

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 23, 2023
Heritage Room, Maxwell Library
Hybrid

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees Giles, Kopellas, MacCormack

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; EVP and Provost Ismaili; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Powers, Shropshire, Zuromski; Special Advisor deMacedo; CDO Oliver, Acting Vice President 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 February 23, 2023 with Secretary Longo presiding.

In the absence of Chairperson MacCormack, Secretary Longo called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. 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 Alexander-yes, Trustee Battaglino-yes, Trustee Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Taylor-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Oliari-yes, Trustee Prince-yes it was

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

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 (Caulfield, Turchon) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on December 13, 2022.
(Attachment)

**Chairperson's
Report**

MSCA Remarks – Chapter President

MSCA Chapter President Lee Torda provided an update. She wants to create a quality work environment for her fellow faculty members. The past few years have been difficult due to COVID and faculty are

trying to keep students in the classroom and engaged. Much work happens outside of the classroom due to mental health issues. They recognize an economic burden for students to purchase books. Faculty feel the price increases as well. With a new Governor and Lt. Governor, she is optimistic. The Fair Share Amendment was recently passed, and she invited the Board to get out into the community and urge for the passage of the Cherish Act. It will help reduce student debt, improve facilities, and take care of our part-time faculty who are key to our University. She looks forward to a productive partnership and counts on the Board to be an advocate for the faculty at BSU. Dr. Torda invites any Trustee to come and watch them teach, advise, mentor and spend time with the students. Faculty are passionate about their job and BSU students.

Secretary Longo acknowledged the passing of David Deep, former employee at BSU from 1963-1989; retiring as Dean of Students.

Student Trustee Update

None

**President's
Report**

President Clark thanked Dr. Torda for her passion and partnership. He noted the Fair Share is public law and it's important to fight for our fair share of the funds available for education. They will continue to contact the Senate and House and advocate for higher education.

He congratulated Diane Bell on her recent promotion to Acting Vice President for Outreach and Engagement.

Other highlights: the spring semester is off to a good start. Students are learning, study abroad programs have resumed, athletics are in full swing and international students are back on campus. Trustees were provided a book written by Professor Brian Payne which made the top 100 books being sold in Canada. We recently celebrated our 50th anniversary with the Canadian Studies program. Racial Equity and Justice – so much has happened on campus, and recently, Commissioner Noe Ortega visited BSU to talk about next steps with racial justice and equity. A discussion was led by Dr. Tia Brown McNair, who is a national voice, with a focus on equity minded leadership. Black History month was celebrated and Trustee Francis Giles attended and met with students. Engaging the region – Senator Markey will be on campus to celebrate a \$2M grant from the federal government for a cybersecurity center. Senator Timilty will be on campus to talk about public safety; Mass Bio Tech Education Foundation was present to talk about pathways to careers in biotechnology; MIT students were on campus, etc.

Presentation: Innovation

Provost Ismaili recognized Dr. Jenny Shanahan for her work with BSU

students which ties into innovation. In the Summer of 2017, they introduced the academic innovation initiative, and since then, have talked about what they've learned and where they are going. Dr. Cindy Kane stated they have been awarded grants for 3 years. Their priority is to have consistent student success and improve the University we are today and create the University we want to become. They look at innovation as a product and a process and focus on innovations in programs, initiatives, etc. It's important to influence the culture at BSU. Some examples of innovation: the Think Tank and Makerspace, photonics and optical engineering, childhood studies, work in the College of Business. Next steps: sustain, enable and catalyze innovation and continue to create new ideas and lead new initiatives.

President Clark provided a NECHE update and thanked everyone on campus for their work on the NECHE accreditation. There have been positive conversations and they will soon have a NECHE meeting for the full report. The letter from the Commissioner will be provided upon arrival.

**ACTION/
INFORMATION
ITEMS**

EXECUTIVE

Contract Approval for Atrium Campus, LLC

Vice President Shropshire noted the contract is for door lock systems, and the first phase will be for the residence halls.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Taylor, Oliari) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with Atrium Campus, LLC as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 15, 2023. (Attachment)

Contract Approval for Ellucian Company, L.P.

Vice President Shropshire stated the contract with Ellucian is for the Banner software. It is a five-year contract to continue with student systems. Vice President Zuromski explained the contract includes the administrative system, paying bills, finance module, financial aid, etc. An Evaluation Committee (25 members) was formed and selected the best qualified company.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Alexander) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with Ellucian Company, L.P. as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 15, 2023. (Attachment)

Mid-Year Divisional and Interdivisional Strategic Plan Updates

Chief of Staff Leuenberger noted the divisional and interdivisional

updates were provided. A timeline was presented and they are currently working on Strategic Plan 2.0 to be completed by the end of the Fall semester.

(Attachment)

President's Expenses and Upcoming Travel (Nov 2022-Jan 2023)

This was provided as an information item.

(Attachment)

Student Trustee Guidelines

The guidelines were presented as an information item. The criteria for serving as a student trustee was updated and further outlined.

(Attachment)

Executive Session Minutes

Executive Session minutes from March 16, 2022 and June 9, 2022 were brought as an information item. The minutes shall remain sealed.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Full Proposal for MS in Mathematics

Vice Chair Caulfield noted Provost Ismaili walked the Committee through the process of submitting a new proposal. The proposal had full approval throughout the process. Provost Ismaili thanked the department of Mathematics, College of Graduate Studies and the College of Science and Math. The content speaks to the market demand.

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Alexander) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of a new major to the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) for a M.S. degree in Mathematics at Bridgewater State University as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 2, 2023.

(Attachment)

Divisional Priorities (Ismaili/Oravec)

Vice Chair Caulfield noted the divisional priorities were provided at the Committee meeting noting the progress which has been made to date.

(Attachment)

Spring Enrollment and Admissions Report

Vice Chair Caulfield noted the headcount drop is 2% and billed credits are down by 1.3% which is the result of the COVID pandemic. Currently, retention rates are doing well.

(Attachment)

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

Spring Residence Hall Occupancy Report

Vice Chair Caulfield noted housing is currently at 84.5% of design occupancy, which is an increase over last year. Student interest is rebounding from the pandemic and residence life staff is pivoting to meet the needs of the students.

(Attachment)

Fall 2023 Admissions/Admission Initiatives

Vice Chair Caulfield noted undergraduate admissions are trending well; slightly behind first year applications. The team is implementing initiatives to drive this number up. Vice President Jean stated they continue to see strong numbers for admittance and early deposits. This year, they are implementing a merit scholarship strategy and awarded more than 3,700 merit scholarships. There is an increase in transfer numbers which is encouraging, as well as an increase for applications and acceptances. For Fall 2023, the numbers are strong for graduate applications (up 5.29%) and acceptances (up 9.5%).

(Attachment)

FINANCE AND OPERATIONSContract Approval for JJ Cardosi, Inc

Vice President Shropshire noted this is a construction contract for the Hunt Hall elevator which has been a long-term need for the building.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with JJ Cardosi, Inc as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 2, 2023.

(Attachment)

FY2023/Q2 Trust Funds Report

Vice President Shropshire spoke about an adjustment in the occupancy report which affected the projections. The report has been adjusted for the full Board's consideration. They will look to improve processes before determining a projection.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Oliari) it was that the Finance and Operations Committee approve the FY2023/Q2 Trust Funds Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 15, 2023.

(Attachment)

FY2023/Q2 Budget Report

Vice President Shropshire stated enrollment is slightly higher than

projected. There are salary savings due to turnover. Savings will be built into the operating budget. Money will be invested in one-time projects.

(Attachment)

FY2023/Q2 Contracts Report

The quarterly contracts report was provided as an information item.

(Attachment)

FY2022 ACFR Report (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report)

Vice President Shropshire stated this comprehensive report is submitted every year and BSU has received 14 years of certifications of excellence. The report tells the financial story of BSU and the audit is embedded into the report. BSU is the only public higher education institution that submits this report to achieve certification.

(Attachment)

EProcurement Update

An update was provided at the committee meeting by Dr. Pacheco. This system will truly make a difference on campus and will provide efficiency as well as the ability to better manage contracts.

Capital Projects Update

Vice President Jason briefly reviewed the report.

(Attachment)

Divisional Priorities (AY2022-23 – Shropshire/Jason)

The divisional priorities were brought as an information item.

(Attachment)

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

FY2023/Q2 Advancement Activity Dashboard Report

Trustee Turchon noted the combined net assets stand at \$63M. In spite of the markets, the portfolio average return is 6.2%. Second quarter giving stands at \$703K; only \$330K away from reaching the end-of-year goal of \$4M. President Clark will travel to Florida to meet with alumni and attend four receptions. The annual golf tournament will be held on June 26. A BSU Tea will be held in June as well.

President Clark acknowledged the \$1M endowed Jenkins fund. Mr. Jenkins was a former Trustee and Chair of the BSU Board, serving for ten years. His estate provided a planned gift to BSU which is truly appreciated.

CDO Oliver added, to date, for the third quarter they raised an additional \$650K. Their end-of-year goal is \$5.5M.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Oliari, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2023/Q2 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 2, 2022.
(Attachment)

Alumni Update

An alumni admissions tour will take place in April. Bear Essentials will take place again and are accepting business clothing for the students as well as Dress a Girl Around the World project. They recently celebrated the oldest alum at 106 years of age.

Foundation Update

Any excess cash received is placed at Rockland Trust and then moved to the Fidelity account. The Real Estate Committee of the Foundation looks to properties that could enhance the BSU campus. There is a student investment fund in the Ricciardi College of Business with \$200K to actively invest.

The Mandela Fellows will be on campus again in June. They are emerging leaders from Africa who are selected for this program and BSU serves as a host campus.

HONORARY DEGREE

Honorary Degree Recipient/Graduate Ceremony (Wyatt)

Greg Wyatt is an internationally acclaimed sculptor who has a connection to BSU. He donated several art pieces to BSU and this is a perfect opportunity to officially honor him.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Taylor) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of an Honorary Degree to Greg Wyatt at the University's 2023 Graduate Commencement Convocation on May 12, 2023, as recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 16, 2023.
(Attachment)

Distinguished Service Award/Graduate Ceremony (Karidoyanes)

Stephen Karidoyanes has served as the conductor for the Plymouth Philharmonic amongst many other accomplishments. He led a concert at BSU and was instrumental in refreshing BSU's alma mater.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Oliari, Turchon) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of a Distinguished Service Award to Steven Karidoyanes at the University's 2023 Graduate Commencement Convocation on May 12, 2023, as recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee and outlined in the

memorandum from President Clark dated February 16, 2023.
(Attachment)

Distinguished Service Award/Graduate Ceremony (Troy/Quinn)

Professors Lisa Troy and James Quinn are being honored for their community program “Arts for Youth” which ran successfully for a couple decades.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Turchon) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of a Distinguished Service Award to Lisa M. Troy and James Quinn at the University’s 2023 Graduate Commencement Convocation on May 12, 2023 as recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 16, 2023.

Honorary Degree Recipient/Undergraduate Ceremony (Marchand/Charbonneau)

Armand Marchand and George Charbonneau are fixtures in the theatre community in Southeastern Massachusetts, especially in New Bedford. They have managed summer theatre programs and were honored by the City of New Bedford as well as UMass Dartmouth.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of an Honorary Degree to Armand R. Marchand and George Charbonneau at the University’s 2023 Undergraduate Commencement Convocation on May 13, 2023, as recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 16, 2023.
(Attachment)

Honorary Degree Recipient/Undergraduate Ceremony (Durgin)

Former Chair Durgin will be honored due to his 30 years of volunteer service. He is truly deserving of a BSU degree.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of an Honorary Degree to Eugene J. Durgin, Jr. at the University’s 2023 Undergraduate Commencement Convocation on May 13, 2023 as recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 16, 2023.
(Attachment)

Honorary Degree Recipient/Undergraduate Ceremony (Lambert)

Ed Lambert is a BSU graduate, served as a state representative and mayor of Fall River, was cabinet secretary and today is the Executive Director of Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education. He will serve as commencement speaker for the morning ceremony.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of an Honorary Degree to Edward M. Lambert, Jr. at the University’s 2023 Undergraduate Commencement Convocation on May 13, 2023, as recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 16, 2023. (Attachment)

Distinguished Service Award/Undergraduate Ceremony (Rateau)
Noube Rateau, from Brockton, is a film maker, a BSU graduate and has won a New England Emmy Award. He has directed several powerful documentaries tackling deeply divisive issues from policing to immigration to fathering.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Oliari) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of a Distinguished Service Award to Noube Rateau at the University’s 2023 Undergraduate Commencement Convocation on May 13, 2023, as recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 16, 2023. (Attachment)

OTHER
BUSINESS

None

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Prince, Turchon) it was that the meeting be adjourned (7:50pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Longo
Scott Longo
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif