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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD RETREAT ■ MAY 28, 2025, 6:15 PM ■ WARREN CONFERENCE CENTER

### MINUTES

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**Trustees in attendance:** Cherie Comeau, Lino Covarrubias, Mariel Freve, Dennis Giombetti, Anthony Hubbard, Bonnie Mitchell, Susan Puryear, Claire Ramsbottom, Antonia Soares Thompson

**University members in attendance:** Ann McDonald, President Niemi

The meeting began at 6:10 p.m.

Chair Anthony Hubbard welcomed trustees to the Board Retreat and introduced the following items for discussion.

#### I. Trustee Giving

- Chair Hubbard emphasized the importance that 100% of the trustees participate in the financial support of the University.
- Conversation ensued and the following suggestions were discussed:
  - The VP for Development and Alumni Relations contact and meet with each of the trustees to discuss donor options for gift giving as well as ways in which trustees may be able to assist in networking opportunities for Development.
  - Additional information regarding the development campaigns and funding options, ie restricted vs unrestricted funding opportunities.

#### II. Self-Assessment Results

- Ann McDonald led a review highlighting the Board of Trustees self-assessment results, pages 14 – 20. Discussions included the following topics:
  - Additional training on internal policy development workflows and better distinction between policies requiring approval by the Board versus operation policies.
  - Policy reports for trustees on a scheduled basis
  - BHE strategic initiatives; Trustee representative; Chair Anthony Hubbard shared information from his attendance of a BHE meeting on how the BHE segmental representatives were chosen and BHE initiatives were developed.
  - Professional development will be incorporated in the Presidential Review; this year's presidential self-evaluation should include identifiable goals and proposed professional development opportunities for the upcoming year for the board to review.

### III. External Assessment

- Counsel McDonald provided background to the external assessment process as conducted in 2022. She informed trustees that the board's next external assessment will be scheduled for 2026.
  - Chair Hubbard suggested that an external assessment be conducted by a consultant with knowledge of the organization, for further discussion by the Governance Committee to address.

### IV. BOT Committee Leadership and Meeting Format

- a. New Chairs and Vice Chairs
  - Chair Hubbard thanked trustees that have agreed to serve as chairs and vice chairs of the committees.
  - General training for committee chairs and vice chairs will create some standardization in set up.
- b. General and best practices for increased Board effectiveness
  - Discussion was held to determine committee structure and how the trustees can best serve the needs of the university; the frequency of committee meetings during the academic year.
    - A broader conversation regarding the information presented by committees was held, leading Trustees to recommend that the President further discuss the needs of the committees with the ExecStaff, and receive input regarding the frequency of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management and Student Experience Committee meetings.
- c. Remote meetings
  - Counsel Ann McDonald informed trustees that Governor Healey signed into law Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency which, among other things, further extends temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to June 30, 2027.
    - BOT meetings to continue to be held in both fully remote and hybrid formats. Additionally, the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location remains suspended.
- d. Recording meetings
  - Counsel McDonald informed trustees that in the upcoming academic year, Board of Trustee meetings will be recorded.

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.