

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 25, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Durgin, Alexander, Caulfield, Benson, Denterlein (late/left early), 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, 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 February 25, 2021 with Chairman Durgin presiding.

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

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
to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on
December 9, 2020.
(Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

**Chairman's
Report**

Chairman Durgin welcomed everyone and congratulated Trustee Longo on his reappointment. Reminder to Trustees: please attend Trustee training sessions and complete the Conflict of Interest which will be sent to you shortly.

Chairman Durgin, President Clark, Provost Ismaili and Vice President Oravec were pleased to acknowledge the following:

*2020 D-111 LGBTQ Athletics Department of the Year by the NCAA and recognized the tremendous work of Marybeth Lamb and her staff.

*Academic Achievement Center, Lauren Folloni and her staff, for their critical work and continued service to students during the pandemic.

*Maxwell Library staff, Librarians, former director Michael Somers and incoming interim director Steve Weiter. The library had to quickly pivot to ensure safety and services for staff and clients.

Update from MSCA Union

MSCA Chapter President Seceleanu spoke about the vaccination rollout and mentioned higher ed is not included in Phase 2 unlike K-12. To date, 12,000 people have sent emails to the Governor and op-eds will appear in local newspapers. AFSCME and APA will assist in advancing this initiative and noted BSU is leading the way in a state-wide campaign. There are extraordinary efforts of faculty and librarians to deliver the best education. The pandemic has taken a toll on mental and physical health of faculty. They are facing stress for the Fall return to deliver instruction in the classroom as well as online. Part-time faculty are facing greater uncertainty as well.
(Full remarks attached)

Update from Student Trustee

Trustee Benson noted the students are focused on a permanent policy for a pass/fail amendment and commented that it's very difficult to be a student in this current pandemic environment.

President's Report

President Clark acknowledged this has been an extremely difficult time for all on campus. Student and staff surveys were conducted to learn about what is working and what is not.

He acknowledged Trustee Denterlein for writing an op-ed piece, Trustee Alexander for his work on Racial Justice, Trustee MacCormack for her work with Student Success, and Trustee Murphy for leading the fundraising efforts for racial equity and justice (\$93,000+ for scholarships).

Other highlights: renaming of Multicultural Affairs, New York Times will write an article about BSU for contact tracing efforts/best practice, the Globe is writing about the food service robots as well as an article about community college enrollment and the impact it has had on the universities, especially for minority students.

Student Success Interventions

Dr. McLaren-Poole, director for IR, provided detailed data information on fall to spring retention. Dr. Miller, dean for Undergraduate Studies, spoke about the student academic engagement initiative which is an interdivisional group that ensures students are engaged in academics, support faculty who are adapting to teach online and to streamline communication and other efforts. Ms. De Oliveira, director for Student Success, spoke about interventions where faculty refer students who need additional support with tutoring, mental health, funds, technology issues, etc. Lastly, Ms. Folloni, executive director

for AAC, spoke about lessons learned and next steps. There is a culture of collaboration, a focus on student-centered retention, network of campus supports, and data-informed strategies for intervention. (See Attachment)

ACTION/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

EXECUTIVE

Delegation of Authority – Executive Session Minutes

Chairman Durgin stated the open meeting law has been followed, however, it was realized the minutes from Executive Session need to be approved and released to public record if the reason(s) for the executive session is deemed to be no longer privileged. The proposal is for the Chairman and Secretary of the Board to review and approve the minutes and determine when they can become public.

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, Trustee Oliari-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees delegates its authority for the Chairman and the Secretary of the Board to review and approve Executive Session Session minutes on behalf of the Board as outlined in the memorandum from Chairman Durgin and Secretary Caulfield dated February 19, 2021. (Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

Employee and Student Survey Results

Vice President Powers provided results of an employee survey. Approximately 750 staff participated. The results showed what is working and what isn't, but overall, 98% are proud to work at BSU. (See Attachment)

Provost Ismaili is heading up a safe return task force to discuss the return to campus this Fall. Various scenarios are being developed based upon the status of vaccinations/pandemic.

Vice President Oravec noted students were surveyed as well to determine enhancements for the spring and next fall. Mr. Walo, director for Administration and Planning, presented the data. There was a strong response rate and overall the survey results reflect what they expected. (See Attachment)

Trustee Benson commented everyone has had a different experience at BSU. Many students commented that they don't feel connected; it's not a university failure though, as staff have done a wonderful job trying to connect people.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Spring Enrollment and Admissions Report

Vice President Oravec reviewed the report. Undergraduate admissions for spring enrollment is down 168 students; graduate students are up; and the overall preliminary headcount for spring enrollment as of this week is 10,064.

(Attachment)

Spring Residence Hall Occupancy Report

Vice President Oravec noted there are 1,116 students in the residence halls for spring (4.3 % decrease from fall to spring).

(Attachment)

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Capital Projects Update

Vice President Jason provided a summary of projects on campus. They are focusing on improvements to the Rondileau Student Union. Another solar project will be on campus with no upfront costs. They are capitalizing on funding from the federal government, MSCBA and DCAMM. Trustee Alexander is interested in other opportunities that might be on the horizon similar to the food robots.

(Attachment)

FY21/Q2 Trust Funds Report (10/1/20-12/31/20)

Vice President Shropshire noted overall there is negative impact in not meeting the 5% requirement for the residence halls. Aviation and University Events revenues have decreased.

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, Trustee Oliari-yes, it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2021/Q2 Trust Funds Report as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 22, 2021.

(Attachment)

FY2021/Q2 Contracts Report

Vice President Shropshire provided the report as an information item.

(Attachment)

FY2021/Q2 Budget Report (10/1/20-12/31/20)

Vice President Shropshire was pleased to report conservative planning has paid off. The State appropriation was better than anticipated and they have avoided significant increases in the operating budget. \$2.2M in funding will go to the operating reserve.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

BHE is paying attention to financial liability. 96% of revenues are committed.

(Attachment)

FY2022 Budget Update

Vice President Shropshire noted the stimulus federal support (\$14.4M) is separate from the operating budget as it cannot be used for operating expenses. They have committed \$6M to students for emergency grants (requirement is \$4.4M). Remainder of this money can be used for lost revenues and will ensure they are in compliance. It cannot be used on executive salaries or athletics. The Governor submitted a slightly decreased budget.

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

FY2021/Q2 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report

The Q2 endowment stands at \$53.9M. Return is doing well and comparable to benchmarks. Giving is going well. Donors are up with 8% increase in faculty and staff donating. As of this week, endowment is at \$56M.

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, it was

that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2021/Q2 Alumni and Development Dashboard report outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 18, 2021.

(Attachment)

President Clark congratulated Ms. Cuttle Oliver as she is now Acting Chief Development Officer.

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, it was

that the meeting be adjourned (6:30 pm).

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq.
Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq.
Secretary