

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 19, 2026
6:00pm
Dunn Conference Suite
Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Antonucci, Battaglini (virtual), Koutoujian, Prince, Taylor, Turchon, Ulett (virtual), Vieira

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees Cesero, Giles

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; Acting Provost Alcon; Vice Presidents Beaulieu, Bell, Croft, Jason, Jean, Powers, Zuromski; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; CDO Oliver; Senior Advisor DeMacedo

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 former Governor Baker, having been complied with, and a quorum of the Board present, the Board of Trustees held a meeting on February 19, 2026, with Chairperson Taylor presiding.

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. 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 Antonucci-yes, Trustee Vieira-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Battaglini-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee Taylor-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

On motion duly made and seconded (Prince, Vieira) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on December 16, 2025.
(Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

**Chairperson's
Report**

Chairperson Taylor began the meeting by thanking the President's Office staff for their work on planning the retirement party for Vice President Shropshire and the smooth transition in the planning of the Board of Trustees meetings. He called on Vice President Croft to introduce and acknowledge two Student Life staff members for their regionally and nationally recognized achievements. The Associate

Director of the Center for Student Engagement, Kaitlyn Dyleski, won the ACUI Region 8's Holly Sate College Union Role Model and Campus Life Award, and the Center for Student Engagement's Student Programs Coordinator, Maia Almeida, won NACA's C. Shaw Smith New Professional Award. Chairperson Taylor also introduced the board's new Student Trustee Avery Barry who is a junior majoring in biology. Chairperson Taylor informed the group of the former Student Trustee Dhareen Jean-Michel's internship opportunity which was the reason for his resignation. He hopes Trustee Jean-Michel will be able to give a report to the board at a later time about his internship experience. Chairperson Taylor also recognized Trustee Battaglino for appointment to the Massachusetts State College Building Authority and thanked her for the work she has done representing the university in its best interest.

President's Report

President Clark also recognized Trustee Barry and thanked Vice President Shropshire for his work and dedication to BSU. President Clark introduced Interim Vice President Beaulieu to the Board of Trustees with Vice President Shropshire's retirement. President Clark also recognized senior leadership from the finance division in the audience. President Clark thanked the staff in Student Life, Operations, and Sodexo for their hard work getting the campus up and running and keeping students safe after the recent snowstorm. President Clark thanked Trustee Battaglino for her work as a member of the Board of Higher Education and for voting no to allow a 90-credit applied bachelor's degree to be proposed as he does not believe it will be in the best interest of BSU.

President Clark then called on Trustee Ulett to share her experience from the BSU trip to Cape Verde and the Azores. Trustee Ulett shared that the trip was very meaningful for her as a Cape Verdean-American Trustee. While serving on the delegation, she met with senior national leaders of Cape Verde who told her how important and affirming it was for their partnership with BSU to have a member of the Cape Verdean diaspora serving in a governance role at the university. Trustee Ulett said that she could see the first-hand impact that BSU students are making through English language learning and community education initiatives. Trustee Ulett shared that they visited local schools and cultural sites, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, and they met with the Cape Verdean Football Federation, and US Embassy officials. Trustee Ulett summarized that the key takeaways from this trip were positioning BSU as a leading institution for Cape Verde, strengthening recruitment and retention pathways for enrollment, expanding student and faculty exchange and global internships, and strengthening BSU's commitment to inclusion, representation, and global engagement.

President Clark thanked Trustee Ulett, and lead a round of applause for Kaitlyn Dyleski and Maia Almeida. President Clark congratulated the

Men's Swimming and Diving team for winning the Little East Conference Championships. He also congratulated the Men's Indoor Track team for winning the MASCAC championship for the sixth year in a row. He acknowledged that the women's teams have also done very well this year and have carried BSU.

President Clark acknowledged that it is Black History Month and shared that BSU rededicated the Hall of Black Achievement and held a Black History Month banquet last week to celebrate. President Clark shared that the new Mayor of Brockton, Moises Rodriguez, attended and spoke at the banquet. President Clark shared that Mayor Rodriguez is the first mayor of color ever elected in the city of Brockton, despite it being one of the most diverse cities in New England.

President Clark shared that this morning, he and two busses full of BSU students visited Meditech, a medical records company, for a tour. BSU is focused on pathways to employment and of its 3,500 employees, Meditech currently employs a couple of hundred BSU alum. Their president and CEO, Michelle O'Connor, is an alum and serves on the BSU Foundation Board, and President Clark is proud to have that connection for students. He thanked Vice President Bell and CDO Oliver for putting the visit together.

President Clark proudly shared that the endowment is currently at \$93.5 million, and that there will be more to come with Giving Day in April.

President Clark shared that the Bright Act, which is the deferred maintenance capital bond bill, will be considered and likely passed by the State Senate next week.

President Clark began to introduce Dean Marci Swede for the Health Professions presentation by sharing that BSU is increasing its opportunities for students to serve in the healthcare industry, and President Clark was just at Brockton Signature Hospital this morning as a newly appointed member of their board.

