

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 20, 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 May 20, 2020 with Chairman Durgin presiding.

Chairman Durgin called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Oliari) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 16, 2020.
(Attachment)

**President's
Report**

President Clark updated the Board on the status of the campus. The campus community is pulling together to develop a plan for the Fall and busy working on budgeting, telecommuting and workplans for those working remotely. The self-reported COVID cases for students and staff remain relatively low.

Enterprise Risk Management

Acting Vice President Zuromski and Dr. Jennifer Sipiora provided an update for enterprise risk management. They walked through the process of identifying risk factors across all divisions. Ninety-four risks were identified and were assigned a risk factor ranging from low to elevated and each were categorized. A separate list was created for COVID-related risks. Monthly risk meetings will continue, a process will be established for regular risk collection and assessment, and they

will draft and propose risk treatment plans for September, 2020.
(Attachment)

FY20 Budget Update

Vice President Shropshire noted the administration received approval from the Board at its April 1 meeting to take \$6.9M from the reserves to help pay students back for tuition, room and board and parking. However, they did not have to use most of this money due to other cost savings; only had to use \$500,000. Each division has thoroughly reviewed their budgets which has resulted in cost savings. The federal government has also provided money due to the pandemic. As a result, their proposal to the Board will be to not raise fees for the next academic year. Students and families are financially struggling during this pandemic and this is the right path to take to help our students.

FY21 Budget Scenarios

Vice President Shropshire reviewed the various scenarios for this coming fall. There are 4 scenarios currently being considered for FY21. Each scenario includes no fee increase, fall single occupancy in the residence halls, approximately \$8 million in expenditure reductions and maintaining to the maximum extent possible our employees.

The best-case scenario includes a 5% decrease in the state appropriation and level enrollment with a slight ending surplus. The likely scenario includes a 10% decrease in appropriation and 2.5% decrease in enrollment. Current fall 2020 registration is running 1.7% behind last year with 63% of the credits registered which supports a 2.5% enrollment decrease projection. This scenario results in an approximate \$4.9M deficit for the year.

The less optimistic scenario includes a 15% drop in appropriation and a 5% enrollment drop. With this, the institution must pay the additional employee fringe benefit costs locally. In this scenario, a 15% reduction in the appropriation costs BSU approximately \$10.5M versus FY20. The ending result of this less optimistic scenario is a \$9.8M deficit.

The worst-case scenario includes a 20% reduction in appropriation (\$14M reduction versus FY20) and a 7.5% reduction in enrollment. Additional cost savings are necessitated in this scenario including extending the hiring pause through the end of FY21. This worst-case scenario results in a deficit of approximately \$13.4M which would leave approximately \$1.6M in the operating reserve at year end FY21.

Dining Update

Vice President Jason noted the contract was sent to Sodexo and has

been under review by their attorneys. They are backlogged, therefore, there is a slight delay with the contract coming to the Board for a vote. She anticipates bringing the contract to the June 1 Board meeting or perhaps the following one. The Trustees requested that the contract also be reviewed by our attorney.

COVID-19/REENTRY UPDATE

President Clark noted Provost Ismaili is leading a safe return task force to develop plans for employees and students to return to campus. Provost Ismaili explained the role of the Task Force and its subgroups and the enormous amount of work taking place to move forward. Included in these groups are representatives across the campus – faculty, staff and students. The Task Force is expected to submit a report to President Clark by June 18 and he will announce plans for the Fall semester by July 1.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Durgin invited Dr. Hegbloom to address the Board. She recognized the great work of the faculty in moving their classes online. She recognized the hard work of the administration as well. She is hopeful that faculty and librarians will be included in the conversations taking place in planning for the future. The collective bargaining process remains uncertain.

Chairman Durgin noted the June 11 Board meeting will be moved to either June 17 or 18 and the Board Retreat is scheduled for June 25 from 9-11am.

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Alexander) it was that the meeting be adjourned (6:15pm).

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Davede Alexander
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif