

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 12, 2024
6:15pm
Dunn Conference Room
Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Battaglino, Cesero, Giles, Koutoujian, Prince, Rose, Taylor, Turchon, Vieira

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees Alexander, MacCormack

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; Interim Provost Alcon; Vice Presidents Bell, Jason, Croft, Gentlewarrior, Jean, Powers, Shropshire, Zuromski (Virtual); 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 December 12, 2024 with Chairperson Taylor presiding.

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. 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 Cesero-yes, Trustee Rose-yes, Trustee Vieira-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Giles-yes, Trustee Battaglino-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee Koutoujian-yes, Trustee Taylor-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 (Giles, Turchon) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on October 22, 2024.
(Attachment)

**Chairperson's
Report**

Chairperson Taylor thanked everyone for their investment to the work that is being accomplished at BSU.

Student Trustee Update

Trustee Rose commented that finals are next week and morale is very high. The Bridgewater Commitment is outstanding and is appreciated.

SGA commended the hard work that went into this. The MBTA project is moving along to assist students with transportation needs. Trustee Rose announced that they received an internship in Senator Markey's office and is excited about the advocacy work.

President's Report

President Clark welcomed Trustee Koutoujian who understands the importance of this institution. Trustee Koutoujian embraces the warmth and welcome of BSU and stated it's an honor to serve on the Board. President Clark thanked the Board for the hours each member contributes to advance the mission of BSU.

President Clark's Updates:

*Staff who are leaving – Dean Lisa Boehm, College of Graduate Studies. Dean Boehm stated she enjoyed working with everyone and was happy to be a part of this institution. Eva Gaffney is retiring after 27 years. She has helped BSU to tell the story of all the wonderful things here.

*He thanked Interim Chief of Police Glen Anderson and Deputy Chief Mike Froio for their work in creating and continuing the excellence of the BSUPD.

*The Bridgewater Commitment continues to resonate. The Washington Post recently published a story about BSU.

*Senior Advisor deMacedo was recognized as the Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Boys Scouts of America. President Clark and Peter Koutoujian were also recognized.

*BSU turns 185 in 2025. The Spring and Fall semester will hold many celebrations. September 9 is the actual 'birthday'.

*The potential impact of the new U.S. President, this institution will not go backwards to our commitment to our students. Central is the concept of equity. Two racial justice and equity summits have been held on campus this year, and the second handbook has been released on the work of racial justice and equity.

Bridgewater's Black and Indigenous History

Emily Field, Associate Professor in English and Dr. Jaime Huff, Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice provided a presentation and shared their fascinating research from the past six years. The story of Bridgewater was primarily White so they conducted research on its Black history and learned about the people and their lives.
(Attachment)

ACTION/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

EXECUTIVE

Naming of Roadway

President Clark spoke about his recommendation in honor of BSU

Officer, Raymond Wise, who passed away in 2004 at the age of 53 while on duty. It's common practice to recognize a police officer who has passed away. The naming will be celebrated in June 2025 and a street sign will be unveiled.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to name the roadway leading to the BSU Police Station as "One Lieutenant Raymond D. Wise Memorial Way" as recommended by the Executive Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated December 5, 2024.

(Attachment)

Naming of BSU Police Station

President Clark stated it is a rare occasion to name a space on campus; however, on behalf of BSU, it is the recommendation to name the interior building space of the BSU Police Station after the former Chief, David Tillinghast, who recently retired, to mark our appreciation for all of his truly remarkable accomplishments during his tenure at BSU.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to name the BSU Police Station as "Chief David H. Tillinghast, Esq. Police Station" as recommended by the Executive Committee and as described in the memorandum from President Clark dated December 5, 2024.

(Attachment)

Contract Approval for Richardson Media Group, Inc. (FY25-170)

President Clark noted this contract is for a media ad buy which will allow for the placement of ads to aid in Bridgewater Rising, and the Bridgewater Commitment.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with Richardson Media Group, Inc. (media advertising campaign) as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated December 5, 2024.

(Attachment)

Contract Approval for Jaggaer, LLC (FY25-182)

Vice President Shropshire recently negotiated a 5-year contract for the eProcurement system (electronic/paperless system). BSU will save \$60K if executed by December 31, 2024.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Vieira) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with Jaggaer, LLC (eProcurement Solution) as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated December 5, 2024.
(Attachment)

President's Expenses and Upcoming Travel (August-October 2024)

President Clark noted this report was brought as an information item. He recently traveled to Qatar and will have an upcoming trip to India for the purpose of increasing international students.
(Attachment)

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Sabbatical Leave Requests

Interim Provost Alcon stated sabbatical leave is earned after six years of service. There are 39 faculty who are recommended for a sabbatical leave. The variety and diverse projects and representation across campus is something to be proud of.

VOTED
FOR: 8
ABSTAINED: 1
(Battaglino)
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Vieira, Turchon) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts Sabbatical Leave Requests as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 14, 2024.
(Attachment)

University Fact Sheet, Five-Year Trends

Interim Provost Alcon provided a few highlights from the report. The trend for students of color is experiencing a good growth; faculty numbers are slightly lower. There is continual work to improve faculty diversity/representation. Student Accessibility Service has a gradual increase in students, and they have seen an increase in the population of LGBTQIA students which is up to 14%.
(Attachment)

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

FY2025/Q1 Trust Funds Report

Vice President Shropshire stated the residence hall and dining trust funds are tracking higher on revenue due to an increase in students. Expenses are going well.

VOTED

On motion duly made and seconded (Cesero, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2025/Q1 Trust Funds

FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 14, 2024.
(Attachment)

FY2025/Q1 Budget Report

Vice President Shropshire stated with enrollment being up, billed credits are up by over 1% than what was projected. The state appropriation is tracking well.
(Attachment)

FY2024/Q1 Contracts Report

The quarterly contract report was brought as an information item.
(Attachment)

Financial Aid Report

Vice President Shropshire stated AVP Biechler provided a complete presentation at the committee. There are various sources of revenue which have grown and have helped to stabilize our planning. Foundation support is growing, which is appreciated. This is the third year for merit scholarship applications. The planning with financial aid has resulted in us telling people what we are doing and making a financial commitment for next year.
(Attachment)

Capital Projects Update

Vice President Jason provided a couple updates. BSU's Burnell Hall will have a project launch ceremony. Tillinghast Hall and Student Accessibility Services received the occupancy permit. RSU lounge and Boyden stairs renovations will begin in the summer of 2025.
(Attachment)

STUDENT SUCCESS AND DIVERSITY

Vice President Gentlewarrior noted the REJI summit was held on November 13 with about 250 people in attendance, representing 40 campuses. She noted President Clark takes his role seriously and stated people are concerned about the future and how students will be supported. Here at BSU, we will continue to lead in supporting the success of our students. President Clark made it clear who BSU is.

LGBTQIA Admission and Retention Strategies

Vice President Gentlewarrior said this is a campus-wide effort. There is incredible growth in this demographic at BSU. The campus-wide work was shared at the meeting. There is a growing demographic of students who are coming to BSU as they know they will be safe and

can be themselves. There are programs and assistance for the students to make this possible.

(Attachment)

Academic Year 2024-2025 Graduation and Retention Data

Vice President Gentlewarrior said data shows we are a student success leader; however, 6-year graduation rates are trending down. BSU is slightly above our national peers. There are some students with performance gaps – looking at Latino, Black male students, and White male students. Retention rates had a loss of 1.8% over last year, which may be due to students going to the community college.

(Attachment)

UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY

Title IX Training

Committee Chair Prince stated the Trustees received Title IX training from EO Executive Director Chris McMillan.

Equal Opportunity/Title IX Data

At the committee meeting, Executive Director McMillan reviewed case statistics for the past three years as well as trends.

(Attachment)

Clery Report and Community Outreach Efforts

As an information item, the annual Clery report and BSU PD outreach efforts were provided by Interim Chief Anderson and Deputy Chief Froio.

(Attachment)

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

FY2024/Q1 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Turchon stated the first quarter dashboard was reviewed at the committee meeting. A few highlights from the report: Social media communication reached 52K+; the Without Exception campaign was mailed out to nearly 10K people; there was a \$100K commitment for students studying History and a multi-year pledge of \$75K to the Martin Richard Fellow Scholarship, and a \$100K multi-year pledge for the Achieving the Dream Fund. Also, a bequest for the Dan Darcy Scholarship fund for \$125K. \$150K was raised for the football endowed fund. Total commitments stand at \$1.3+M; endowment totals are \$74M; market value net assets are \$82M; and appraised property values are \$5.9M.

President Clark said the endowment is currently at \$75M. He thanked the anonymous donor who gave \$1M for retention funds which

represents \$400K this year; \$400K next year and \$200K in the third year. BSU also received \$1.4M from an anonymous donor for racial equity and justice.

CDO Oliver was pleased to report they had a great 2nd quarter. Their fundraising efforts resulted in almost \$1.8M and expect \$2.3M for year-end. They believe another \$1M gift will be made mid-January.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Battaglino, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves FY2024/Q1 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended by the Alumni and Development Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated November 14, 2024.
(Attachment)

Foundation Update

Investments stand at \$74M (\$7M for the BAA and \$67M for the Foundation). The Park Ave property is moving ahead with renovations for the new home of the College of Graduate Studies. The Foundation membership gained 3 new members.

Alumni Update

Committee Chair Turchon noted a retreat was held to set priorities for the BAA with mentoring as a commitment. On November 20th, over 180 alumni and families came to the Alumni Awards night.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Bridgewater Commitment

Vice President Jean stated this commitment came out of a 3-year process led by AVP Biechler. It reaches deeply into the middle class and addresses equity. The Bridgewater Commitment was cited in the Washington Post and we are receiving positive feedback from the external community. This is for families earning under \$125K. Four thousand students attended BSU for free this year; with this commitment, it will grow to about 4,400 students who qualify.

2025 Bridgewater Rising Advertising Campaign

Vice President Jean said this is a perceptual campaign designed to reach business and political leaders in the state. This is a broad-reaching initiative.

Expanding BSU Industry Partnerships

Vice President Jean explained it's a goal to deepen our partnerships. Vice President Bell spoke about their mentoring efforts (McLain Hospital who wants to diversify their staff); growing and expanding the partnership with MassBioEd. Special Advisor deMacedo spoke about a healthcare workforce summit that BSU will host in January.

**OTHER
BUSINESS**

None

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Turchon

Carolyn Turchon
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif