



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES ■ BOARD MEETING ■ JANUARY 30 6:30 P.M.

■ ALUMNI ROOM, 303 – MCCARTHY CENTER

The meeting of the full board of trustees was called to order at 6:30 PM.

In Attendance: Trustees Foley, Logan, Bielat, Budwig, Ferguson, Herr, Hubbard, Neshe, and Quezada.

Call to Order:

Chair Kevin Foley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.0 Chair’s Report

Chair Foley asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda that included the following:

- Minutes (November 28, 2018)
- Executive Session Minutes (November 28, 2018)
- Personnel Actions

On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the consent agenda including the minutes from the November 28, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting, the executive session minutes from the November 28, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting, and the personnel actions report.

Chair Foley reminded trustees about the DHE’s Annual Trustee Conference taking place on Thursday, March 28 at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough and asked them to let him know if they are planning to attend.

Chair Foley also reminded the Trustees about the proposed Trustee Retreat scheduled for May 16, 2019. Trustees with conflicts with the date were asked to respond to Chair Foley and Ann McDonald (Chief of Staff, General Counsel, and Secretary to the Board).

Chair Foley concluded his report by congratulating Trustee Dana Neshe on being named the Chief Operating Officer at Middlesex Savings Bank.

2.0 President’s Report

President Javier Cevallos remarked on the items below:

- The budget process began with Governor’s budget for FSU showing a 3.8% increase for the campus. The funds for the Mass Grant that we are hoping for did not appear in the budget.
- A recent life sciences event was held on campus and attended by the Lieutenant Governor, Karen Polito.
- The Danforth Art Museum @ FSU is continuing to prepare for their opening in April. The museum will be a great asset for the University and the community. There will be naming opportunities at Danforth for approximately 10 benches at a cost of approximately \$1500 each.
- Eric Gustafson (Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations) could not be here tonight but will give a fundraising update at the next Board meeting.

President Cevallos invited Millie Gonzalez (Interim Chief Officer of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement) to provide an update from her division. Ms. Gonzalez noted that the trustees received a handout that included dates of upcoming events and initiatives. Ms. Gonzalez invited the trustees to attend the events and noted that we will be rolling out the campus climate survey results and hope to have more feedback on that in April. Ms. Gonzalez also commented on the Open Educational Resources initiative that will make materials more affordable and accessible to student.

President Cevallos invited Dr. LaDonna Bridges (Associate Dean of Academic Success) to make a presentation on services for students with disabilities. The presentation included an overview of the staff and services of Center for Academic Success and Achievement, as well as the changing landscape and complexity of issues that they encounter on a regular basis.

Trustee Herr asked if there is a cost to departments for their services. Dr. Bridges responded that her office covers costs from her departmental budget. Trustee Quezada asked if we have data about the ethnic and racial diversity of students who are using disability services. Dr. Bridges responded affirmatively. Trustee Quezada also asked about the services the library provides for students with disabilities. Dr. Bridges responded that when Ms. Gonzalez worked in the library, they collaborated on accessible learning.

Another trustee asked if there has been a noticeable change over time. Dr. Bridges commented the acuity and complexity of mental health issues have been the biggest change. Trustee Hubbard asked to see the slide again that showed the increase in numbers of students using services. Dr. Bridges attributed the increase as rise in mental health diagnosis. Trustee Bielat



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inquired about formalized training for faculty. Dr. Bridges responded affirmatively and added that the Student Assistance Team works individually with faculty on a student by student basis. Trustee Ferguson asked if there are faculty members in CASA. Dr. Bridges responded that CASA does not have faculty but that faculty are good about having us help with them with their blackboard sites.

President Cevallos invited Dr. Lisa Eck, Professor from the English Department to introduce Nick Ironside for the Student-in-the-Spotlight presentation. Dr. Eck, who is also the Coordinator of Arts & Ideas program, distributed the Spring 2019 Arts & Ideas schedule and invited the Trustees to attend the upcoming events.

Mr. Ironside, a current graduate student in the Master of Education program, shared that until a few years ago he did not anticipate a career in education. While studying as an undergraduate at Curry College, he worked at the Boston Globe as a Sports Correspondent, which led him to other positions in Journalism outside of New England. He covered crime, college athletics, and eventually found that he really enjoyed working with students. He enjoys working with English learners and will be taking his MTEL ESL. Nick credits the University's MED program with fusing his journalism background with this interest in education.

3.0 Student Trustee Report

Trustee Ferguson reported the following:

- SGA got off to a rocky start with the semester with some officer roles not filled. SGA has been working on parking issues and updating signage in McCarthy. They are exploring options to install a kiosk in the lobby of McCarthy to help direct people to where they need to be.
- The Administrators Forum took place on February 20th.

Chair Foley asked about the nature of the forum. Trustee Ferguson explained that is an opportunity for students to address concerns with administrators. President Cevallos added that it is an open forum for dialogue between the two groups.

4.0 Academic Affairs Committee

Trustee Budwig provided updates about three presentations that were made to the Academic Affairs Committee. The Committee selected the topic of retention for presentation tonight.

Trustee Budwig attended a national conference last week and was happy to see that FSU had a presence. The academic Deans came together in a cohesive way to talk about academic success. Trustee Budwig reported that there is a buzz about Framingham State which she was not expecting at this meeting with several thousand people. She was proud to see FSU on the map.

Trustee Budwig invited Lauren Keville, Director of Student Retention & Graduation Success Initiatives to present to the Board. Ms. Keville presented data about students who left FSU after the fall 2017 semester. The data showed that out of 229 students who exited, 100 did not enroll at another college. Twenty nine of those students were first generation. Ms. Keville distributed a handout entitled "Detailed Withdrawal Reasons" which states reasons why students are leaving the University.

The trustees discussed some of the reasons noted for withdrawal including attendance at a two year college, financial reasons, uncertain of their major or not feeling a sense of belonging on campus. Ms. Keville offered to provide more details. Trustee Herr asked questions about the schools that students are transferring to. Trustee Logan asked if we know the majors of students transferring into FSU.

5.0 Enrollment and Student Development Committee

Trustee Herr briefly remarked about the work of the Enrollment and Student Development Committee and invited Dr. Lorretta Holloway to provide highlights. Dr. Holloway referred Trustees to the full copy of the PowerPoint presentation of enrollment updates and analytics contained in the board packets.

Dr. Holloway highlighted that Michelle Yestrepky and the board of the RAMS Resource Center recently received the University's RAM (Recognition of Achievement and Merit Award). She also noted that the Governor will be on campus for the Student Homelessness Initiative tomorrow. The first cohort for this new initiative will house students from FSU and Mass Bay Community College. More details will be presented at tomorrow's meeting.

Dr. Holloway reported there is a 28% increase in the number individual therapy sessions over the same period in 2017 in the Counseling Center. Increase is consistent with a national trend. Addressing and servicing the needs of students with mental health conditions is something that all of the state universities are dealing with and Dr. Holloway asked the President to talk about this issue with the Council of Presidents.



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Trustee Herr mentioned that he heard FSU mentioned 4 times on the news due to the Lieutenant Governor’s visit. Trustee Foley commented that it was good exposure.

6.0 Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee

Trustee Neshe remarked that the FSU Internal CAR Committee is re-reviewing the Deloitte report as well as going back to developing a compliance grid of applicable federal and state regulations. The CAR committee is looking forward to hearing more about the work they are doing in the months ahead.

Trustee Neshe commented that the committee had a good meeting with Tammy and Rachel. She noted that risk management is everyone’s job. Tammy will be working with departments on policies and procedures and internal controls. The following priority areas were identified:

- Vendor maintenance
- Payments
- Fixed Assets

A schedule of internal audits for 2020 will be shared at next meeting.

Trustee Neshe reported that the committee also had conversation about a draft assessment for NSLDS reporting, a topic that has been discussed previously. She reported that Tammy reviewed this area again and report showed an error rate but the Registrar was able to speak to changes being made to correct issue. Trustee Neshe reported that the committee has faith that between the Registrar’s Office and Tammy we should be able to rectify this matter.

Trustee Neshe also remarked that Patrick Laughran (Chief Information Officer) was at the CAR committee meeting and provided an update on the Chief Security Officer opening. She said Mr. Laughran and his team have taken on some of the duties of the vacant CSO position, most notably, the work on patching and identification of vulnerabilities continues to happen on a timely basis.

Trustee Neshe also commented that the committee had a positive meeting with Ann McDonald (General Counsel) and Tammy Till (Manager – Financial Controls).

7.0 General Counsel

Dr. Dale Hamel presented on behalf of Ann McDonald who was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Hamel reported that the full Board of Higher Education approved the revised Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Affirmative Action Plan (EOP) which still required approval from the campus Board of Trustees. Dr. Hamel mentioned that the Trustees have a copy of revised EOP and document that lists the substantive changes in the new EOP. He also reminded the Board that Kimberly Dexter presented information about Title IX and the changes at their November meeting.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Affirmative Action Plan as written and approved by the Board of Higher Education on September 28, 2018.

8.0 Administration, Finance and Technology Committee

Trustee Grilli reported that the FY 2018 Financial Audit had no findings and audit is fine but the state comptroller has asked us to make a change as referenced on the first page of the blue sheet. Trustee Grilli invited Dr. Dale Hamel (Executive Vice President of Administration, Finance, and Technology) to provide remarks.

Dr. Hamel reiterated the Governor’s proposed budget has a 3.8% increase and noted in our predictions we have been anticipating a 3% increase. He remarked that we have not seen house or senate budgets and are have built in an offset for the continuing decline in enrollment while also seeking additional increases in state aid.

Dr. Hamel reported that we did not get the amount that we wanted for capital improvements but the University is moving forward with upgrades. He then turned the focus to the Danforth Art Museum improvements and unanticipated costs that need trustee action and noted the motion included in tonight’s agenda.

Trustee Herr asked about the issue with electrical work. Dr. Hamel responded that we were not anticipating upgrading the electrical panel which then required other changes.



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Trustee Herr asked for clarification on whether we are budgeting at 3% or 3.8%. Dr. Hamel responded 3% and remarked that \$300K is the differential. He continued that the budget indicates reductions of \$500K so will offset those reductions if we get the additional amount.

Trustee Neshe asked if the money for the Danforth is an unsecured line of credit. Dr. Hamel responded in the affirmative.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve drawing from an approved line of credit, up to a maximum of \$150,000 (one-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars), through MutualOne Bank for costs associated with the FSU Cultural Arts Center (“Maynard Building”) Project. Repayment to be made through the Danforth Museum Trust Fund.

9.0 New Business

There was no new business.

10.0 Public Comment

Dr. Sarah Pilkenton, Professor in the Chemistry & Food Science department, made an impassioned plea to the Trustees to think about and understand how demoralized the faculty feel having been 578 days without a contract and are finding it hard to have the growth mindset that is beneficial for teaching in classroom and preparing students to enter society when they have been made to feel this way for such a prolonged period of time, noting that the Commonwealth tax revenues were higher than anticipated.

Dr. Virginia Rutter, professor in the Sociology department and Vice President of the MSCA chapter on campus distributed a handout, “News from MSCA”. She remarked that there is a crisis at Framingham State and faculty have been playing nice but are now aggressively seeking work to rule. She said this hurts are students. She said the union has been bargaining in good faith, we have an agreement, the COP and bargaining team are being disingenuous, and we still do not have a contract. She provided that the reason she is addressing the Trustees is because the system is broken, the leaders that they supervise are not responsive. Earnest faculty have been speaking to their presidents. Dr. Rutter continued that the response that they keep getting back is patronizing and has quality of gas lighting – a metaphor for what you see is happening isn’t really happening. Dr. Rutter implored the Board to ask questions, exercise their commitments and state publicly their commitment.

Trustee Foley asked if there were any other comments. He then thanked the faculty for attending and sharing their comments.

11.0 Adjourn Open Meeting

Chair Foley called for a motion to adjourn the open meeting of the Board of Trustees.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the open meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Foley
Chair
Framingham State University, Board of Trustees

Dr. F. Javier Cevallos
President
Framingham State University