In Attendance: Trustees’ Karl Bryan, Nancy Budwig, Sonia Diaz, Kevin Foley, Michael Grilli, Brian Herr, Anthony Hubbard, Dana Neshe, Richard Logan (by phone), Fernando Quezada, Robert Richards (Emeritus)

1.0 Chair’s Report

Vice-Chair Foley chaired the meeting, as Chair Logan is participating remotely. The meeting began at 6:30 pm. Vice-Chair Foley announced that because Chair Logan was participating remotely, all votes must be done by roll call. He recognized Sean Huddleston, Chief Officer of Diversity, Inclusion & Community Engagement, who will be leaving Framingham State in May. Vice-Chair Foley asked for volunteers to sit on the presidential review committee; the review is due to the Department of Higher Education on June 30, 2017.

Vice-Chair Foley asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2017 board meeting.

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On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted by roll call to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2017 Board meeting.

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2.0 President’s Report

President Cevallos reported that former state representative Tom Sannicandro had been chosen for the Citizen Laureate Award and would be recognized at Commencement. He informed the Board that the University had accomplished 98% of its fundraising goal of $12 million.

President Cevallos presented Shirley Amunya as the student-in-the-spotlight. Ms. Amunya is a senior, majoring in biology, has had a host of internships, and work experiences both on and off campus. Ms. Amunya will work for Teach for America following her graduation in May.

3.0 Student Trustee Report

Trustee Bryan reported on the following matters:
• Students attended the Statehouse Advocacy Day, where they were able to share their personal stories with lawmakers.
• Alternative Spring Break students traveled to New Orleans where they worked with the United Saints Recovery Project. A student who attended the trip shared his personal experiences with the Board.
• Student Government Association underwent a review of their budget, eliminating $80,000 from the budget, thereby freeing up additional funds for student clubs.

4.0 Academic Affairs

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs’ Linda Vaden-Goad spoke on the following matters:
• Outcomes of the 2012-17 academic strategic plan.
• A new grant-funded Education Simulation Lab in Dwight Hall.
• The History Department’s new You Tube videos designed to educate students on the basics of studying history.
• Framingham State’s fall implementation of a new developmental math co-requisite remediation model. Students with low scores on the math placement exam will no longer be placed in a non-credit developmental course; instead, they will be placed in a for-credit college math course and provided supplemental instruction (co-remediation) to deliver just-in-time assistance.
• The University’s hosting of a Smithsonian “community collecting event” called “Latinos-in-Baseball.” Baseball fans will be encouraged to bring their baseball paraphernalia to be recorded and digitized. Following the collecting event, the University will celebrate its status as a Smithsonian Affiliate by exhibiting artifacts from two of our important archives: artifacts from our collection related to our status as First Public Normal School, and artifacts from the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Archive.

5.0 Enrollment and Student Development

Vice President for Enrollment and Student Development Lorretta Holloway presented on the following matters:
• Deposits for academic year 2017-18 to-date are commensurate with last year’s numbers at this time, with the number of freshman deposits up and the number of transfer and readmitted students down.
• Attendance at the two Accepted Student Receptions in April is expected to surpass last year’s numbers.
• The University’s suicide prevention task force has been successful in having two signs placed on the Route 9 footbridge, and are asking that suicide prevention barriers be placed on the bridge as well.
• The University has aired its commercial, which can be seen during March madness games and early morning news programs.
• Campus Bird, which allows website visitors to have a three dimensional view of the campus, is now live on the website.

Dawn Ross, Director of Career Services and Employer Relations, presented a brief power point detailing the work that her office does in bringing employers to campus, arranging internships and providing career counseling to students. She noted that employers have commented on a soft skills gap with students. In response to that need, her office has run 75 workshops this year alone.

6.0 Inclusive Excellence and Community Engagement

Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Sean Huddleston reported on the following matters in his division:

• The University will host its Women Making History Now awards ceremony, to be held in late March.
• Chon’tel Washington, Director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence, presented information on the activities of the Center. Two students, Jace Williams and Monet Johnson spoke as students who both work and utilize the Center.

7.0 Chief of Staff & General Counsel

Chief of Staff & General Counsel Rita Colucci updated the Board on the progress of the strategic planning process, highlighting the following:
• The Strategic Planning Advisory Committee synthesized the work of the task forces, creating strategies for each goal.
• The campus will be invited to several open forums to discuss and provide feedback on the goals.
• A draft plan will be presented to the Board for their initial approval during its May meeting.

8.0 Governance Committee

Trustee Hubbard, Chair of the Governance subcommittee, called the Board’s attention to several matters, as follows:

• Proposed meeting dates for academic year 2017-18 are found in the packet.
• The Governance subcommittee nominates Richard Logan for Chair, and Kevin Foley for Vice-Chair for academic year 2017-18; vote to be taken at the May Board meeting.
• The Governance subcommittee recommends that the Board meet in June to discuss its effectiveness. The committee is currently assessing surveys that might be helpful in assessing its effectiveness.

9.0 Administration, Finance and Technology

Executive Vice President Dale Hamel presented the anticipated fiscal year 2018 budget. He noted that the University is in a strong financial position overall. Turning to the Budget Development Discussion packet in the materials, he made the following points:

• The annual budget was developed in the context of a five year balanced budget plan.
• The budget accounts for the impact of projected short time enrollment decreases with stabilization by FY2020.
• Tenure track faculty and staff levels in in selective areas would be identified.
• Impact on student costs would be minimized by remaining no higher than the segment average in terms of costs and continuing to provide financial aid support to the neediest students.
• Reserves would be maintained and debt managed consistent with Financing Policy financial ratio targets.
• Major capital projects include: Arts Center, Maple Athletic Fields, Crocker Hall, Library and Danforth.
• Strategic priorities’ initiative will be funded.
• Collective bargaining costs are anticipated to be 2.5% next year, with a 1% anticipated increase in state appropriations, for an overall increase of 3.5% in state aid.
• Student fee increases are recommended to be 4.8%, equaling a $1000 aggregate increase. The cost of attending Framingham would be the second lowest in the state university system.
• Increases in financial aid would be greater than the increase in costs.
• The timeline for the state budget process indicates that the University should know the amount of the FY18 appropriation in June.

Board members expressed the following thoughts regarding the budget presentation:
• While the revenue budget model was sound, more information on expenses is requested.
• While there is an attempt to keep costs low, any debt incurred by students is difficult.
• There does not appear to be areas where cuts can be made without impacting students; question is how to attract more students.
• University continues to need to sell itself and retain its enrolled students.
• Is there an ability to attract out-of-state students?
• Are there programs that can be cut?

Executive Vice President Dale Hamel asked for a motion to approve the personnel actions list:

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On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted by roll call vote to accept the personnel actions list.

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10.0 New Business

There was no new business.

11.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.
12.0 Adjourn Public Meeting

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On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn the open meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Richard C. Logan
Chair
Framingham State University, Board of Trustees

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Dr. F. Javier Cevallos
President
Framingham State University