



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES ■ BOARD MEETING ■ MARCH 27 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, Budwig, Ferguson, Grilli, 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 (January 30, 2019)
- Personnel Actions

On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the consent agenda including the minutes from the January 30, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting, and the personnel actions report.

Chair Foley also reminded the Trustees about the 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) - He requested that final RSVPs please come to him by this Friday, March 29th by Noon.

Chair Foley noted that he is the Foundation Board liaison and attended a meeting on March 13th. He shared two highlights from that meeting:

- The Foundation is changing the allocation of investment and putting some funds in private equity funds. Also, he reported out on mini-grants that will help fund new initiatives in the strategic plan. Seven different projects were funded for this year.
- Chair Foley held the report on the Alumni Board in abeyance for a subsequent meeting. Chair Foley reviewed the status of the Trustees noting that Trustee Quezada, Budwig and his own terms have expired as of March 1. The University has submitted names for nomination or alternately for second terms to be renewed.
- Chair Foley expressed his support and concern for the FSU community having witnessed another racial incident this term. He congratulated staff on their focus in fostering dialogue about the issue on campus and emphasizing inclusivity and respect. He stressed



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that if a perpetrator is identified that the University would take either criminal or civil actions as appropriate.

- Finally, Chair Foley reminded the Trustees of the Statewide Annual Trustee Conference coming upon March 28th sponsored by the Department of Higher Education.

2.0 President's Report

President Javier Cevallos remarked on the items below:

- President Cevallos echoed Chair Foley's comments regarding the racial incidents on campus.
- He described an upcoming trip that he will be making with the other state university presidents to meet with Congressman Richard Neal and other legislators in Washington, D.C. to discuss priorities for the state universities.
- The President described a number of upcoming events on campus outlined in the agenda.
- He noted a brief update on the increases of students studying abroad, mentioning that approximately 50% of these students are students of color. Numbers of international students enrolling at FSU has also increased over the past three years.

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. Millie also addressed the results of the Campus Climate Survey that had been conducted last year. The trustees inquired as to the reasons for the low participation. They speculated on the format, emotions on campus at that time, etc... They described methods to try to improve participation for the next administration including the dissemination of the survey results. Chair Foley inquired what results of the survey provided actionable items that might lead to building trust on campus. The Board of Trustees requested that Millie send the link to the document that she had distributed.

Eric Gustafson briefly described highlights from his report including:

- The Alumni Board's establishment and expenditures from the Emergency Finance Fund.
- Update on fundraisers
- Selection of this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Addressing a Strategic Plan initiative of including more alumni in the curriculum
- Soliciting the assistance of alumni in reducing "summer melt".
- Near achievement of the 2.5M dollar goal for fundraising.



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President Cevallos invited Dr. John Palabiyik to introduce Roger Tiwari for the Student-in-the-Spotlight presentation. Professor Palabiyik described the Hospitality concentration and indicated that there had been good enrollment and growth in courses. There is also an interest for online courses for incumbent workers and a growing interest and inquiry from international students. Roger is in Professor Palabiyik's "Marketing Principles" class and learning how to prepare a marketing plan using the Warren Conference Center (WCC) as a product. Roger attended "Guest Speaker Sessions" in his "Introduction to Hospitality and Tourism" course as a guest student and decided to change his major to Hospitality. He is one of the hospitality department student leaders, who are trying to establish a new Hospitality Club.

Mr. Tiwari, a current undergraduate student in the Business Management and Information Technology program, shared that he is originally from Nepal. He graduated from Middlesex Community College before attending Framingham State, where he began with a major in history but then switched to Hospitality and Tourism.

Trustee Anthony Hubbard asked who the competitor colleges or universities were in Massachusetts for this degree program. Professor Palabiyik responded that UMass Lowell, Salem State University (has a concentration), and Bridgewater State University are identified as key competitors, however that Framingham State University is very unique because we are connected to the area businesses.

Chair Foley asked if there was any opportunity for connections with casinos. Professor Palabiyik replied that each week the program is presented with a different aspect of hospitality, such as casinos, cruises. Also those businesses like new hotels opening in June/July are actively looking for their students; for example - hotels expanding in and outside of Boston.

3.0 Student Trustee Report

Trustee Ferguson reported the following:

- Election of New SGA Officers – there has been a turnover in the SGA e-board, but some vacancies have been filled. Senate members have participated on the VP searches and provided student representation and feedback.
- Budget Updates: SGA Budget and FSU Capital Budget Process – SGA has provided input on the capital budget planning process working with EVP Hamel.
- SGA has worked on collaborating with Health Services to implement self-care vending machines for health center after-hours student concerns.



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- Currently there is a healthy balance of \$14,624.00 in account, and there has been no need to tap into reserves. They hope to add to it this year.
- Upcoming SGA Open House & Elections – scheduled to take place April 10, 2019.

4.0 Academic Affairs Committee

Trustee Nancy Budwig provided five highlights from the Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

1. Accreditation: The fifth-year report was due and has been submitted. The final report has been used as a model by the accrediting organization.
2. Reimagining the First Year: Several high impact practices were implemented. The findings revealed that these practices are having a positive impact on the reduction of the “DFW” rate which is an improvement.
3. Strategic Outcomes: There is a lot of progress being made on initiatives, and the chart provided shows strategic planning in action, and measures are in place for tracking performance.
4. Honors Program Presentation by Professor Paul Bruno. Professor Bruno described student participation including an increase in minority participation from 5% to 19% in the Honors Program over a period of several years.
5. Trustee Budwig reported on the activities of the search committee for the new provost which she served on. She gave a special shout out to student Adam Scanlon who served on the search committee. Trustee Budwig commended the commitment of both faculty and staff even after a snow storm everyone made it in for meetings.

Trustee Dana Neshe asked for future clarification of acronyms in Academic Affairs. An acronyms cheat sheet for those who are not familiar with the terms and short cuts.

5.0 Enrollment and Student Development Committee

Trustee Herr provided updates from the Enrollment and Student Development Committee meeting. Dr. Lorretta Holloway gave highlights from her division including information on a survey of student veterans. She noted that there has been an increase in student veterans from 218 students in 2018, to 246 students in 2019.

She also noted information regarding the FSU website analytics and upcoming “Rams Rising” events.

Dr. Holloway highlighted the following items from the divisional update:

- Duty of Care webinar hosted by the division
- Outreach efforts for Newbury College students due to announced closing



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- Transfer student marketing campaign to increase enrollments in this category of students

Trustee Budwig commended the work that is being done on weekly enrollment reports, individual follow-up, as well as the work on completed applications and targeted messages to potential students.

Chair Foley asked if Framingham State will follow-up to determine reasons why students selected Framingham State.

Social Media presentation by Christina Casinelli, Social Media Coordinator.

The short term goals & objectives of FSU social media are to build awareness of Framingham State among relevant audiences and increase engagement with both current and prospective students. They also are striving to optimize existing FSU social media platforms and develop a strategy for and launch an FSU Snapchat account. They are producing video content that can be shared across multiple platforms. The most significant goal is to create cohesion across all social media accounts associated with the University while diversifying content mix by highlighting student and faculty research/ accomplishments/etc... and continuing social media coverage of campus events and speakers.

Student Trustee Ayanna Ferguson asked if FSU club social media accounts are being audited. Christina replied that she is currently just following club social media, but addressing them will be part of phase two.

Trustee Hubbard asked what is the downside to social media to Framingham State. Christina replied that she can monitor and observe. Unless the content is defamatory and threatening otherwise she does not intervene. She commented that there is not a lot of negativity.

6.0 Administration, Finance and Technology Committee

Trustee Grilli reported on the following items:

- The Finance Committee reviewed the audit and there were no significant findings
- The Committee met the new auditors from O'Connor & Drew
- The line of credit that was approved at the last meeting will not need to be accessed. Costs for the remaining work to the Danforth Museum have been covered by a donor.
- The University is waiting on the State Budget to be finalized



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Trustee Grilli asked for a motion to approve the FY2018 Independent Audit of Restated Financial Statements Approval

On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve FY2018 Independent Audit of Framingham State University Restated Financial Statements.

7.0 New Business

- Framingham State University Commencement Ceremonies will be held on Sunday, May 26, 2019. Trustee Representation is requested. Contact the President’s Office if you are able to attend.
- Chair Foley recognized Trustee Fernando Quezada’s service and thanked him for his service to the Board.

10.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Foley
Chair, Framingham State University, Board of Trustees

Dr. F. Javier Cevallos
President, Framingham State University