



Fitchburg State University

Board of Trustees

Published on April 24, 2018 at 3:24 PM EDT

Date and Time

Tuesday May 1, 2018 at 4:00 PM EDT

Location

Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center, 291 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420

Notice of a meeting of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees
Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center, 291
Highland Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Duration
I. Opening Items			
A. Record Attendance and Guests			
B. Call the Meeting to Order			
C. Public Comments			
D. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees April 3, 2018 - VOTE (24-17/18)	Approve Minutes		
Approve minutes for Board of Trustees on April 3, 2018			
II. Finance and Administration Committee			
A. FY2019 Budget Narrative	Discuss		
B. Annual Operating Budgets FY17-FY19	Discuss		
C. Technology Fee Increase - VOTE (25-17/18)	Vote		
D. Student Parking Permit Fee Increase - VOTE (26-17/18)	Vote		
E. Transcript Fee - VOTE (27-17/18)	Vote		
F. Extended Campus Programs Fee - VOTE (28-17-18)	Vote		
G. FY2019 Budget - VOTE (29-17/18)	Vote		

H. Roll Forward of Funds to FY2019 Budget - VOTE (30-17/18) Vote

III. Slate of Officers

A. Slate of Officers - VOTE (31-17/18) Vote

IV. Notifications

A. Personnel Actions (N08-17/18) FYI

V. Chair's Report

A. Dashboard FYI

VI. President's Report

- A. Collective Bargaining Update** FYI
- B. Admissions Update** FYI
- C. Search Updates** FYI
- D. Trustee Retreat** Discuss
- E. Campus Climate Survey** FYI
- F. Undergraduate Research Conference/ Convocation** FYI
- G. Commencement** FYI
- H. Nursing Pinning** FYI
- I. End-of-the-year Activities** FYI
- J. Military Friendly School Designation** FYI
- K. News Articles** FYI

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting Vote

Cover Sheet

Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees April 3, 2018 - VOTE (24-17/18)

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: D. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees April 3, 2018 -
VOTE (24-17/18)
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for Board of Trustees on April 3, 2018

DRAFT



Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Board of Trustees

Date and Time

Tuesday April 3, 2018 at 8:00 AM

Location

Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center, 291 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420

Notice of a Meeting of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees
Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. in Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center, 291
Highland Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420

Trustees Present

A. Clementi, A. Cochran, C. Stimpson, C. Stover, D. Irving (remote), D. Phillips, F. O'Donnell

Trustees Absent

D. Nieto, D. Tiernan, G. Rodriguez-Parker, L. Barrieau

Ex-Officio Members Present

R. Lapidus

Non Voting Members Present

R. Lapidus

Guests Present

A. Cardelle, A. Krishnamurthy, A. Ramos, C. Canney, C. Hendry, G. Doiron, J. Bry, J. Murdoch, L. Bayless, M. Siderwicz, R. Diakite, S. Swartz, Y. Malcolm

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Clementi called a meeting of the board of trustees of Fitchburg State University to order on Tuesday Apr 3, 2018 @ 8:01 AM at Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center, 291 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420.

C. Public Comments

There were none.

D. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees January 23, 2018 meeting - VOTE (12-17/18)

D. Phillips made a motion to approve minutes from the Board of Trustees and Fitchburg State Foundation joint meeting on 01-23-18.

C. Stimpson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Clementi	Aye
F. O'Donnell	Aye
A. Cochran	Aye
D. Tiernan	Absent
D. Nieto	Absent
C. Stover	Aye
G. Rodriguez-Parker	Absent
D. Irving	Aye
L. Barrieau	Absent
C. Stimpson	Aye
D. Phillips	Aye

II. Tenure

A. Tenure- VOTE (13-17/18)

President Lapidus stated that 15 faculty applied for tenure consideration. There is always a process of checks and balances that starts with the department, dean and provost with the final recommendations submitted to the president. The materials are reviewed by numerous people, including faculty which helps to ensure that the process is fair and equitable. This group of faculty is great; there were no disagreements with anyone being considered.

D. Phillips made a motion to approve.

C. Stimpson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Nieto	Absent
C. Stover	Aye
A. Clementi	Aye
D. Irving	Aye
F. O'Donnell	Aye
A. Cochran	Aye
D. Tiernan	Absent
G. Rodriguez-Parker	Absent
C. Stimpson	Aye
L. Barrieau	Absent
D. Phillips	Aye

III. Notifications

A. Personnel Actions (N05-17/18)

The personnel actions were submitted for informational purposes. There were two sets of personnel actions presented, faculty promotions and the customary job actions since the last meeting. The President stated that tenure and promotion are two separate entities. Faculty are hired as assistant professors. Of the faculty that applied for promotion, three faculty were unsuccessful and will reapply. The president explained the process. There was a discussion.

