



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ MAY 13, 2020, 7:15 P.M. ■ REMOTE ZOOM MEETING

In Attendance (participating remotely): Hope Lozano Bielat, Nancy Budwig, Beth Casavant, Olivia Beverlie, Kevin Foley, Michael Grilli, Anthony Hubbard, Richard Logan, Dana Neshe, Robert Richards (Emeritus).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Chair Foley welcomed the Trustees and guests. He then thanked the President, faculty, staff, and especially the students, for their cooperation, commending their ability to adapt to these unusual circumstances in this challenging time.

Due to the remote format, and in conformance with the amended Massachusetts Public Meeting law, all votes will be taken by roll call. Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Ann McDonald will initiate a roll call of attendees on each voting item presented.

1.0 Chair's Report

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

- Minutes (March 25, 2020)
- 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 March 25, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting and the personnel actions report.

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1.2 Chair Foley recognized Trustee Olivia Beverlie.

Trustee Beverlie has been elected SGA President for the 2020-2021 academic year. The Trustee-elect for the 2020-2021 academic year is McKenzie Ward.

Chair Foley thanked Trustee Beverlie, and welcomed Trustee-elect, McKenzie Ward.

1.3 Appointment of Presidential Review

Trustee Budwig agreed to chair the Presidential Review Committee. Trustees Logan and Bielat will serve on the committee. The evaluation will be complete by August for submission to the full Board for review and approval in September.

1.4 BOT Special Meeting June 2020

A special meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 15, at 5 p.m. to review the proposed FY'21 budget.



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Chair Foley concluded his report with the update on the Board membership; Trustee Grilli has been reappointed and Trustee Herr's reappointment is forthcoming. There is still one vacancy, which has been vacant since August 2018.

2.0 President's Report

President Javier Cevallos remarked on the items below:

- Express thanks to Trustee Olivia Beverlie for all of her work while serving on the Board, and welcomed Trustee-elect McKenzie Ward.
- COVID-19: Noted Governor Baker has appointed a higher education taskforce. The president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) (Dr. Laurie Leshin) is serving as chairperson representing higher education. A working group, of 16 college university presidents, has been created. The state universities are being represented by President Cevallos and the president of Fitchburg State University (Dr. Lapidus). This working group meets daily, and recommendations will be sent to the Governor's taskforce.
- Traditional end-of-year activities have been taking place remotely, including awards ceremonies and elections.
- The second Zoom town hall meeting was held last week, and was well received with over 250 in attendance. We will continue to keep the campus informed, providing as much information and transparency as possible.
- Staff in ITS, residence halls, faculty, all academic departments, Enrollment and Student Development, have been doing an incredible amount of work, and the President acknowledged all of their efforts and accomplishments.

Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement Report

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

- In response to COVID-19 the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement continues to view its work through an equity lens, compiling all of the FSU resources for students to access. Resources were also provided to help faculty understand some of the challenges of equity in this new environment.
- Good news, FSU was recently named an emerging HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution).
- Social media engagement has been very successful, providing better engagement opportunities for students. Center for Inclusive Excellence has been offering interesting programs including Virtual Processing Spaces, which have been well attended.

Development and Alumni Relations Report

Vice President Eric Gustafson reported on the following:



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- Fundraising operations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. The challenge has been to develop ways to adapt their practices.
- As of April 28, \$2,648,849 has been raised. Fundraising goals are expected to be met for this year.
- Since March 15, there has been increased contacts with alumni and other maintained relationships.
- The responsiveness of alumni and friends for students in need, has been very good.
- Alumni in-person engagement events have been canceled through June. Concern for large events in the future persist, and efforts have pivoted to online engagement, using LinkedIn and Facebook, webinars and Zoom events.
- Though the Danforth Museum remains closed, the staff has been focused on making art accessible online, such as with the Museum's first virtual artist talk on Zoom. Many new contacts from this online format were created. Another virtual artist talk will be held Sunday, May 17.
- Hopes are to open the Museum in the summer or fall. New exhibitions have been scheduled for September.
- Relationships have helped grow the collection by those wanting to donate works.

Student-in-the-Spotlight

President Cevallos invited Henry (Lee) Wickett, a May 2020 FSU graduate of the B.A. Applied Food Science program. Mr. Wickett was introduced by Dr. Emmanouil Apostolidis, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Food Science and Advisor of the Master of Science and Nutrition Science program. Dr. Apostolidis introduction of Mr. Wickett included a brief background of his re-entry to FSU, as he did not complete his degree until later in life. Lee was very appreciative of the honor to be a "Student-In-the-Spotlight" and explained that he first came to FSU with encouragement from employers to learn chemistry. He studied with Dr. Simonson, Dr. Allen, and Dr. Beck, but was unable to complete his degree, as he started a family and had other work obligations. Upon his return, Lee faced some initial challenges such as having to refresh his knowledge base, and adapting to new technology. However, he graduated, and Dr. Apostolidis noted he was very impressed with Lee's dedication and hard work. In closing, Lee stated that everyone (at FSU) has been very helpful. That it was "kind of tough, scary" but that he was glad to have completed his degree.

Chair Foley thanked the participants of the President's Update, noting that they are critical to the mission of FSU, and thanked Mr. Lee Wickett for sharing his inspiring story.

3.0 Student Trustee Report (Trustee Beverlie)

Trustee Olivia Beverlie reported on the following items:



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- Trustee Beverlie thanked the Board members and noted how she has felt very support by the Trustees and how they have contributed to her success.
- Presentation of an SGA Resolution, declaring support for the FSU Counseling Center. Student testimonials demonstrated the importance of the Counseling Center services, and what the Center has meant to the students.

4.0 Academic Affairs Committee

Trustee Nancy Budwig provided a report on the Academic Affairs Committee, reporting on the following items:

- COVID-19 response update, we are making sure learning environments are suitable and meet learning goals. IT staff has been involved in over 25 workshops, faculty are receiving the required resources.
- Collaborative efforts have been made for students to learn i.e. the library resources, new ways for advising, eBooks from the bookstore. Technology used on campus, such as Starfish, have been instrumental in continuing to engage students.
- Planning for the fall: multiple scenarios were reviewed, i.e. alternative classrooms, new spaces, determining which classes that may be held online, thinking about how campus will look this fall, all requiring a significant amount of planning. Policy-making will be required. Discussions were had around the question of how to set classes up in an equitable way.
- Good news, in terms of retention, we are closing the equity gap. African American students are doing above all other demographics. The Latinx demographic is slightly lower, but retention rates are moving in the right direction. Important link between the metrics and the initiatives made.
- Enrollment report - data shows we're doing a little better with continuing student enrollments than this time last year.

5.0 Compliance Audit & Risk Committee

Trustee Neshe reported on the following Compliance, Audit and Risk committee items:

- Work is continuing on enterprise risk assessments. Internal risk assessment survey has been completed with an 82% response rate.
- The review of Banner access will be an ongoing project, but review is anticipated to be completed in September.
- Policy work: consistent approach to policies are being reviewed and established. Work will be required to continue.
- Internal Assessment summary, due to COVID-19 work has been difficult and has experienced some delay. However, work is progressing well, with lots of collaboration.
- ITS updates: ITS has done excellent work migrating operations securely to remote operations.



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6.0 Governance Committee

Trustee Anthony Hubbard introduced the following motion from the May 8, 2020 Governance Committee meeting:

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On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the appointment of Robert Richards for the position of Trustee Emeritus for a period of one year commencing on July 1, 2020.

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7.0 Enrollment and Student Development Committee (Trustee Foley)

Chair Foley provided a report on the Enrollment and Student Development Committee.

- The presentation of Vincent Ferraro demonstrated areas where FSU has been successful with student retention and those that required additional work.

Dr. Lorretta Holloway also presented the highlights from the Enrollment and Student Development division.

- Enrollment and Student Development has been working with the university response groups. FSU students studying abroad were given up to \$500 dollars to help defer some of the costs of returning early; the emergency laptop loan program has distributed laptops to students in need, ITS has been incredibly helpful with providing external wifi hotspots.
- Students may be apart but this does not mean that they are isolated, there has been alot of engagement via social media. The various offices are working hard to build community and people are really stepping it up.
- Career Services: career fairs, career events, workshop on how to network in the world of COVID-19 have been offered.
- Counseling Center has been keeping up with services remotely.
- Dr. Holloway updated the Board on enrollment numbers and alterations to admissions practices including adjustments to the traditional deposit dates, deferrals, etc...

8.0 Administration, Finance and Technology Committee (Trustee Grilli)

Trustee Mike Grilli reported highlights from Finance committee meeting:

- The committee will defer action today on the approval of the FY'21 budget due to still unknown variables including state appropriation, fall enrollment, and uncertainty regarding what our operations be like in the fall.



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- No actions will taken on the budget until the June 15th BOT meeting. Dr. Hamel has been tireless in attempts to balance FSU finances.

Dr. Dale Hamel reported the following:

- Updates were provided to the Finance Committee, outlining different scenarios: a reduction in enrollment in the fall, updated assumptions of lower state appropriations. Based on guidance from the Commonwealth, we will project a 3% reduction to the budget.
- Trustee Hope Bielat stated that in the last BOT Meeting, we heard from Dr. Holloway who presented numbers to be considered for the Counseling Center, and asked if anything has been moved forward? She asked if it would be discussed in the special June meeting?
- Dr. Hamel responded that there is an increase in the health services trust fund. While revenues are going down in that area, expenditures have increased. A part-time position has been included, but not full-time position.
- Trustee Grilli gave overview of Mass Bay Community College’s (MBCC) purchase of a current FSU parking lot, which when complete, we will be leasing back parking space from MBCC that has not been developed. A motion will be brought forth in the June meeting for the Trustees to consent to the transaction.

9.0 New Business

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On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the delegation of the Board powers to President Cevallos for June – August 2020 inclusive.

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10.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11.0 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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Framingham State University

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The open meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Foley
Chair
Framingham State University, Board of Trustees

Dr. F. Javier Cevallos
President
Framingham State University