Health Professions Presentation

Dean Swede explained that when she came to BSU in 2023, she was charged with beginning the conversation around what health sciences might look like at BSU and why a focus on health sciences should be pursued by the university. Dean Swede said that BSU already had the academic foundation to build onto. With health programs being some of the most desired majors by students and health occupations having a strong outlook projection nationally, it made sense to pursue. BSU is strongly revered and known for some of its programs like education and aviation, and the goal was to approach the development of the health programs in a similar way that makes it stand out. Dean Swede said that the goal with creating the program to

ensure it was of and for BSU was that it needed to be interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial, and innovative. It needed to have a regional focus, but a global lens. It needed to be equity minded. Dean Swede shared that the strategic plan for health professions included: recognizing that the health professions are broad in scope and interdisciplinary in structure, prioritize paths that meet student needs and lead to meaningful employment, identify academic programs and experiences rooted in a liberal arts education, support regional workforce development and promote health equity and wellness. Dean Swede shared how she worked to develop the strategic plan. Dean Swede shared the ways that building off of already existing robust majors in science technology, data informatics, business entrepreneurship, and humanities and social sciences will help students apply their majors to the healthcare field through internships, co-ops, and research projects.

Dean Swede said that she did two focus groups with healthcare industry partners in the region and the feedback they gave was that BSU's plan for health sciences aligned with their vision for the direction of the industry. The focus groups also said they want employment candidates to have foundational skills such as communication, writing, and logic which is what BSU is already building off of.

Dean Swede shared the success of the first Workforce Summit in Healthcare that took place on campus in January 2025 where several companies and healthcare institutions in the region sent delegates to participate in conversations around the healthcare industry. She shared that hospitals were interested in helping BSU students gain industry experience and they were also interested in partnering with BSU to provide more workforce development for their current employees. BSU is also looking at ways to raise its academic profile through robust academic partnerships with Johnson & Wales and Northeastern University. These partnerships allow students to participate in clinical programs, that they otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate in all while receiving an affordable education through BSU.

Dean Swede concluded her presentation by sharing a video that was produced by Empowered with Meg Ryan, which is a non-profit that identifies academic programs they want to profile. BSU was selected to be profiled for their focus in health education and the video will play nationally on PBS for a year.

President Clark thanked Dean Swede for her presentation and reiterated to the board how important the development of this program is to advance BSU in the industry.

Honorary Degree Recipients- Graduate Commencement and Undergraduate Commencement

President Clark gave a summary of each Honorary Degree recipient and asked the board voted for all of the recommended candidates at once.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Vieira, Turchon) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to award Honorary Degrees of Public Service to Dave de Alexander, Charlie Baker, and Andrea Campbell at the 2026 Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 22, 2025.
(Attachment)

Distinguished Service Awards- Graduate Commencement and Undergraduate Commencement

President Clark gave a summary of each Distinguished Service Award recipient and asked the board to vote for all of the recommended candidates at once.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Vieira, Turchon) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to award Distinguished Service Awards to Carolyn Casey, Michael Rodrigues, and Harold Tavares at the 2026 Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 22, 2025.
(Attachment)

Approval of the Naming of the Wellness Center Art Gallery Wall after Donna K. Schiavo

Chief of Staff Leuenberger introduced AVP Chris Frazer to share information about his former colleague and friend Donna K. Schiavo and why the Wellness Center would like to name their art gallery wall in Donna's memory.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Prince, Vieira) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the request to rename the Wellness Center Hallway Art Gallery Wall after Donna K. Schiavo as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated January 15, 2026.
(Attachment)

Update on Mid-Year Divisional Priorities Chief of Staff Leuenberger explained to the Board of Trustees that in front of

them were the mid-year updates for the divisional strategic priorities in a booklet.
(Attachment)

Delegation of Authority- Contract with Titan Roofing, Inc.
Chairperson Taylor shared that the Executive Committee voted through Delegation of Authority to approve the Titan Roofing contract for the Maxwell Library roof project.
(Attachment)

Delegation of Authority- Contract with Presidio Technology Capital, LLC
Chairperson Taylor shared that the Executive Committee voted through Delegation of Authority to approve the Presidio Technology contract for the server storage infrastructure, services, and five years of maintenance.
(Attachment)

President's Expenses (November 2025-January 2026)
President Clark spent a total of \$3,110.87 in travel expenses for the months of November 2025-January 2026. \$2,867.92 of the total came from the travel expenses for the university's trip to Cape Verde and the Azores.
(Attachment)

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Life Update
Trustee Battaglini shared a summary of the Student Life updates from Vice President Croft. She said the division is steady and reported on the hard work Residence Life did to keep students safe and entertained during the snowstorm. She also shared that the Student Handbook has been updated and refreshed, the Veterans Services office just celebrated their tenth anniversary, and the division just welcomed two new hires.

Vice President Croft explained to the Board of Trustees that on the tables in front of them were decks of cards that were designed by students titled "54 Things to Do Before You Graduate". These cards have been given out to students.

