

Bridgewater State University  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 22, 2024  
6:15pm  
Dunn Conference Room  
Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Battaglino (Virtual), Cesero, Longo, Prince (Virtual), Rose, Taylor, Turchon, Vieira

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees Alexander, MacCormack, Giles

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; Interim Provost Alcon; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Bell, Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Powers, Shropshire, Zuromski (Virtual); 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 October 22, 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 Longo-yes, Trustee Cesero-yes, Trustee Rose-yes, Trustee Vieira-yes, Trustee Turchon-yes, Trustee Battaglino-yes, Trustee Prince-yes, Trustee Vieira-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 (Turchon, Longo) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 11, 2024.  
(Attachment)

**Chairperson's  
Report**

Chairperson Taylor took a moment to recognize the passing of former Trustee and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Eugene J. Durgin, Jr. His service to the Board over a span of 20+ years was remarkable and he will be truly missed.

Chairperson Taylor encouraged fellow trustees to attend the REJI summit on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Recognition of Faculty Promoted to Full Professor

Chairperson Taylor and Interim Provost Alcon recognized the faculty promoted to full Professor. They expressed their congratulations and appreciation for the faculty's dedication to their profession, BSU and the students.

#### Student Trustee Update

Trustee Rose commented that the student leaders are 'boots on the ground' and excited about their role. She introduced a first-year freshman and a rising student leader, Dhareen Jean-Michel, who is serving as Senator at Large. Dhareen noted he has a dual major in astro physics, works on campus, and participates in undergraduate research. He has a passion for student government from high school where he had a great experience in helping with student advocacy and wants to bring his skills to BSU. He noted BSU has a sense of community and the faculty are committed to the students and care about them.

Trustee Rose thrives on the opportunity to work with students. They are currently working with BSU's radio station and the Comment to talk about the role of a trustee. They are also working with the MBTA to assist students with transportation. Trustee Rose looks forward to working with everyone.

### **President's Report**

President Clark noted the campus has been very focused on election readiness. There is a tremendous amount of activity across campus from a safety, wellness and mental health perspective during these uncertain and challenging times. The community is working to educate students on voting and registration. BSU stands on its institutional values which are important. A Bridgewater Rising Report has been developed which is a recap of what has been accomplished over the last 9+ years.

The Wall Street Journal measures the impact an institution has on its students and BSU ranks high on this list as one of the best colleges. BSU is also ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> safest campus in the U.S. and the 3<sup>rd</sup> friendliest campus for LGBTQ students. No matter what your identity or challenges are, BSU embraces the students.

\*Homecoming had approximately 8,000 people in attendance.

\*BSU received a grant from a national organization. They are donating \$1M over three years towards retention grants.

\*Regarding capital projects, there were some issues around ADA which have been addressed to make the campus more accessible.

\*Work continues on the 10-year capital master plan. There is about a half billion dollars' worth of construction needed on campus.

ACTION/  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS**AUDIT**Draft Independent Audited Financial Statements  
(WithumSmith+Brown, PC)

Committee Chair Longo noted the external auditors have completed their audit. BSU received an unmodified opinion and they were very complementary of Vice President Shropshire's team – they were prepared, professional, and transparent during the process.

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Turchon) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the draft independent audited financial statements for FY2024 prepared by the Finance Division and audited by WithumSmith+Brown, PC as recommended by the Audit Committee and as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 21, 2024.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

**EXECUTIVE**Final Approval of BSU's Strategic Plan 2.0

Chief of Staff Leuenberger noted a draft copy was provided to the Board of Higher Education. The plan was approved and is now brought to the Board for final approval. There was one minor change with the addition of a possibility of PhD program should legislative action be brought up.

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Cesero) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts and approves Bridgewater State University's final Institutional Strategic Plan 2.0 (V19) as recommended by the Executive Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 17, 2024. (Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

President's Budget for FY2025

The president's proposed budget for FY2025 is \$3,000 to cover expenses for his car's gas/maintenance, any individual membership dues and professional meetings. Last year, the amount expended was approximately \$1,000.

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Vieira) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the President's Budget for FY2025 as recommended by the Executive Committee and as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 17, 2024. (Attachment)

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

Approval of the Title IX and EO Plan

Chief of Staff Leuenberger stated the plan is offered up jointly by the state universities. This plan has been under a lot of flux due to U.S. presidential leadership. The current plan as presented was reviewed by Rubin and Rudman, BSU's attorney, and the process was led by Attorney Chris McMillan, Executive Director of EO.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Cesero, Vieira) it was that the Board of Trustees approves BSU's Title IX and EO Plan as recommended by the Executive Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 17, 2024. (Attachment)

Contract Approval for NPS LLC (Gillette Stadium) FY25

Vice President Shropshire stated the contract for Gillette stadium is brought as an action item for Board approval for the 2025 Commencement ceremonies this May.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Vieira, Cesero) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with NPS, LLC (Gillette Stadium) as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 17, 2024. (Attachment)

Contract Approval for Page Building Construction

Vice President Shropshire stated the contract with Page Building is for a new hangar at the New Bedford airport which will house 7 planes. The contract was awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest bidder for \$1+M. Most of the cost will be funded with federal funds earmarked for this project.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Cesero, Turchon) it was that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with Page Building Construction for a new aircraft hangar as recommended by the Executive Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 17, 2024. (Attachment)

Delegation of Authority – Contract with Team Dynamics (Institution-Wide License for Enterprise Service Management Platform)

Vice President Shropshire stated contract approval was sought in July from the Executive Committee members under the Delegation of Authority. It is now presented to the full Board as an information item. (Attachment)

Delegation of Authority – Contract with EAB Global Inc (Graduate Lead Generation)

Vice President Shropshire stated contract approval was sought by the Executive Committee members in July under the Delegation of Authority. The contract is for generating leads for the Graduate School. It is now presented to the full Board as an information item. (Attachment)

Delegation of Authority – Contract with Presidio Technology Capital, LLC (Palo Alto Firewalls)

Vice President Shropshire stated contract approval was sought by the Executive Committee members in August under the Delegation of Authority. It is now presented to the full Board as an information item. (Attachment)

President’s Expenses and Upcoming Travel

The president’s expenses and upcoming travel was brought as an information item representing expenses from May-July 2024. (Attachment)

President’s Goals and Objectives – AY2024-25

President Clark provided his goals for the upcoming year which includes the divisional priorities as well. (Attachment)

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Annual Report of Grants and Sponsored Projects

Interim Provost Alcon stated there was an enormous increase of grants submitted and the yield was remarkable – 84% success rate. Faculty authored these proposals representing student travel, research, equipment, etc.

On motion duly made and seconded (Cesero, Vieira) it was that the Board of Trustees accepts the Annual Report from the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 as recommended by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and described in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 1, 2024.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

Faculty and Librarian Hiring Report

Interim Provost Alcon noted there were 42 new faculty and librarians consisting of 16 tenure-track hires; 1 librarian and 25 one-year appointments. (Attachment)

Fall Residence Hall and Occupancy Report

Vice President Croft noted housing is at 94% occupancy rate for the Fall semester.

(Attachment)

Divisional Priorities – AY24-25 (Interim Provost Alcon and Vice President Croft)

Vice President Croft and Interim Provost Alcon reviewed their priorities for this coming year.

(Attachment)

**FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**FY2025 Budget

Committee Chair Longo noted BSU experienced a growth budget this year. There was a larger than expected incoming class which resulted in an increase in the trust fund. Money has also been earmarked for the reserves.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2025 Budget of \$236,951,711 in total revenue and \$236,905,822 in total expenditures as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 1, 2024.

(Attachment)

FY2024 Year-End Trust Funds Report

Committee Chair Longo commented the trust funds this past year were favorable and consistent.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Vieira, Battaglino) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2024 Year-End Trust Funds Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 1, 2024.

(Attachment)

Meal Plan Rates for AY2025-26

Committee Chair Longo stated the CPI is used as a guide in setting meal plan rates. Vice President Jason noted over the past five years they have been very conscientious about the meal plan rates. CPI is 4.6% and the proposal is to increase the meal plan rates by 4% effective August, 2025. Trustee Rose stated the variety is appreciated and students seem to like the dining dollars.

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Cesero, Rose) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the Meal Plan Rates for AY2025-26 as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated October 1, 2024. (Attachment)

FY2024 Year-End Budget Report

Committee Chair Longo noted the report was brought as an information item. The year-end figures were on target as predicted. There is good budget management throughout the year by all. Vice President Shropshire stated they budgeted conservatively on the revenues and gave credit to his finance team. He was pleased to say that \$1M went into the reserves which is remarkable (goal is for 10% of operating budget in reserve). (Attachment)

Student Accounts Receivable

Committee Chair Longo stated the staff continues to do a remarkable job in decreasing the amount of students leaving and not paying their debt. (Attachment)

FY2024/Q4 Contracts Report

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

Capital Projects Update

Vice President Jason stated information about minority/women-owned business was added to her report. She highlighted the work of the Tillinghast Hall accessibility project, Shea Durgin having modern restrooms installed, HVAC work at the Library, and that the Student Accessibility Services office will receive an occupancy permit soon. (Attachment)

Divisional Priorities – AY24-25 (Vice Presidents Shropshire and Jason)

The divisional priorities for Vice Presidents Shropshire and Jason were provided as an information item which were reviewed at the committee meeting. (Attachment)

**RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY**

Chairperson Taylor noted the Trustees and the campus community must all engage in this work to support our students.

Equity-Minded Teaching and Learning Strategies at BSU

Vice President Gentlewarrior introduced faculty and staff who spoke about their work on equity and strategies. Participants were: Dr.

Laura Ramsey, Professor of Psychology, and Dr. Thomas Kling, Professor of Physics Photonics and Optical Engineering, who spoke about Creating a Communal Culture with Linked-course Communities. Dr. Jenny Shanahan, Assistant Provost, Center for Transformative Learning; Dr. Francisco Alatorre, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice; and Dr. Inkyoung Kim, Associate Professor of Political Science spoke about Undergraduate Research Practices that Drive Equity.  
(Attachment)

#### Reconstitution of the Racial Justice and Equity Council

Vice President Bell noted she and President Clark will meet about reimagining the Council. An updated report will be provided at a later date.

#### Racial Equity and Justice Institute Summit: November 13, 2024

Chairperson Taylor reminded the Trustees about the summit scheduled for November 13 and encouraged attendance.

### **ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### FY2024/Q4 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Turchon stated the fourth quarter dashboard was reviewed at the committee meeting. Significant strides have been made. Thirteen alumni events were held this past quarter. In FY24, there were 47 events with 4K+ in attendance. April 10 and 11 was Giving Day which resulted in \$193K dollars raised. \$342K raised via mail and 99 sponsor-a-student awards provided. Major and planned gifts resulted in \$1.3M donated by the Bartletts; a \$2M gift from the Isabell Dawson estate for educational scholarships; a pledge of \$1M from Lou Ricciardi for the Entrepreneurial Endowment Fund. A total of \$9M+ was raised, and \$1.4M+ dispersed for scholarship and financial aid. The total endowment stands at \$69M+. Three of the leadership boards reached 100% participation. The Without Exception event was held in June resulting in \$12M in commitments secured.

President Clark thanked everyone for leaning in. The current value of the endowment is at \$75M and he feels confident they will reach \$100M. Their efforts show that the culture of giving is changing.

CDO Oliver spoke about engagement with alumni, friends and corporate partners and that their involvement with BSU students is very important. Hitting \$8.2M is no small feat.

On motion duly made and seconded (Vieira, Cesero) it was that the Board of Trustees approves FY2024/Q4 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended by the Alumni and Development Committee and outlined in the memorandum from

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

President Clark dated October 1, 2024.  
(Attachment)

#### Foundation Update

CDO Oliver noted the Foundation, Alumni, and Afro American boards are reviewing their bylaws to assure it aligns with the Strategic Plan of the University. The Bridgewater magazine and the Impact Report will be mailed soon. Construction has begun at 21 Park Terrace.

#### Alumni Update

Committee Chair Turchon stated Kevin Costa, BAA President, reported they have held alumni meetings which include 6 new members. He plans to serve on the Enrollment Committee. They are working towards increased engagement. They just established the Dan Darcy Scholarship fund in which \$17K was raised with a goal of \$25K.

#### Divisional Priorities – AY2024-25 (CDO Oliver)

CDO Oliver mentioned they have 6 priorities and are working towards reaching the \$100M goal. They will maintain and keep building relationships as well as focus on their foundation properties.  
(Attachment)

### **ADHOC ENROLLMENT AND MARKETING**

The Adhoc Enrollment and Marketing Committee met and they discussed: Fall Enrollment Report, Divisional Priorities for Enrollment, Marketing and Communications and Free Community College.  
(Attachment)

### **HONORARY DEGREE**

#### Committee Report

Committee Chair Battaglino noted the committee met and reviewed the nominations. The committee will meet again to bring forth nominations for the May commencement ceremonies.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairperson Taylor and President Clark honored Trustee Scott Longo for his two terms on the Board (ten years of service). Trustee Longo advanced the mission of BSU and has been a model trustee. As an undergraduate student, he served as a student trustee. They are grateful for his personal investment at BSU and his enthusiasm will be missed.

President Clark also stated that Scott is always here, always leans in, and always gives his best. On behalf of the institution, we say thank you!

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Cesero, Prince) it was that the meeting be adjourned (8:30pm).

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Turchon*

Carolyn Turchon  
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:  
Tracey Keif