



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ NOVEMBER 20, 2019 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 (remotely), 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 (September 25, 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 September 25, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting, minutes from the Executive Session of the same date and the personnel actions report.

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Chair Foley confirmed with the Board that the President's evaluation was submitted to the Commissioner of the Board of Higher Education and that President Cevallos met with the Commissioner earlier in the month to review this document.

Chair Foley noted his recent attendance at two campus events, including the dedication of the FSU Veteran's Center and a recent faculty recognition event.

The trustees commented on the Board of Higher Education's "equity agenda" that was highlighted in a recent Trustee professional development program in October and discussed the trustees' role at FSU in advancing the intentions of this important work.

Chair Foley gave a status report regarding open trustee positions. He noted an ongoing vacancy that has yet to be filled after the departure of former trustee Sonia Diaz. He noted that he and Trustee Budwig are serving beyond their terms while we await further information on their reappointments.

Chair Foley thanked all of the trustees for their participation in the earlier committee meetings and tonight's board of trustees meeting.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ NOVEMBER 20, 2019 7:15 P.M. ■ ALUMNI ROOM, MCCARTHY CENTER

2.0 President's Report (President Cevallos)

President Javier Cevallos remarked on the items below:

- President Cevallos guided the trustees through a brief demonstration of the Department of Higher Education's website that holds significant content reflecting public higher education's Performance Measurement Reporting System (PMRS). He noted that the trustees can access this information about FSU at any time including certain comparisons to the other state universities.
- Updates:
 - President Cevallos noted the recent dedication of the Veterans Center previously described by Chair Foley and also noted a recent acquisition by the Christa McCauliffe Center of a replica of the suit worn by Neil Armstrong on the moon mission.
 - Dr. Cevallos noted the University's recent achievement being noted for the 8th time as a Green Campus by the Princeton Review.
 - The President updated the Board regarding information that he had just received including the potential funding through a supplemental budget that includes funding for MassGrant financial aid.
 - Finally, the President noted that FSU recently hosted a legislative delegation on campus from the joint committee on higher education.
- Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement Report – Ms. Connie Cabello highlighted the following item from her report:
 - Connie noted that her divisions materials are posted on the website. She updated trustees on staffing in her division and described some of the material included in their packet.
 - Dr. Cabello also noted that her department is working with students and faculty on campus addressing important issues such as LGBTQ matters and concerns regarding potential changes to DACA that would affect our students and their families.
- Development and Alumni Relations Report – Mr. Eric Gustafson briefly described highlights from his report including:
 - Fundraising



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ NOVEMBER 20, 2019 7:15 P.M. ■ ALUMNI ROOM, MCCARTHY CENTER

- Mr. Gustafson reported that the University had experienced a good month for fundraising. He noted that this time of year is particularly busy and specifically described the efforts of his student employees who staff the Phonathon that reaches thousands of alumni.
- Eric also noted the success in funding \$25,000 for athletics and scholarships for students.
- Alumni Engagement
 - Eric described the Alumni department's efforts to advance the university's mission of inclusive excellence by expanding their programming to alumni from diverse backgrounds.
- Eric also described several events that have recently occurred (Children's Literature Festival) or are upcoming including an alumni career coaching event, alumni panels in various academic disciplines and the annual holiday event in Boston.
- Student-in-the- Spotlight

President Cevallos invited Luis Rosero from the business department - to introduce Valeria Arauz for the Student-in-the-Spotlight presentation. Valeria is originally from Bolivia and described her process of enrolling at Framingham State University having transferred to us from Fitchburg State University. She recently returned from a study abroad experience in Rome, Italy and is currently serving as an intern for the Metrowest Economic Research Center (MERC) at FSU. Valeria described her work at MERC as well as her personal and professional goals that include giving back to the community.

Trustee Herr complimented Ms. Arauz for her fine presentation and her accomplishments thus far.

3.0 Student Trustee Report (Trustee Beverlie)

Student Trustee Olivia Beverlie reported on the following items:

- There are currently 17 senators, many from the class of 2021 with many genders and ethnicities represented within their group. She noted that senators also represented a wide array of academic programs at the university making it a generally representative group. She cited the following statistics: 76.5% female; 23.5% male and students identifying as white, latinx and black.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ NOVEMBER 20, 2019 7:15 P.M. ■ ALUMNI ROOM, MCCARTHY CENTER

- The Student Senate organized the annual “Safety Walk” in October with a number of campus administrators who physically walked the campus attempting to identify areas of concern. Examples of this included an expressed need for additional “blue light” emergency phones, signage encouraging reduced speeds on surrounding streets and shrubbery in need of trimming to improve safety.
- The Student Senate sponsored an Administrator’s Forum where a number of matters were raised regarding dining services, use of the Center for Inclusive Excellence (CIE) and university sponsored transportation (the Ram Tram). The students have already seen improvement in a number of these areas. The Senate also hopes to sponsor an upcoming guided discussion between students and the University Police.

4.0 Academic Affairs Committee (Trustee Budwig)

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

- Trustee Budwig mentioned that the faculty sabbatical requests were reviewed and expressed her support for this important aspect of academic life.
- Trustee Budwig described the Academic Affairs Committee’s intention to tie their agendas to the priorities of the university’s strategic plan.
- The topic of student mental health had arisen at the committee and there was discussion about addressing students’ needs in this arena in order to be able to engage them in the learning environment.
- Trustee Budwig noted that there had been an excellent presentation on the STEM Scholar Program describing methods for improving the retention of the student participants by building strong foundational skills and a sense of belonging. The program cited impressive retention rates.

Other trustees inquired as to whether this cohort program might be replicated and brought to scale campus wide. Trustees noted how this program cut across so many aspects of the campus including, finance, student success, and assessment.

5.0 Enrollment and Student Development Committee (Trustee Herr)

Trustee Herr briefly remarked about the work of the Enrollment and Student Development Committee and invited Dr. Lorretta Holloway to provide highlights.

- Dr. Holloway noted that the Enrollment and Student Development committee had also discussed student demand for counseling services on campus as had the academic affairs committee.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ NOVEMBER 20, 2019 7:15 P.M. ■ ALUMNI ROOM, MCCARTHY CENTER

- Dr. Holloway provided an enrollment analysis including overall headcount numbers, fall undergraduate admissions data and graduate admissions information. She and Jeremy Spencer addressed the information being provided to the university by a consulting group Eduventures to support FSU's enrollment goals.
Trustee Foley inquired that we seem to know a lot about our enrolled students, but what do we know about the students who choose not to enroll at FSU?
- Trustee Herr share a personal anecdote about a student who had transferred to FSU and described her experience as "welcoming"

6.0 Compliance Audit & Risk Committee (Trustee Neshe)

Trustee Neshe provided the Compliance, Audit and Risk committee report. She highlighted the following:

- The October meeting was held jointly between the Compliance, Audit and Risk (CAR) committee and the Finance committee.
- The focus of the meeting was the presentation by O'Connor and Drew of the financial audit. They provided an unmodified opinion, noting no pervasive fraud, an equity increase and no new or significant footnotes.
- The single audit did include a finding related to the reporting of data to the National Student Loan Data Service (NSLDS). It included two student records but is not considered a repeat finding given that the reasons for the reporting were different from the previous finding. An additional finding related to the Common Origination & Disbursements (COD). The audit determined that the University's internal controls are working well.
- Management Comments included recommendations that the University consider a review and revision of their fund/org. accounts to reduce the current volume of over 12,000 accounts. They noted that there were no control issues, but rather it was the complexity of managing these accounts that might be improved by this action. An additional notation regarded the University's retention of W4s of employees.

7.0 Administration, Finance and Technology Committee (Trustee Grilli)

Trustee Mike Grilli reported highlights from the October Finance Subcommittee meeting:

- Trustee Grilli noted that enrollments had met expectations and therefore there was no deficit in the budget. He noted that although enrollments were not growing, due to



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ NOVEMBER 20, 2019 7:15 P.M. ■ ALUMNI ROOM, MCCARTHY CENTER

careful fiscal planning, in comparison to other state universities, on several financial indicators Framingham State University was in a favorable position.

- Trustee Grilli noted the materials included in the packet that described capital projects. Of significance and for the trustees' review and approval is a project focused on significant renovations to the Whittemore Library.

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On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve submission of the "Whittemore Library Reuse and Renovation Project – Creation of a "MetroWest Regional Collaborative Education Center" proposal as FSU's FY2021 Major Project Capital Request. This project submittal requests state funding of \$19.5M with a FSU matching commitment of \$1.1M, to fund renovation of the Whittemore Library that would also support the MetroWest Early College Program and the FSU World of Work[®] Program.

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8.0 General Counsel, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees (Ms. McDonald)

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

- Their bi-annual self-assessment will be administered during December 2019 and January 2020 with final results being tabulated and reviewed during the Board of Trustees retreat in the spring. The assessment instrument will be delivered by email.
- Ann also distributed information regarding a recently passed Massachusetts bill, House 4099 – An Act to Support Improved Financial Stability in Higher Education, that among other important requirements will establish comprehensive training programs for trustees of public higher education institutions. Ann will keep the group apprised as this training is developed and rolled out by the DHE.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ NOVEMBER 20, 2019 7:15 P.M. ■ ALUMNI ROOM, MCCARTHY CENTER

11.0 New Business

Trustee Richard Logan expressed on behalf of the Board his gratitude to Emmanuella Gibson for her years of service to the Board of Trustees at FSU and noted that she would be missed as she moves on to her new role at the university.

12.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13.0 Adjourn Open Meeting

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

The open meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Foley
Chair

Framingham State University, Board of Trustees

Dr. F. Javier Cevallos
President
Framingham State University