B. Promotions - (N06-17/18)

C. Financial Reports (N07-17/18)

The Financial Reports were submitted for informational purposes.

IV. Student Affairs Report - Dr. Laura Bayless

A. Presentation by Laura Bayless

President Lapidus introduced Dr. Laura Bayless. He noted that the position of Vice President for Student Affairs was newly created. He considered this a vital position for student success.

Dr. Bayless presented a Power Point. (Attached)

Dr. Bayless stated that she is delighted to talk about what happens outside the classroom. The Student Affairs Division works collaboratively with Academic Affairs. She explained the various individual areas that contribute under Student Affairs. She stated that, it's about **ONE** student and it's about **ALL** students. Student Affairs strives to reduce unintentional barriers for students achieving their dreams. Their office contributes financially through auxiliary federal grants that helps with the retention of students. She presented examples of the many ways that Student Affairs helps students.

There was a discussion on high school readiness, alcohol and drug issues, challenges relating to food insecurities and homelessness. The university has organizations and resources to help with these critical issues. The trustees thanked Dr. Bayless for her presentation and commended Student Affairs for their work.

V. Chair's Report

A. Presidential Evaluations - Letter from Commissioner Santiago

Ms. Clementi presented the letter from Commissioner Santiago regarding the President's evaluation. Mr. Irving stated the letter was self-explanatory and that President Lapidus is doing a great job. There is only a small amount of money for an increase at this time. He stated that the BOT will wait and see if additional funds are authorized by the Board of Higher Education.

VI. President's Report

A. Collective Bargaining

President Lapidus presented his report. Collective bargaining is still on going. There are three bargaining units, and the process has been protracted then in prior cycles. He did mention that this was his first go-around with this process and has no basis to go by other than history. The APA has drafted a new contract

to be ratified. The faculty union is very close and the bargaining teams have made great strides and will be meeting in the near future at which time it is hoped the remaining issues will be resolved. The AFSCME union, which includes trades workers, administrative assistants and support staff, are working out their last issues and are meeting today. The university is hopeful that collective bargaining for all contracts will be completed very soon.

B. Theater Block

The Theatre Block has been in the recent local news. The video game lab and the "ideaLab," which is located on the second floor of the commercial building, was delayed slightly due to a contractor problem. The university had to rebid the project. The first phase of this project is scheduled to be completed by late spring or early summer with students able to use the facility shortly after. The university received good press on the recent visit with Secretary Jay Ash and a separate visit with Lt. Governor Polito. The university has a consultant in place and is helping us with a number of items surrounding the theater portion of the project. The consultants have a wealth of expertise in putting together such theaters. Creative funding strategies are currently being discussed and the university is looking at a five-year window for completion. The university is looking at what the Hanover Theater has done in Worcester. There is tremendous excitement on this project. The City of Fitchburg is moving towards renovating City Hall and B.F. Brown. The university is demonstrating an economic impact on Main Street. There is a long way to go and it's exciting to think about the possibilities moving forward. There was a discussion.

C. DHE Trustee Conference March 1, 2018

Mr. O'Donnell stated that he attended the Trustee Conference and that he found it to be valuable. He mentioned that the first two hours were devoted to orientation for new trustees. The president explained that the conference is held every year and is sponsored by the Board of Higher Education. Its purpose is to give trustees a sense of the challenges and opportunities that exist in education. At the conference, there were some presentations on demystifying the state budget, enrollment trends and issues around free speech.

D. Future Falcon Day

The President discussed Future Falcon day to be held on Saturday, April 7. This event is the last of the major recruiting efforts before fall. The university's enrollment looks to be holding steady from last year despite the states enrollment challenges. Expected attendance at this event is a bit down from last year. The day is valuable, not just for the prospective students, but also for siblings to get excited about the future.

E. Commencement

The president invited all board members to attend the graduate and undergraduate ceremonies.

F. 2018-2019 Academic Calendar

The 2018-2019 Academic Calendar was presented for informational and planning purposes.

G. News Articles

There was a discussion on the Theater Block and Future Falcon Day.

Alex Ramos, the new student trustee for the next year was introduced. He was elected by the student body.

Ms. Clementi reiterated the invitation to all Trustees to attend the commencement ceremonies, which to her is a heartwarming event. She expressed the joy in seeing the parents involvement and the intergenerational families that attend is a great experience to witness as a Trustee.