Spring Residence Hall Occupancy Report
Vice President Croft reported that the spring occupancy was yielding at 92% with a melt rate of 8%. Vice President Croft said that the melt rate is yielding higher than normal, so her

division will be looking into what factors might be causing the change.
(Attachment)

Presentation on Academic Innovation

Trustee Battaglini reported that during the Academic Affairs portion of their most recent committee meeting, Acting Provost Alcon gave a presentation on Academic innovation that highlighted the efforts that the university is making to support both organic and prompted innovation, and how it relates to academia.
(Attachment)

Academic Affairs Divisional Strategic Plan

Trustee Battaglini shared that Acting Provost Alcon also reported on the progress of the Academic Affairs division's strategic plan.
(Attachment)

College of Education and Health Sciences Name Change

Dean Swede shared with the Board of Trustees that the College of Education and Health Sciences will be changing its name to the College of Education and Health Professions as it better reflects the identity and scope of the college to the external community.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

FY2026/Q2 Trust Funds Report

Interim Vice President Beaulieu reported that the university's trust fund surplus is projected to be slightly higher than budget by \$140,000. The university's largest trust fund, the Resident Life Trust Fund, is projecting better than budget with revenue of \$1.3 million due to both conservative budgeting and a higher than anticipated residence hall occupancy rate. Since there has been an increase in residence hall expenses, the original budgeted surplus for that trust fund is also remaining on track, which will help support the overall operating budget. The Dining Trust Fund revenues are projected to be higher, but expenses are projected to be slightly increased due to the Sodexo contract being finalized after the original budget was submitted. The trust fund is still on track with a surplus of about \$100,000.

On motion duly made and seconded (Taylor, Battaglini) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2026/Q2 Trust Funds Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated January 27, 2026.
(Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

FY2026/Q2 Budget Report

Interim Vice President Beaulieu reported that the tuition and fees revenues are projected to be slightly under budget by 0.2%.

Interim Vice President Beaulieu reported that the state budget, other revenue, and foundation support are all on track with the original approved budget. Expenses are also projecting to be slightly below.

Interim Vice President Beaulieu said that with everything on track, the bottom line is about \$33,000.

(Attachment)

FY2026/Q2 Contracts Report

Interim Vice President Beaulieu explained that the report attached was a standard contracts report where contracts are presented between \$50,000 and \$500,000, and then the quarterly contract report was brought as an information item. There were no questions.

(Attachment)

FY2025 ACFR Report

Interim Vice President Beaulieu explained to the Board of Trustees that the spiral bound booklet in front of them was the FY2025 ACFR Report and that she is very proud of the report and the effort that her team did to make it happen. Interim Vice President Beaulieu shared that BSU is one of only two institutions in New England to receive an award from the Government Finance Officers Association, and BSU has received this award for 17 consecutive years.

(Attachment)

Capital Projects Update and Master Plan

Vice President Karen Jason shared that the Shea Durgin boiler replacement has been completed, the campus-wide master plan has been completed, the Burnell renovation is going according to schedule, and the renovation of the ground floor in the Rondileau Student Union has been completed. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held later in the semester for the space. Vice President Jason also shared that the steps of Boyden Hall have also been completed and the front door is now able to be accessed.

(Attachment)

FY2027 Budget

Interim Vice President Beaulieu said that the FY2027 budget is underway, and her team has been working with other divisions on campus to build the budget. She shared that the Enrollment Marketing Committee is working on some enrollment projection for FY2027 which will help project revenue. She shared that they are also waiting to hear about the Governor's budget and asked President Clark to touch on that information.

President Clark said that state colleges and universities were told to prepare for a 10% appropriations cut which would have been devastating to BSU, but that did not happen. BSU was level funded

and it is the fifth consecutive year of level funding. President Clark was also happy to report that collective bargaining was also rolled in.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Advancing Racial Equity and Justice at Bridgewater State University: Informing Our Ongoing Work with BSU's Racial Justice Taskforce's Recommendations

Vice President Diane Bell reported that in the most recent Racial Justice and Equity Committee meeting, she and Interim Assistant Provost for Global Engagement Jakari Griffith were able to share where they are at with the recommendations from the Racial Justice Task Force. Vice President Bell shared that in a few months, the recommendations document will hit its five-year mark since it was established. She said that President Clark charged the committee with creating an inventory of the progress that has been made with the task force recommendations. Vice President Bell stated that they are to clearly operationalize the remaining recommendations by aligning them with specific unit responsibilities, timelines, and measures, and then, to support the leadership of VP of Strategy and Planning, Deniz Leuenberger in ensuring the remaining recommendations are appropriately assigned to members of the campus and explicitly linked to the institutional and divisional goals. Vice President Bell said that she is happy to report that several recommendations have been completed through a span of all divisions, but there is still work to do.

OTHER BUSINESS

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Antonucci, Vieira) it was that the meeting be adjourned (8:15pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Turchon
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Meghan Eckelberger with assistance
from generative AI for transcription