

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 26, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Alexander, Caulfield, Denterlein, Durgin, Benson, Longo, MacCormack, Oliari, Murphy, Turchon

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; Provost Ismaili; Vice Presidents Molife, Powers, Jean, Jason, Gentlewarrior, Oravec, Shropshire; Acting Vice President Zuromski; and Chief of Staff Leuenberger

The provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A having been complied with, and a quorum of the Board present, the Board of Trustees held their meeting on February 26, 2020 in the Heritage Room, Maxwell Library with Chairman Durgin presiding.

Chairman Durgin called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. He noted Trustee Pimental submitted her resignation as she relocated to Georgia. Her service to BSU and the Board is greatly appreciated and everyone wished her well. Currently we are waiting for a new Trustee to replace her seat and we are hopeful for two additional reappointments.

Consideration of Minutes

On motion duly made and seconded (Caulfield, Alexander) it was that the minutes from the December 5, 2019 meeting be approved. (Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

Chairman Durgin asked Trustee Benson to provide an update on behalf of the students. Trustee Benson spoke about upcoming events. March 2 is Student Advocacy Day. Undergrads from all state universities advocate for higher education funding. They are hopeful a dozen or so students will attend. SGA recently passed two resolutions: a policy to look at grading and reaffirming the statement of values the Board signed off on in 2015. They thought it would be nice to share these with the current study body.

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**

President Clark thanked Trustee Pimental for her service. He also thanked Trustee Alexander who served as a keynote speaker at a recent MLK event held at BSU. BSU is very appreciative of the Board of Trustees and the support each provides. He was saddened to announce BSU recently lost two additional students since the Board last met: Mr. Chris Hession and also Ms. Hanna Boraks who unfortunately passed from an overdose. Her family supported sharing this information to bring awareness as she fought addiction most of her life. BSU served as a safe haven for her. Student Maddie Neas, who was hit by a car near campus, is still in rehab and is still struggling. We lost our oldest alum, Violet Santa Maria, who was 103 years old. She was a wonderful person. President Clark thanked legislators regarding the deficiency budget as the endowment incentive program has been rekindled. With the assistance of Representative D'Emilia and Senator Rodrigues, funding for a fire safety project (sprinkler system installation) was received. This coming Sunday a new website will be launched. BSU was recognized by the Commissioner of Higher Education as one of six institutions for its best practices in retention efforts. The Lumina Foundation provides funds for innovation in higher education and BSU was awarded \$75,000 in seed money. The State Department recognized BSU as a host for the Mandela Fellows for the 5th time. Our men's indoor track team won the championship. BSU hosted the Joint Higher Education Committee. The members were very impressed with our students and staff. BSU is hosting one of six signature events for Plymouth400. An Indigenous peoples conference will be held at BSU on Oct 29, 30, 31; the native American story will be shared from their views. Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson is leading this effort. There is a civics education component which Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett have financially assisted with. A publisher has completed the history of Massachusetts and is producing Massachusetts Chronicles. 60,000 copies will be sent out to every public school in Massachusetts.

Vice President Jason introduced Mr. Mark Carmody who was recently hired as an assistant vice president for Operations. He formerly worked at BCC and is thrilled to be here.

Residential Life at BSU

Vice President Oravec introduced Elizabeth Ching-Bush, assistant dean of students, who provided a presentation on residential life on campus. Ms. Ching-Bush formerly worked at Emerson and Suffolk. Mr. Alexis Montero, student and RA, provided a synopsis of his experience on campus. Ms. Ching-Bush talked about steps she has taken since her arrival and how to make BSU a better experience for our students from a residential life perspective. She and her team are creating programming, getting to know one another, expanding living learning communities, working with students who want to withdraw, thinking of the possibility of

housing more graduate students, holding focus groups with commuters, etc. It's important to create partnerships across the campus and with families.
(Attachment)

**ACTION/
INFORMATION
ITEMS**

EXECUTIVE

Approval of Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Award Recipients – May 2020

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Turchon) it was that the Board of Trustees award an Honorary Degree to Ms. Therese Murray and a Distinguished Service Award to Mr. Gary Maestas at the University's 2020 Graduate Commencement Convocation on May 14, 2020;

That the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to award an Honorary Degree to Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria and a Distinguished Service Award to Ms. Linda Coombs at the University's 2020 Undergraduate Commencement Convocation on May 16, 2020 as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 20, 2020.
(Attachment)

Strategic Plan Update

Chairman Durgin noted Chief of Staff Leuenberger provided an update at the committee meeting. The next phase is to begin work on Strategic Plan 2.0.

President's Expenses and Upcoming Travel (November 2019-January, 2020)

Chairman Durgin noted President Clark provided his expenses for the past quarter as an information item.
(Attachment)

Personnel Update and Recommendations

Vice President Powers gave a brief update on collective bargaining at the committee meeting.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Spring Enrollment and Admissions Reports

Committee Chair MacCormack spoke about enrollment and admissions.

Enrollment is down slightly from last spring. There is a strong focus given to enrollment and BSU is doing better than most.
(Attachment)

Spring Residence Hall Occupancy Report

Residence hall occupancy is up slightly from the previous spring.
(Attachment)

Financial Aid Packaging Study

Committee Chair MacCormack noted a presentation was given at the Committee meeting. Our Financial Aid office was the first to get our packages out in the mail and they are doing a very good job in reviewing aid for our students.
(Attachment)

Preliminary Planning for New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) 10-Year Reaccreditation

The next accreditation visit is scheduled for 2022 and there is significant work to be done until that time. Critical issues will need to be addressed to prepare for the reaccreditation process.
(Attachment)

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Capital Projects Update

Committee Chair Murphy noted the capital projects report was provided as an information item. Vice President Jason pointed out the contract for a solar canopy which will be installed over the tower lot during the summer. She was pleased to report the foundation for the Bear Paw pavilion has been poured.
(Attachment)

FY2020/Q2 Trust Funds Report

Vice President Shropshire commented good news on the quarterly report due to conservative budgeting. Occupancy exceeded our expectations.

On motion duly made and seconded (Oliari, Longo) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2020/Q2 Trust Funds Report as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated February 19, 2020.
(Attachment)

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

FY2020/Q1 Contracts Report

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

FY2020/Q2 Budget Report

Committee Chair Murphy noted the quarterly budget report was brought as an information item.
(Attachment)

Presentation on State Appropriation

Vice President Shropshire provided a presentation for state appropriation. In looking at the history of state appropriation, he developed graphs which show how BSU is fairing with funding compared to sister institutions. Efforts are being made to highlight this information and make a case that we need and have earned these dollars. President Clark noted in the national context, we are at the bottom half. None of the institutions are properly funded and there is a push for a funding formula to be developed. Trustee Longo stated BSU is running efficiently and efforts are appreciated.
(Attachment)

FY2021 Budget Update

President Clark noted the Governor's budget came out with a 1% increase in the appropriation which will not cover the faculty contract increases. A student fee increase of 2.5% may be recommended for next year.

Aviation Facility Concept

Committee Chair Murphy noted there are limitations on the physical plant at the BSU airport. Dean Davis-Street provided an extensive presentation at the committee meeting. There is a lot of work involved to move this forward. There is a demand for this profession and a powerful argument to make it happen.
(Attachment)

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENTFY2020/Q2 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report

Committee Chair Longo noted the endowment is at \$58M. The second quarter of giving was strong. The investment return is 6.64%.

On motion duly made and seconded (Turchon, Caulfield) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2020/Q2 Alumni and Development Dashboard Report as recommended by the Alumni and Development Committee and outlined in the memorandum from President

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

Clark dated November 19, 2020.
(Attachment)

Development Update

Committee Chair Longo stated Ms. Bair talked about her metrics at the committee meeting. She is setting goals for the staff and explained the life cycle of giving. The Foundation provided seed money for undergraduate research to assist our students. The faculty have benefitted from this as well.

Alumni Update

Committee Chair Longo spoke of upcoming events in Florida as well as an Afro Am dinner tonight on campus.

President Clark spoke of the gift of land in Plymouth from the Bartlett's which is currently for sale. One piece of property has a signed purchase and sales with the sale price set at \$2.4M.

OTHER
BUSINESS

President Clark congratulated Trustee MacCormack who was named by NECHE to be the Trustee Commissioner.

VOTED
FOR: Unanimous
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Turchon) it was that the meeting be adjourned (7:45pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Davede Alexander
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
Tracey Keif