

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 20, 2022
Dunn Conference Room
Hybrid Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Alexander (Virtual), Battaglino, Durgin, Caulfield, Kopellas, Giles, Longo, Prince, Oliari and Turchon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee MacCormack

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; EVP and Provost Ismaili; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Powers, Oravec, Shropshire, 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 October 20, 2021 with Trustee Durgin presiding.

Trustee Durgin noted Chairperson MacCormack was not able to attend and she asked him to preside over the meeting in her absence. The meeting was called to order at 6:25pm. He 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 Alexander-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Giles-yes, Trustee Durgin-yes, Trustee Kopellas-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-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

Trustee Durgin welcomed BSU's newest Trustee, Dr Lisa Battaglino.

On motion duly made and seconded (Oliari, Giles) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 9, 2022.
(Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

**Chairperson's
Report**

Recognition of Faculty Promoted to Full Professor
Provost Ismaili recognized the faculty who were promoted to full

professor last April. Trustee Durgin acknowledged their accomplishment and presented them with a gift.

Student Trustee Update

Trustee Kopellas is working with first-year students who are engaging in activities on campus and joining clubs. The new orientation process went very well.

President's Report

President Clark publicly congratulated the faculty who achieved the status of full professor. He thanked the Board for their involvement on campus thus far. The NECHE visit is coming up which is critically important and appreciates the extensive work by all. BSU has strong COVID protocols and there is a focus on the vaccination and booster shots. Staff are focused on the success of our students knowing they are facing significant challenges (mental health and preparedness for their studies).

President Clark announced that BSU is a recipient of a gift from an institutional national donor. Vice President Gentlewarrior received an email inquiring about racial justice and the donor gave BSU \$1.3M over a two-year period. The money is for a software support platform to track students, support retention scholarships (offered to students in good academic standing) and 3 student navigators who will work with students at a higher risk of non-persistence.

Presentation: Center for Transformative Learning

Provost Ismaili introduced Dr. Jenny Shanahan. She has infused diversity, equity and inclusion in a number of areas. Dr. Shanahan introduced Professor Jabril Solomon and two students (Paulina Aguilar Delgado and Abichael Belizaire) who spoke about their experience at BSU thus far and the obstacles they have had to overcome. The Honors programs and high impact practices typically focus on white students or privileged. They are working on changing programs and how it will be different to focus on racial equity. There are also equity minded changes to the Adrian Tinsley Program (this has typically been a less diverse area). The Honors Program resulted in the largest and most diverse honors cohort.

(Attachment)

ACTION/ INFORMATION ITEMS

AUDIT

Draft Independent Audited Financial Statements (O'Connor & Drew)

Committee Chair Oliari noted BSU received an unmodified opinion from the auditors. Vice President Shropshire explained the focus is on leasing and the new GASB standard for BSU's financial statements.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Oliari, Longo) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the draft independent audited financial statements for FY2022 prepared by the Finance Division and audited by O'Connor & Drew as recommended by the Audit Committee and as described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 13, 2022.
(Attachment)

EXECUTIVE

President's Budget for FY2023

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts and approves the President's Budget for FY2023 as recommended by the Executive Committee and as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 13, 2022.
(Attachment)

Contract Approval for JJ Cardosi, Inc

A construction contract with JJ Cardosi for cyber security was brought for Board approval in the amount of \$1.13M. All funding came from federal and state.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Oliari, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with JJ Cardosi, Inc as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 13, 2022.
(Attachment)

President's Expenses and Upcoming Travel (May-July 2022)

The president's expenses were provided as an information item.
(Attachment)

Delegation of Authority –Approval of Contract for AVI-SPL (Cyber Range Audio-Visual Equipment)

Under the delegation of authority, the Executive Committee approved the contract for AVI-SPL. The contract is for a cyber range build out on campus and is brought as an information item to the Board.
(Attachment)

President's Goals and Objectives for AY2022-2023

The president's goals and objectives were provided as an information item.
(Attachment)

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRSAnnual Report of Grants and Sponsored Projects

Provost Ismaili briefly reviewed the grants report.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Oliari) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts the Annual Report of Grants and Sponsored Projects for the year beginning July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 as described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 13, 2022.

