a leadership training and they discussed cybersecurity in Cape Verde.

Presentation: Cybersecurity Update

Vice President Zuromski introduced Dave Marion, Director of Security, and talked about the overall cyber readiness. In the last 30 days, there were over 60K phishing attempts and over 800 cyber events that staff had to go through and respond to. In the past year, they have been assessed by the auditor, have completed penetration tests (hired a firm to try and break in), and tabletop exercises where they bring in partners across the institution and respond to mock situations. Technical safeguards consist of a number of infrastructure upgrades. An assessment was conducted by a consultant where they reviewed the top cybersecurity controls and then increased the number of safeguards that BSU has to pass as part of their testing (BSU has scored the highest, but there's still work to do). IT will make investments in managing, detection and response and also hire a firm to monitor the campus 24/7 (they will alert us and will have the ability to intervene on our behalf). They will continue to make advancements in cybersecurity training. A subcommittee was established to focus on threats across the institution and they formed a higher ed coordinating committee to guide the work and findings across all the institutions.

Over 20,000 cyber positions are open in Massachusetts. A bachelor's degree program is on the horizon here at BSU. The cyber range will allow students to get hands-on practical experience and is hopeful this will be available in the fall. Lastly, opening a physical security operations center which will be professionally staffed to handle threats where students will

work in the ‘sock’ and be mentored by staff. In October, BSU hosted a cybersecurity summit with 150 attendees.

**ACTION/
INFORMATION
ITEMS**

EXECUTIVE

President’s Expenses and Upcoming Travel

This report was brought as an information item.
(Attachment)

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Sabbatical Leave Requests

Trustee Caulfield noted there were 50 sabbatical leave requests with diverse research projects across the 30+ departments and one from the library.

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Kopellas) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts the Sabbatical Leave Requests as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 22, 2022.
(Attachment)

University Fact Sheet, Five-Year Trends

Trustee Caulfield noted this report is located online. Further discussion will be held at a future meeting for retention and graduation rates.
(Attachment)

Strategic Enrollment Planning Update

Trustee Caulfield noted it is still early for admissions; applications are 10% ahead of last year. Enrollment initiatives: build out program pages on our website and complete by the end of the year to drive better search results. The hope is to generate applications from the inquiries. BSU has increased merit scholarships awards. There is a Bear scholarship for applicants with a 3.6-3.9 GPA which should have a high impact on admissions/enrollment.
(Attachment)

Divisional Priorities (AY22-23 – Ismaili/Oravec)

To be discussed at the next committee meeting.
(Attachment)

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

FY2023/Q1 Trust Funds Report

Trustee Longo stated the trust funds are doing very well.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Oliari, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2023/Q1 Trust Funds Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 22, 2022.

(Attachment)

Meal Plan Rates for AY2023-24

Trustee Longo noted there were a few years where the meal plan was not increased. This year, the recommendation is for a 5% increase. Staff received feedback from students and held several discussions. Trustee Kopellas noted the complaints for dining have decreased. Three new meal plans will now be available as a result of these discussions.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Kopellas, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Meal Plan Rates for AY2023-24 as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 22, 2022.

(Attachment)

FY2023/Q1 Budget Report

Trustee Longo stated revenue is going well due to better than expected occupancy. President Clark noted state monies have come in as expected. AVP Beaulieu said registered credits are down as of today by 1.5%; they budgeted for 2% down.

(Attachment)

FY2023/Q1 Contracts Report

The quarterly contracts report was provided as an information item.

(Attachment)

Financial Aid Report

The Financial Aid report and the overview of the process was provided at the committee meeting. There was a shift in loans vs. grants. BSU sent out 1,300 financial aid award letters. BSU was first to get the letters out and President Clark offered his compliments to Financial Aid and Admissions.

(Attachment)

Capital Projects Update

The capital projects update was provided as an information item. The equity agenda is being used in a great way. Vice President Jason applies four directed questions to look at space on campus and designs through a racial equity lens. She is intentional to include racial equity in making decisions. DCAMM asked BSU to participate with their

planning team for all of Massachusetts as they are aware of our process.

(Attachment)

Divisional Priorities (AY2022-23 – Shropshire/Jason)

The divisional priorities were brought as an information item.

(Attachment)

STUDENT SUCCESS AND DIVERSITY

Divisional Goals (AY2022-23 – Gentlewarrior)

Vice President Gentlewarrior's goals focus on retention and securing external funds for racial justice and equity work, and to advance racial justice at BSU and across the region.

(Attachment)

Equity-Oriented Student Success Project Funded Through Anonymous Donor

Through Vice President Gentlewarrior's efforts, BSU received funding for the student navigator program and for supporting retention grant scholarships.

(Attachment)

The Racial Equity and Justice Institute

Thirty-six campuses across the nation are involved in REJI. A learning community model is used to focus on growing our own competencies to close educational equity gaps. Grateful for the \$100K state budget appropriation which will be used to run an equity leadership series for trustees, presidents and senior leaders.

(Attachment)

Retention, Persistence and Graduation Data

Sr. Associate Provost Young reviewed the data at the committee meeting. Institutional Research has developed a tool to assist in gathering data. BSU is looked upon for our data infrastructure and she is thankful for Dr. Young's efforts.

(Attachment)

UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY

Equal Opportunity/Title IX Data

The Title IX data was provided for information and fully discussed at the committee meeting.

(Attachment)

Clery Report

BSU police reviewed the Clery report at the committee meeting. BSU must disclose information on campus crime. Alcohol related arrests

have declined.
(Attachment)

Introductions/Resources – K9 Zach and Mikey/Community Liaison
BSU currently has two K9s and their impact on the campus is terrific. The BSU Campus Police have hired a community outreach liaison, Aboubacar Diakite, who is making a positive impact with the students.
(Attachment)

ACLU/Racially Just Policing
Trustee Caulfield noted a report was provided and is grateful for the work of the BSU police and their continued transparency.
(Attachment)

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

FY2023/Q1 Advancement Activity Dashboard Report
Committee Chair Turchon noted Russell Investments continues to monitor our funds. There is continued growth in gifts, commitments and major planned gifts. There is \$1M for Bear merit scholarships for the students. The Foundation received its first installment of \$790K from the anonymous donor (total is \$1.35M). Match dollars from the state amounted to \$555,555 and there was a \$2M bequest intention for the president's discretionary funds.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2023/Q1 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 22, 2022.
(Attachment)

Alumni Update
Trustee Turchon highlighted a few events: successful Alumni Awards event; Bear Essentials provided donated clothing for students (dress for success); open house at 161 Summer Street will be held as well as a holiday Open House at the Jones House. BSU's oldest alumnus, Marie Thomas, will soon celebrate her 106th birthday.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Chairperson MacCormack commented the Board should offer leadership, receive training, and understand what we need to do to implement an equity minded perspective in the work that we do.

Evolving Role of Racial Justice and Equity Council and Student Advisory Group
Provost Ismaili noted they are communicating progress which has been institutionalized. Two more editions will be provided next semester and they will develop an editorial board.

Vice President Gentlewarrior noted she and Kevin McGowan are co-chairing the council. The council is working to advance 4 items. They are also looking for students to serve on the council and hold peer discussions.

Search Committee Orientations and DEI Assessment Rubric

Vice President Powers is implementing diversity, equity and inclusion into the search process.

External Funding Received to Support Racial Justice and Equity Initiatives

Excited about the external funding coming in to assist in this endeavor.

Campus Culture and Critical Race Theory

Massachusetts is not currently seeing restrictions on what one can talk about; however, it is important to be realistic given the case in front of the Supreme Court; there could be a change in the Federal policy.

Supporting Board Committees

Questions were provided to the Board to lead our committees with an equity minded focus to understand the support needed.

HONORARY DEGREE ADVISORY

Committee Report Out

Chairperson MacCormack noted names were added to the pool for consideration. The theme for honorary degree recipients for this next commencement will be the arts. There are notable recommendations for consideration and a proposed slate will be brought to the Board at the February meeting.

OTHER
BUSINESS

None.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Turchon) it was that the meeting be adjourned (7:45pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Longo

Scott Longo
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif