



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ JANUARY 29, 2020, 7:15 P.M. ■ ALUMNI ROOM, MCCARTHY CENTER

In Attendance: Hope Bielat, Nancy Budwig, Beth Casavant, Olivia Beverlie, Mike Grilli, Brian Herr, Anthony Hubbard, Richard Logan, Dana Neshe, Robert Richards (Emeritus).

Call to Order:

Chair Kevin Foley called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and welcomed Trustees.

1.0 Chair's Report

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

- Minutes (November 20, 2019)
- Personnel Actions

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On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the consent agenda including the minutes from the November 20, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting and the personnel actions report.

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Chair Foley reported on the status of trustee appointments, noting the approval of his and Trustee Nancy Budwig's second 5-year term. A vacancy in the seat previously held by Sonia Diaz remains open. Chair Foley has spoken to Matt Noyes at the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, and has given names for appointment consideration. He will follow up on the conversation. Mike Grilli and Brian Herr's terms are expiring on March 1, 2020, Both are eligible for second terms.

2.0 President's Report (President Cevallos)

President Javier Cevallos remarked on the items below:

- The start of Spring 2020 term was last week and the semester is off to a good start.
- President Cevallos mentioned that he letter to the president of Holy Cross, to offer his condolences for the tragedy that occurred involving their student rowing athletes earlier in the month.



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- Head football coach, Tom Kelley has retired after a successful 13 seasons. Aynsley Rosenbaum will be stepping into the role of Head Football Coach, Tom will continue in his role as Athletic Director.
- President Cevallos also commended the staff who developed the employer wall display and mural, as well as the newly installed self-care kiosk both in the McCarthy Campus Center.

Future events include:

- The opening of new Chris Walsh Center for Educators and Families of MetroWest, named after the late state representative who advocated for student and families in Metro West. The Center will offer information for students, families, and educators about support available for those with disabilities and other needs. The first coordinator will be Professor James Cressey, from the Education department. The opening event is scheduled for February 13, 2020. Speaker Robert DeLeo, Senator Karen Spilka, and Mayor Yvonne Spicer are confirmed speakers.
- Rededication of the current North Hall to become Miles Bibb Hall, in honor of Mary Miles Bibb will be held on March 30, 2020. A ribbon cutting ceremony inviting the students involved with the renaming will be held. Invitations will be sent to the BOT.
- Recommendations are still being reviewed regarding the academic reorganization.

Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement Report

Dr. Constanza Cabello highlighted the following items from her report:

- The Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement has been busy working with staff and faculty during January Day, the HR Professional Development Days. The Beacon Award is given to members of the FSU community that help foster inclusive excellence. This year's staff award was presented to Jennifer Hyde, Assistant Director of International Education. The faculty award was presented to Dr. Elizabeth Whalley, Assistant Professor of Sociology.
- The launch of the Pathways Internship Program, which provides paid internship through the Office begins this month.
- The university hosted the Annual MLK Youth Conference and the MIAA/MSAA Annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit.
- Dr. Cabello and Dr. Christopher McCarthy Latimer, Coordinator of the Civic Engagement and Service Learning Center) attended the Campus Compact/MASS Conference; looking to continue partnership and engage with Compact.
- List of important dates for events to come, including a free concert, lecture and forums for Black History week.



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Development and Alumni Relations Report

Eric Gustafson reported on the following:

- As of January 2020, \$832,845 has been raised for FY20.
- Notable gifts include a \$25,000 pledge to endow a new scholarship for first-generation students with financial need. A \$25,000 gift was given to an existing visual arts scholarship. A \$20,000 gift to provide scholarships to veterans. A silent auction for an emergency fund for students in crisis raised \$2500.
- Annual Business Coaching Night was a big highlight. Students were paired with over 90 alumni and community member mentors.
- Alumni Book club has been a success with over 400 members.
- Upcoming efforts include activities in Florida during the spring.
- The Danforth Museum has continued to show strong attendance and consistent membership base. It has received a lot of good publicity for special exhibitions. A special reception, free and open to the public will be held Saturday, February 1, 6 – 8 pm.

Student-in-the-Spotlight

President Cevallos invited Diana Stamatina Kasikaris a recent FSU graduate with a B.A. in Psychology and Elementary Education, was introduced by Professor Mary Grasseti, Chair of the Education department. Ms Kasikaris spoke of her student experiences. She came to FSU as a transfer student, but quickly felt at home at FSU. She noted her appreciation for all of the support and positive experiences she had as a student. The support she received from faculty was of particular importance to her. She felt she greatly benefited from their mentorship and encouragement. Although she was a commuter student, she was made to feel welcome, and met amazing friends.

3.0 Student Trustee Report (Trustee Beverlie)

Student Trustee Olivia Beverlie reported on the following items:

- The Administrator's Forum is scheduled for March 10 and the SGA sponsored Police Dialogue, for March 31.
- The SGA meeting was significantly focused around the FSU Bookstore. Many students shared their experiences and have had issues with renting a book though the bookstore, voicing frustrations with their overall experience with the Bookstore.
- Self-care kiosk: students are very excited about this project and have been working on this as a committee. Located in McCarthy, students will have access to it 24 hours/day.



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Trustee Beth Casavant asked whether there are plans for additional self-care stations to be on campus. Trustee Beverlie noted that the kiosk is very popular but that expanding access could be an issue, as it will need to be in a building that has 24-hour accessibility.

Trustee Casavant asked if the kiosk kept data on how it's being used, and both Dr. Holloway and Trustee Beverlie concurred that it did.

4.0 Academic Affairs Committee

Academic Affairs committee report was given by Trustee Nancy Budwig, outlining three primary issues of the Strategic Plan, "The Big Three" interrelated issues:

- 1) Where FSU was, where the university stands in terms of FSU's access and affordability
- 2) Student success and retention
- 3) Equity lens; how are all populations doing

Dr. Angela Salas presented information indicating that the College Navigator shows good things for FSU, but also shows room for growth. There is:

- 70% full time; 50% part-time retention.
- The 3-year graduation rate is 30%; 8-year graduation rate is at 56%.

The University wants to work in student-focused way, but needs to be open to the required changes and adjustments.

Trustee Nancy Budwig discussed issues with academic reorganization. There is a need to better understand what the goals for this reorganization are, and if there is a sustainable model that serves the entire community. Proposals have been made, but there is some urgency to following through.

Trustee Hubbard asked what the timing on the academic reorganization was. President Cevallos, responded that we must still negotiate a search firm, something which is in the process now and should be completed by July.

5.0 Enrollment and Student Development Committee (Trustee Herr)

Dr. Loretta Holloway and Trustee Brian Herr reported on the following items:

- Dr. Holloway reviewed the highlights of her report which included marketing issues; a productive discussion was had regarding student financial aid, declining enrollment and what can be done to offset some of these issues.
- Financial aid remodeling is significant. The group reviewed data analysis that drove a new method for allocating Financial Aid beginning AY20-21. Dr. Holloway emphasized



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that the net result would be helping more students with more money rather than decreasing awards with the same level of resources.

- Regarding the flu and coronavirus, the Director of Health Services has been involved, contacted international students and the director of Resident's Life was on call. There have been multi-campus discussions about the coronavirus. Students returning from China have been cleared. AMCH recommended safety practices were shared. Additional information will be added on the FSU website to promote awareness on campus.

Trustee Hope Bielat, responding to a highlighted portion of the report, voiced concern regarding the increased number of mental health services that were sought by students compared to previous years. Dr. Holloway agreed that it is concerning and that the opioid crisis is also having a ripple-effect on the students as well as the community. They are expecting to have a new contractor in the Counseling Center, however, the student demand is exceedingly high.

Dr. Angela Salas provided an example of a student being triggered by an off-campus incident. An occurrence that happened off campus has reverberations on-campus. This led to a broad discussion by the Board members regarding the needs of the students. Dr. Holloway concluded that “wraparound services” are required to help overall student success.

5.0 Compliance Audit & Risk Committee

Trustee Neshe reported on the recent meeting of the CAR committee:

- Tammy Till's presentation of the assessments report included information on the review of fixed asset inventory. We are working toward correcting outstanding issues, but no high risks were reported.
- There are some delays on assessments, and the committee had a robust conversation about policy and procedures for business continuity. We will be working across the university for governance and the role of BOT in the process.
- Trustee Neshe also shared Roy Galang's presentation. The findings on cybersecurity and training efforts were very encouraging.
- Information presented by Counsel Ann McDonald was also addressed including the Mass Transfer audit, and an update on House 4099.

7.0 Administration, Finance and Technology Committee (Trustee Grilli)

Trustee Mike Grilli reported highlights from Finance committee meeting, discussing the information illustrated in graphs and materials, Trustee Grilli reported:

- FSU is working with a balanced budget.
- The projections highlighted the need to manage student fees.
- Budget challenges exist, but layoffs are not being contemplating. Increases in fees cannot be prohibitive, but the will be included in the solution.



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- Currently waiting on the State government budget to be approved.

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On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the Massachusetts State Building Authority's approved exchange/swap of a parcel (presently owned by the MSCBA) for a similar-sized parcel (presently owned by the town of Ashland).

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8.0 General Counsel, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Chief of Staff, General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Ann McDonald, Esq. reported to the trustees that:

- The bi-annual self-assessment instrument was launched earlier this month and will be open for completion until February 24th.
- Final results will be tabulated and reviewed during the Board of Trustees retreat in the spring.

11.0 New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

12.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13.0 Adjourn Open Meeting

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

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The open meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Foley



Framingham State University

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Chair
Framingham State University, Board of Trustees

Dr. F. Javier Cevallos
President
Framingham State University