(Attachment)

Faculty and Librarian Hiring Report

Provost Ismaili stated there are 25 new faculty members. This coming year, they will search for 19 permanent faculty and librarians.

(Attachment)

Fall Admissions and Enrollment Reports

Vice President Jean spoke about the enrollment challenges.

Enrollment is down by 2.6% over last fall. There was a significant increase in first-year students (up by 200 students). The larger challenge is with transfer students due to the decrease in enrollments at the community colleges.

(Attachment)

Fall Residence Hall Occupancy Report

Vice President Oravec noted the resident hall occupancy is at 3,072 students which represents 92.98% of the design capacity.

(Attachment)

FINANCE AND OPERATIONSFY2023 Budget

Vice President Shropshire commented the University is almost back to pre-covid. There are abnormalities in the financial environment due to lower enrollments and registered credits. The increase in the state budget has been helpful.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2023 Budget of \$207,624,141 of operating reserve funds to balance the budget as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated September 29, 2022.

(Attachment)

FY2022 Year-End Trust Funds Report

Vice President Shropshire noted there was variance in the resident life

trust fund and there were additional funds due to better than expected occupancy.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Oliari) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2022 Year-End Trust Funds Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated September 29, 2022.
(Attachment)

FY2022 Year-End Budget Report

Committee Chair Longo noted the budget ended with a \$1.4M deficit which was expected. He recognized there were positions that went unfilled which caused extra work on staff at BSU and commented this does not go unnoticed. The budgets are set and the staff adheres to those budgets which is appreciated. President Clark stated the reserves are slightly larger than pre-pandemic.
(Attachment)

Student Accounts Receivable

Committee Chair Longo noted staff are working to educate students about loans/debt and their efforts are appreciated. It's important to provide additional information to students. The student loan debt in the accounts receivable continues to improve.
(Attachment)

Financial Aid Report

The Financial Aid report was brought as an information item.
(Attachment)

FY2022/Q4 Contracts Report

The quarterly contracts report was provided as an information item. Vice President Shropshire noted contracts over \$500,000, according to BSU's procurement policy, are brought to the Board for approval. Our peer institutions have this at a higher level, and they may bring forward a revised policy for the Board.
(Attachment)

Trustee Oliari noted the Committee discussed an outreach program to build up business for local vendors. BSU is very conscientious and does outreach locally. Assistant Vice President Pacheco explained they are working on diversity, equity and inclusion to include local business. Trustee Prince would like a presentation about reaching out to local businesses when this is ready.

Capital Projects Update

The capital projects update was provided as an information item.
(Attachment)

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENTFY2022/Q4 Advancement Activity Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Turchon noted the closing of the year was strong. \$7.3M was raised last year. \$1.2M was awarded and 402 scholarships were provided to 360 students. Net assets stand at \$61M.

Chief Development Officer Oliver noted they exceeded their goals for each quarter. At the end of FY22, \$1.8M was raised. At the end of the current quarter, they are at \$3M in giving.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Kopellas) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2022/Q4 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 13, 2022.

(Attachment)

CDO Oliver Priorities

CDO Oliver stated the main goal for her division is to raise \$100M for the endowment. They will soon launch a campaign to build the endowment. They will continue to engage and connect with Alumni and convert them into donors. Lastly, they continue to bring in additional board members to support the Foundation and BAA.

Alumni Update

CDO Oliver noted Alumni Association President Carrie Kulick-Clark and her team are very engaged with meetings and holding many in-person events with alumni. One project is Bear Essentials which provides donated clothing for job interviews, assistance in writing resumes, etc. Twenty-two events were held at Homecoming.

OTHER
BUSINESS

President Clark recognized Dr. Martina Arndt, Interim Dean for the College of Science and Math; Dr. Niki Glen, Interim Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs, and Ms. Diane Bell, Interim Assistant Vice President for Outreach and Engagement.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Oliari) it was that the meeting be adjourned (8:00pm).

Respectfully submitted,

*Scott Longo*Scott Longo
SecretaryMinutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif