

Bridgewater State University
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 11, 2024
6:30pm
Dunn Conference Room
Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Alexander (Virtual), Allen, Battaglino, Caulfield, Giles (Virtual), Longo, Prince, Taylor, MacCormack, Turchon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Cesero

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; EVP and Provost Ismaili (Virtual); Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Bell (Virtual), Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Powers, Shropshire (Virtual), Zuromski; Interim Vice President Croft; 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 June 11, 2024 with Chairperson MacCormack presiding.

Chairperson MacCormack called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. She 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 Longo-yes, Trustee Caulfield-yes, Trustee Allen-yes, Trustee Giles- yes, Trustee Taylor-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Alexander-yes, Trustee Battaglino-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee MacCormack-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, Longo) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 16, 2024.
(Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

**Chairperson's
Report**

Chair MacCormack thanked fellow trustees for their participation this past year. She also thanked the senior leadership team for all the materials prepared which allowed them to focus on the critical issues. She expressed gratitude to Provost Ismaili for his remarkable work at

BSU and for his work helping the trustees to understand his area of expertise. On behalf of the Board, he was wished all the best in his new role as president at Eastern Connecticut State University. Student Trustee Allen has also been an invaluable asset. He is a talented, remarkable young man and everyone respects and admires his intelligence and devotion to duty. Lastly, she recognized Trustee Margaret Caulfield for her love of BSU. Her leadership and dedication to the Board during the last decade was greatly appreciated.

MSCA Request to Address the Board

MSCA Chapter President Jennifer Harstfield introduced Joanna Gonsalves, MSCA Statewide President, who addressed the Board regarding the Follett Bookstore contract. The Union has looked at the contract with Follett Bookstore across 14 campuses. In reading the contract, they are not happy with the profit they are making. It is their hope to make books more affordable and not have revenue generated by our students. The contract expires in one year and it is their suggestion that it goes out to bid. On average, a student pays \$150 more than what is on the market. Before the university makes plans, she suggested the University ask the faculty and students what their needs are. Look at the financial aid policy; can they use this aid towards book purchases.

Student Trustee Update

Trustee Allen stated commencement was a great ceremony. Everyone loved the videos, photos, and interaction. Regarding DEI initiatives, could BSU offer a required class to educate students which would give them the opportunity to learn and talk about their experiences with each other. He thanked BSU for his experience here on campus. COVID made us a stronger world. Emily Rose is his successor, and he is confident they will do a great job.

President's Report

President Clark congratulated Chair MacCormack for receiving an Honorary Degree and serving as commencement speaker at Stonehill College. He thanked Trustee Caulfield for her service and representing the Alumni Association perfectly. Trustee Allen has been an amazing trustee and student. He thanked Provost Ismaili for being a strong, complimentary Provost. He will be truly missed and offered his congratulations. President Clark also acknowledged Dr. Arnaa Alcon who will serve as the Interim Provost. He offered his congratulations to Jennifer Hartsfield for her reelection as the Chapter President of the MSCA.

President Clark and the staff are focused on enrollment and retention. The Federal FAFSA enrollment has affected BSU; however, BSU was one of the first to get award letters out and there is currently a 3% gap.

State awards will be made in July. Orientation is currently taking place. The budget is still in motion. Due to the uncertainty of students, BSU's budget won't be set until late August. The House and Senate budget are very different from each other.

Other updates:

Leadership transitions are taking place at the administrative level as well as the Board.

Civics education and election preparedness is taking place. It's important to be ready for what is coming and make sure our students are registered and will vote.

A separate ceremony took place for BSU athletes who could not attend Commencement, and the EXCEL graduation ceremony was held for the students who participated in this program.

Recently honored BSU retirees.

Matt Light Foundation held their yearly event on campus.

President Clark was invited by Google to be a higher ed representative on a panel to talk about the role of AI. Dell Tech also reached out and wants BSU to talk about our cybersecurity program in Las Vegas.

\$30M fundraising campaign to reach BSU's goal of \$100M. Our goal is to provide a funding stream for our students, faculty and staff and to change the giving culture.

Presentation: Capital Campaign

CDO Oliver spoke about the campaign launch, Without Exception, which was a successful event. The campaign has 4 priorities representing BSU. Priority One: Make BSU education synonymous with outstanding career pathways and great opportunities for professional running starts. Priority Two: Make a BSU education a great return on investment, giving students the opportunity to focus more on building their futures and changing the world. Priority Three: Double down on BSU's historic mission: Bring the dream of college success to those who once considered it impractical or impossible. Priority Four: Infuse BSU's academic programs with new resources to make them more nimble, impactful, and responsive to emerging opportunities.

The Quiet Launch event had about 90 individuals who attended. The attendees have known President Clark for about 10 years. They honored those who have already done so much and appreciate that they inspire others to help.

ACTION/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

EXECUTIVE

Board of Trustees Budget

Chair MacCormack noted a level funded budget is brought forward for approval.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Prince, Alexander) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Board of Trustees Budget for FY2025 as recommended by the Executive Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated June 6, 2024.
(Attachment)

Strategic Plan 2.0 Divisional and Interdivisional Year-End Update
The end of year divisional and interdivisional priorities update was presented as an informational item. It was noted that the Board of Higher Education unanimously approved BSU's Strategic Plan 2.0 today.
(Attachment)

Delegation of Authority – Contract Southern Middlesex Industries (SAS Suite)
As an information item, the Executive Committee, under the Delegation of Authority, approved the contract with Southern Middlesex Industries for the renovation of Student Accessibility Services.
(Attachment)

President's Accrued Vacation and Sick Time
The report of the President's accrued vacation and sick time was brought as an information item.
(Attachment)

President's Expenses and Upcoming Travel
The President's expenses and upcoming travel for the period February-April 2024 was brought as an information item.
(Attachment)

Presidential Review and Compensation for AY2023-24
The President's review was discussed at the committee meeting. Page 6 of the minutes contain the report and vote from the Presidential Review Committee.
(Attachment)

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Continuation Budget for FY2025
Committee Chair Longo noted the prorated budget (representing 3.5 months) was brought forth for approval before the Board meets in October, 2024. The pro-rated budget (\$64M) allows the University to function until the full budget is approved.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Continuation Budget for FY2025 in the amount of \$64,991,522 (prorated expenditure level

CARRIED

for 3.5 months) as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated May 8, 2024.
(Attachment)

FY2024/Q3 Trust Fund Report

Committee Chair Longo stated 99% of revenues are in and 86% of expenditures. The Dining Trust Fund is strong. There will be one-time projects/improvements for the campus using the excess revenue. Vice President Shropshire noted there are additional revenue and savings on the expenses.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Prince, Taylor) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Trust Fund Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated May 8, 2024.
(Attachment)

Student Fee Schedule for AY2024-25

Committee Chair Longo noted there is a proposal for a 3% fee increase due to inflation and the comparison of the peer institutions. President Clark commented the increase is below inflation. Low-income to moderate-income students will have financial aid available to them. BSU is 4th among our peers.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Prince) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a 3% increase in the Student Fee Schedule for academic year 2024-2025 as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated May 8, 2024.
(Attachment)

FY2024/Q3 Contracts Report

Committee Chair Longo stated the contracts report is an informational item provided to the Board.
(Attachment)

FY2024/Q3 Budget Report

Committee Chair Longo stated the Finance Office is on target for projections. Excess revenues will go towards one-time expenditures for capital improvements.
(Attachment)

Capital Projects Update

Committee Chair Longo remarked the list of projects underway is impressive. Vice President Jason noted they awarded a contract for

the outdoor tennis repair and Tinsley Center flooring is ongoing. Campuswide Master Plan is also on the list.
(Attachment)

FY2025 Budget

President Clark noted, if state numbers come through and if we reach enrollment targets, then there will be a growth budget for each division. Staff are working hard to hit the numbers. Success Funding is available under the state budget which is earmarked for student retention.

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

FY2024/Q3 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Turchon stated much has been accomplished by the entire team. The Florida alumni events involved 200 alumni and yielded \$2.7M in commitments. As of March 31, the endowment growth stands at \$67M; total assets were at \$75M; total commitments are at \$4M. In total, 345 scholarships were awarded with 1,383 applications for scholarships.

CDO Oliver noted fundraising has been going very well and it has been consistent. The hard work for Giving Day is appreciated. The Leadership boards are at almost 100%. The Crimson Pride Golf Tournament is coming up. She is confident that they will hit their fourth quarter goal and will bring in \$2M before the end of the year.

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves FY2024/Q3 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended by the Alumni and Development Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated May 9, 2024.

(Attachment)

Foundation Update

Committee Chair Turchon stated the endowment is at \$75M which is invested in various firms. Business students have received money to invest and they have been successful with about \$100K going back to scholarships for students.

Alumni Update

Committee Chair Turchon recognized Carrie Kulick-Clark as she finished her third and final year as president of the BAA. The new BAA president is Attorney Kevin Costa and joining this Board is alumnus Trustee Mike Vieira replacing Trustee Margaret Caulfield. Trustee Caulfield's service is greatly appreciated. At the committee meeting, BAA President Kulick-Clark provided a 3-year review of all that has been accomplished.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY

Overview of Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Committee Chair Caulfield stated the committee received information about the Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. BSU is the only state university to have this center. The staff goes above and beyond for the students in providing programs and assistance. Services and programs include confidential advocacy, awareness campaigns, prevention education and trainings. Their goals are to improve the referral process, integrate a data sharing tool, do more online prevention education upgrade, implement a community response team, and work with social work majors for service-learning opportunities.

(Attachment)

STUDENT SUCCESS AND DIVERSITY

Equity-Minded Workshop

Chair MacCormack noted the committee received training by Vice President Gentlewarrior to build on equity minded leadership tools and provide measurable goals. BSU is engaging in deep work to continue institutional improvements to better serve our students. Racial equity work needs to be transformative and remain at the top of our minds. Qualitative and quantitative data is imperative as well as continued discussion.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Equity-Minded Leadership for Trustees and Senior Leaders

Chair MacCormack noted the RJE Committee membership is all the chairs of the Board committees. Trustees will continue to integrate equity mindedness into their committee work. The members discussed how Trustees can measure their own success and have an advocacy and accountability role for the institution. Trustees have to determine how they can assess the information that they receive without jumping into a management role. The Racial Equity and Justice Institute (REJI) is producing a second book. Raquel Rall has been working with the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and the committee reviewed a case study. The Board will consider inviting Dr. Rall to the Board retreat. This will be an ongoing conversation knowing progress will be made over time.

PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW AND COMPENSATION

Presidential Review and Compensation for AY2023-24

Chair MacCormack noted a 360 review was completed this past fall. The committee conducted an 8-year review holding discussions with the campus community as well as the external community. Trustees do not have the opportunity to engage with the whole campus and the

committee was delighted with a palpable sense of pride for what BSU has achieved over this time period.

It was clear that everyone knows and understands that student success is President Clark's top priority. Everyone wants to be a part of making this happen. The findings were presented to President Clark, both the positive and areas where he can enhance his service. Commissioner Ortega received the report and welcomed and praised the findings. The annual presidential review focused on his goals and his leadership.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Prince, Alexander) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts and approves President Clark's Self-Assessment and the Board's Review and salary recommendation as summarized in Chairperson MacCormack's cover letter as recommended by the Presidential Review and Compensation Committee for the 2023-2024 academic year.
(Attachment)

NOMINATING

Slate of Board Officers – AY2024-25

Committee Chair Longo noted the committee unanimously recommended the following slate of Board Officers for AY2024-2025:
Michael Taylor, Chairman
Lisa Battaglino, Vice Chairperson
Carolyn Turchon, Secretary

Chair MacCormack stated it's been an honor and privilege to serve on the Board. The institution is so dedicated to its students, and she is inspired by the work ethic and commitment to do better. She loves the sense of community that allows goals to be set and achieved and is convinced there are great things for BSU's future.

Trustee Longo added that Chair MacCormack is a great leader who brought people closer. She empowered the Board to be its best.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Alexander) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Slate of Board Officers for AY2024-2025 as recommended by the Nominating Committee in the attached memorandum from Secretary Longo dated June 6, 2024.
(Attachment)

Trustee Taylor thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as chair this coming year. He noted Chair MacCormack has served the University well with grace and humor and acknowledged her strong commitment to student success.

OTHER
BUSINESS

None

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Caulfield) it was that the meeting be adjourned (8:25 pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Turchon

Carolyn Turchon
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif