



Framingham State University

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING ■ JANUARY 26, 2022 7:15 P.M. ■ REMOTE & ALUMNI ROOM, MCCARTHY CENTER

MINUTES

In Attendance: Hope Lozano Bielat*, Nancy Budwig*, Beth Casavant, Diane Finch, Kevin Foley, Mike Grilli, Brian Herr*, Anthony Hubbard, Hillary Nna*, Claire Ramsbottom*; Robert Richards*

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

Chair Kevin Foley began the meeting by welcoming Diane Finch, the newly appointed Alumni Trustee. Trustee Finch introduced herself, expressing that she feels privileged to represent the FSU alumni. She has extensive experience as an educator, and added that she looks forward to contributing in her new role.

Roll call of attendance: Hope Lozano Bielat – yes; Nancy Budwig – yes; Beth Casavant – yes; Diane Finch – yes; Kevin Foley – yes; Mike Grilli – yes; Brian Herr – yes; Anthony Hubbard – yes; Hillary Nna – yes; Claire Ramsbottom – yes; Robert Richards – yes

1.0 Chair's Report

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

- Minutes (November 17 and December 15, 2021)
- Personnel Actions Report

Motion was moved by Mike Grilli; Anthony Hubbard seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Hope Lozano Bielat – yes; Nancy Budwig – yes; Beth Casavant – yes; Diane Finch – yes; Kevin Foley – yes; Mike Grilli – yes; Brian Herr – yes; Anthony Hubbard – yes; Hillary Nna – yes; Claire Ramsbottom – yes

- Motion approved

Chair Foley continued his report with the following updates:

- Status of open trustee position; one position remains open.
- Status of the Presidential appointment:
 - The Board of Higher Education will meet on February 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.
 - Once available, the Zoom link for the remote meeting will be forwarded to the Trustees.

* Notates remote attendance.

2.0 President's Report

President Cevallos provided the following updates:

- The Governor has released a preliminary budget.
- Provost/VP of Academic Affairs and VP of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement searches are advancing.
 - The search committee chairs have been appointed.
- COVID Updates:
 - Classes for the spring 2022 began remotely for the first two weeks. Classes will resume in person beginning the week of January 31.
 - COVID positivity rates are moving in the right direction. At the highest levels, the positivity rate was at 6%, compared to the state and community rate, which was at 11%.
- In honor of the late Trustee Richard Logan, the FSU Gymnasium will be renamed the “Richard “Dick” Logan ‘70 Gymnasium”.
 - The family of Richard Logan and the FSU community will be invited for a naming ceremony to take place in April.

Dr. Lorretta Holloway provided the following Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement (DICE) Report:

- DICE will sponsor eight Employee Affinity Groups for the spring ‘22 – Board of Trustees materials, page 29
- The Director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence (CIE) led two workshops as part of this year’s Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, Scholarship, and Service (CELTSS) professional development day in January.
- CIE has solicited student artwork for its Art Purchase Award, using grant funding from the Sudbury Foundation’s Racial Equity Mini-Grant.
 - Artwork is due early February. Artists will be notified of selection in March, with a celebratory event taking place on March 31, 2022.

Eric Gustafson reported the following on Development and Alumni Relations:

- Fundraising efforts have raised \$1.27M as of this month for the FY ‘22.
 - Notable gifts include:
 - A five-year, \$250K commitment to fund scholarships for incoming students in education.
 - \$25K gift to establish a new endowed scholarship fund for education students doing their student teaching.
- Continued offering a mix of in-person and virtual events and engagement opportunities for alumni and friends, with in-person numbers continuing to be lower due to COVID-19.
- Development and Alumni Relations will be hosting a number of regional events this spring, highlighted by the annual series of events in Florida (March 12-15).
- The Danforth Art Museum’s current special exhibits will be up until the beginning of March.
 - “Drop into Art” programs for children and families are held on the second Sunday of each month.
 - The Art School had a successful fall program cycle and winter registrations have thus far been positive.

- Students are now required to be vaccinated to attend in-person classes.
- A new scholarship fund has been secured for students (both youth and adults) with financial need to allow them to take classes at the Art School.
- Registration is currently open for the School's Summer Arts program for youth and teens.

President Cevallos invited Dr. Robert Awkward to introduce the Student-in-the- Spotlight, Erika Maurer.

Dr. Awkward first expressed his gratitude for all that President Cevallos has done, as he will be retiring at the end of the academic year. He praised the President for his impact on the institution, and his leadership, which has been instrumental in putting Framingham State on the map among the public institutions across the state.

Dr. Awkward continued with an introduction of Erika Maurer. As a student in his class, the *Foundations of Human Resources Management*, Dr. Awkward noted that Erika made an immediately impression. She was very inquisitive and engaged. In his time getting to know her, he has learned that Erika is a very humble person, but he sees her as a very special individual.

Erika Maurer began by thanking Dr. Awkward for the nomination for the Student-in-the-Spotlight, and for the opportunity to address the Board of Trustees. She continued by explaining that she did not take a traditional path to college. Immediately out of high school, she began working out of necessity. Twelve years later, while a single parent, she became the first female in her family to graduate from college. Her undergraduate degree took her from a job in retail to a career in early education, where for 15 years, she worked as a developmental specialist for early intervention.

Erika continued to grow in her career, as she worked for the Department of Developmental Services. Looking to advance herself within the department she sought to further her education at Framingham State University. As a full-time employee and a busy mother, earning her graduate degree has not been without challenges. However, Erika found that FSU was able to meet her where she was at, on her non-traditional educational path.

Erika highlighted an independent study with Dr. Michele Gibbon-Carr, in which she worked for a semester to develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategic plan for Massachusetts organizations offering direct care for individuals with disabilities. The project was designed to remove systemic barriers, allowing for a pathway to leadership opportunities for direct care workers. She added that the independent study provided her with an invaluable experience and her understanding of DEI grew exponentially.

Erika explained that the education and experiences she is gaining at FSU are providing her with information which can be applied in her daily work, but moreover, it is providing her with a skillset to grow professionally. When she began the Masters of Human Resources program, she held the position of service coordinator; she has since been promoted twice. Erika now serves as a regional program coordinator of a highly visible acquired brain injury department.

Erika described the FSU graduate program as one that is full of hardworking professionals from various industries, with very diverse backgrounds, and yet, at FSU they share one goal – to learn

and grow as a class. In conclusion, Erika stated that she believes that if you have the desire to learn and advance that FSU provides the opportunities to do so.

3.0 Student Trustee Report

Trustee Hillary Nna presented the following updates:

- Student leaders were active in the Presidential and Chief of Police searches.
- Day of Kindness was held in November.
- The SGA hosted a Student Concern Table in December:
 - Met with students to address any concerns they brought forward.
- Safety Walk: scheduling is underway for the Spring Walk.

4.0 Academic Affairs Committee

Trustee Nancy Budwig provided the following report from the Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

There were three areas of focus that were addressed in the committee meeting:

- Academic Centers
 - Goals for the centers focus on student engagement and retention, faculty research, and community outreach.
 - MERC report presented by Professors Luis Rosero, Fahline Sjuib and Lori Lavigne – Academic Affairs Committee materials, pages 20 – 33
 - Highlighted the goals of this academic center.
 - Examples of work by faculty and students were provided.
 - 11 student interns for the spring 2022.
- Ruffalo Noel Levitz (RNL) Enrollment Analysis
 - 6 initiatives – Academic Affairs Committee materials, page 20
- Antiracist Initiative
 - Bibbs Fellow Positions and Mentoring for Bibbs Fellows – Academic Affairs Committee materials, page 21

Trustee Budwig invited Dr. Ellen Zimmerman to add to the update.

- Dr. Zimmerman highlighted the Center for Civic Engagement, an interdisciplinary center which serves students from all of the various colleges and majors. The center also promotes cross-disciplinary collaborative opportunities for faculty.
 - This center adds internships and engagement opportunities which are a critical component to student retention.

5.0 Enrollment and Student Development Committee

Chair Foley introduced the initiatives discussed by the Enrollment and Student Development Committee and asked Dr. Lorretta Holloway to provide a report.

Dr. Holloway reported on the following:

- Phase II of the Perception Study
 - Web development – Enrollment and Student Development Committee materials, page 82

- Mitigation work on current web content will be required for the new website to be implemented.
 - Web pages to be focused on recruitment, accreditation, and community engagement.
- Equal Opportunity Analysis (EOA) and Campus ESP Expansion – Enrollment and Student Development Committee materials, page 44
 - Strategy for better communications with students and their families.
 - Strategy for better communications with prospective students and their families.
 - Allocation of funds spreadsheet – Enrollment and Student Development Committee materials, page 81
- Ruffalo Noel-Levitz (RNL Report)
 - Enrollment opportunity analysis reviewed – Enrollment and Student Development Committee materials, page 13
 - Interviewed various groups; students, faculty, and staff.
 - Provided close observations and recommendations in key enrollment areas.

Trustee Mike Grilli asked if potential web design firms will be invited for a presentation to assist in determining the selection.

- Dr. Holloway responded that they would be inviting the companies to prepare presentations for all appropriate University stakeholders.

Chair Foley added that he would like for Dr. Holloway to include a color coded (red/yellow/green) “report card” on the progression of the initiatives to be included in the Board of Trustees materials for the March meeting.

6.0 Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee

Trustee Anthony Hubbard provided the following Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee Report:

- Information and Technology Update
 - Roy Galang provided a report on information security.
 - Successful fall phishing awareness training for faculty, staff, and students.
 - Only one individual opened the phishing email.
 - Identity and Access Management (IAM)
 - Review of current and future state of the University access management is underway.
 - Massachusetts Executive Office of Education is conducting an assessment of all state community colleges and universities to determine the status of the protection of systems and how best to maintain security with the systems.
 - Log4j vulnerability: FSU was able to address and manage this potential vulnerability within a week of receiving initial notice.
 - General updates on COVID Compliance and Policy and Procedures
 - FSU decided to delay in-person classes until January 31. Classes started on time in full-remote mode.

- COVID positivity rate: low for the state, but high for the University during the first week of classes.
- Requirements for boosters and residence halls and classrooms were reviewed.
- Associate Director of Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Assessment
 - The position has been posted; Currently the position is vacant but a search is underway.

7.0 Administration, Finance, and Information Technology Committee

Trustee Grilli provided the following update:

- The Finance Committee met on January 16 to review the use of the pandemic funding allocations.
- Budget projections and capital projects were reviewed.

Trustee Grilli asked Dr. Dale Hamel to present an update from the Finance Committee meeting.

Dr. Hamel presented the following:

The Finance Committee meeting materials were referenced for trustees on their FSU iPads; for the University community, materials have been uploaded to the FSU portal under FSU-Works, A&F channel.

- The Governor's budget was released this afternoon.
 - Assumptions relating to collective bargaining agreement costs are included in the budget and include FY'21 retroactive payments; FY'22 increases; FY'23 incremental costs.
 - Supplemental budget for funding will be submitted at a later date.
 - New Bond Bill: Authorizations of DCAMM spending for critical repairs.
 - Provides authorization for major project funding.
 - Small repairs program will be discontinued.
 - Recommended an increase in formula funding line of 1%
 - BHE allocated FY'22 formula funding line
 - FSU increase of 2.8% base budget for performance funding allocation process:
 - 1) Percent of underrepresented students compared to the prior year.
 - 2) Discount rate/affordability rate: Institutional funding per student credit hours generated is the highest among sister institutions.
 - Increase in Massachusetts grant funding
 - An additional \$8M allocated for state universities
 - Restricted for students with the highest needs.

Dr. Hamel summarized information regarding the following motion.

A motion to approve the submittal of the *Christa McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science* Renovation Project and associated FSU funding commitment to the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAMM) Major Capital Request (MPCR) Program.

The motion was moved by Mike Grilli; Diane Finch, seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued, including the outcome if state funding does not come through, if the funding would impact the university operations budget, and what the cost would be for the planetarium project should the state not provide the required funding.

- Dr. Hamel clarified that it would not impact the operations budget.
- If state funding is not approved, the full project would not be completed. A portion of the planetarium project would be completed.
- The cost of the planetarium fit out and construction would be \$560K.

Roll call vote: Hope Lozano Bielat – yes; Nancy Budwig – yes; Beth Casavant – yes; Diane Finch – yes; Kevin Foley – yes; Mike Grilli – yes; Brian Herr – yes; Anthony Hubbard – yes; Hillary Nna – yes; Claire Ramsbottom – yes

- Motion approved

A second motion was introduced for the Board of Trustees to approve of refunding/restructuring of the 2012C Bonds Series by the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA).

The motion was moved by Mike Grilli; Beth Casavant seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Hope Lozano Bielat – yes; Nancy Budwig – yes; Beth Casavant – yes; Diane Finch – yes; Kevin Foley – yes; Mike Grilli – yes; Brian Herr – yes; Anthony Hubbard – yes; Hillary Nna – yes; Claire Ramsbottom – yes

- Motion approved

A third motion was made for the Framingham State University Board of Trustees Finance Committee (the “Finance Committee”) to hereby recommend to the Board of Trustees that the FSU Budget Committee develop a FY2023 budget with day undergraduate fees and room charge rates to be level with the FY 2021 budget.

The motion was moved by Mike Grilli; Diane Finch, seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Hope Lozano Bielat – yes; Nancy Budwig – yes; Beth Casavant – yes; Diane Finch – yes; Kevin Foley – yes; Mike Grilli – yes; Brian Herr – yes; Anthony Hubbard – yes; Hillary Nna – yes; Claire Ramsbottom – yes

- Motion approved

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

Counsel Ann McDonald updated the Board of Trustees on Community Sponsorships:

- Summary of the University’s Charitable Activities Policy in compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Constitution’s Anti-Aid Amendment and the Department of Higher Education’s Standard for Expenditures of Trust Fund.
- A detailed list of approved community sponsorships was reviewed – Board of Trustees materials, page 59

9.0 New Business

Trustee Brian Herr informed Chair Foley of his resignation. He added that it has been an honor and privilege to serve over the years, but as a result of his professional obligations, felt it would be best to allow the opportunity for another individual to step forward.

Trustee Herr stated that he enjoyed working with the professional staff; Dr. Holloway has been fabulous to work with, but that unfortunately he must step down from his role.

President Cevallos thanked Trustee Herr for his dedication and thanked him for everything he has done for the University.

Chair Foley thanked Trustee Herr, as he has been a great addition and contributor to the Board of Trustees. Chair Foley stated that that it's been enjoyable working with Trustee Herr and that he will be missed.

10.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11.0 Adjourn Open Meeting

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mike Grilli; Beth Casavant seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Hope Lozano Bielat – yes; Nancy Budwig – yes; Beth Casavant – yes; Diane Finch – yes; Kevin Foley – yes; Mike Grilli – yes; Brian Herr – yes; Anthony Hubbard – yes; Hillary Nna – yes; Claire Ramsbottom – yes

- Motion approved

The meeting ended at 8:46 p.m.

Pages referenced from the Board of Trustees, Academic Affairs Committee, and Enrollment and Student Development materials are available upon request from the Office of the Chief of Staff, General Counsel, and Secretary to the Board of Trustees.