VII. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

D. Phillips made a motion to Approve.
 C. Stimpson seconded the motion.
 The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

- C. Stover Aye
- D. Tiernan Absent
- A. Clementi Aye
- F. O'Donnell Aye
- D. Nieto Absent
- G. Rodriguez-Parker Absent
- D. Irving Aye
- D. Phillips Aye
- A. Cochran Aye
- L. Barrieau Absent
- C. Stimpson Aye

The Board of Trustees voted to enter into executive session to discuss honorary degrees, and not return to public session.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

D. Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 C. Stimpson seconded the motion.
 The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

- C. Stimpson Aye
- C. Stover Aye
- D. Irving Aye
- D. Nieto Absent
- G. Rodriguez-Parker Absent
- A. Cochran Aye
- A. Clementi Aye
- L. Barrieau Absent
- D. Tiernan Absent
- F. O'Donnell Aye
- D. Phillips Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
 D. Phillips

Cover Sheet

FY2019 Budget Narrative

Section: II. Finance and Administration Committee
Item: A. FY2019 Budget Narrative
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: Budget Narrative FY2019.pdf

April 24, 2018

Board of Trustees
Fitchburg State University
Fitchburg, MA 01420

SUBJECT: FY2019 BUDGET NARRATIVE

While the performance of the economy has been improving, though somewhat volatile, these conditions are having limited impact on the University budget. No comparable increase in the state appropriation is anticipated this year. However, with the steps taken in past years to put the University on a more stable footing, Fitchburg State has been able to sustain its performance in holding down the structural deficit. This University continues to support high quality academic programs, student success initiatives focused on retention, and strengthened partnerships with the local community and region. Key past initiatives undertaken that are having a direct impact on the University budget include the ongoing realized savings from the ERIP, user-based fees, and continued right-sizing of centralized operations.

Of great significance are the newly implemented on-line degree programs through the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education. These degree programs, MBA, M.Ed. and RN to B.S. in Nursing are offered at an accelerated pace of seven-week terms, with six terms per year. The program content and instruction remain the exclusive product of the University; however, marketing, recruitment, student success, and retention efforts are being supported by our business partner, Academic Partnerships. As a cost-effective and convenient option for working adults, enrollment has demonstrated initial performance successes, and is expected to increase, resulting in the single largest new revenue stream for the University.

The financial challenges confronting the University will continue into the next decade. Updated forecasts in projected high school graduates within our region and throughout the northeast remain somewhat level for the next several years, with a larger decline expected to occur starting in 2026. The University has begun incorporating this long-term enrollment data into the budget planning process, so that it is better leveraged for future impacts.

As the University remains attuned to the overall fiscal climate at the state and national level, all departments were asked to prepare level-funds budgets for FY2019. What follows is an overview of our economic plans for Fiscal 2019.

Budget in Brief
FY2019 Operating Budget

Highlights

Given the encouraging results from efforts to control costs, maintain enrollments, and the success with the new accelerated on-line program, once again the University is proposing only minimal changes to fees. This proposal seeks increases to the Technology Fee (mandatory), with smaller changes to two user fees: parking permit costs and Center for Professional Studies course fees. The University proposes to maintain level-funded operating budgets for departments while at the same time continuing the deployment of funds for strategic initiatives.

Notable for the FY2019 year, but with no real impact to the budget, is the incorporation of the Food Service Auxilliary. Previously classified as an Agency rather than an Auxilliary, this change requires the financial activity to now be recognized within the budget.

FY2019 Operating Budget Scenario

This scenario depicts our state funding forecast with the state appropriation of \$29,400,756, estimated collective bargaining funding of \$605,539, and total revenue of \$108,404,654 (column E, line 19). Under this scenario, the projected deficit is \$1,594,822. Our overall goal is to strike a balance between fee increases and maintaining adequate cash reserves while also remaining conscious of the cost of education for our students and families, and the competitive higher education market. We are able to balance the budget under these assumptions with unrestricted assets and still maintain adequate reserves.

**Summary of Revenue Sources
 (Budget Scenario, Column E, Line 19)**

As noted, total revenue from all sources is projected to be \$108,404,654, with state appropriations and student fees representing the largest segments.

Increases in revenue derive from the collective bargaining funds for what will be the (retroactive) year one of the new

State Appropriation	30,006,295
Financial Aid	7,300,000
Grants	1,150,000
Auxillary	15,867,514
Tuition and Fees	49,480,471
Investment Income	437,285
Sales and Service	2,302,267
Foundation	266,000
Unrestricted Assets	<u>1,594,822</u>
Total	<u>108,404,654</u>

contracts. The other primary increase to revenues is the accelerated on-line degree programs, which will increase total revenue by \$3,681,758.

**Summary of Operating Expenses
(Budget Scenario, Column E, Line 38)**

Total operating expenses are projected to be \$108,404,654. The bulk of these expenses consist of faculty and staff salaries and benefits (now approximately 47 percent of the budget), student aid and scholarships, physical plant expenditures, technology costs, and departmental operating budgets.

Salaries and Benefits	50,767,019
Financial Aid	7,300,000
Grants	1,150,000
Auxiliary Services	16,194,729
Utilities/Space	3,588,044
Scholarships/Insurance	2,906,059
Information Technology	4,553,362
Capital	4,725,000
Operation & Maintenance	11,820,025
Debt Service	<u>5,400,416</u>
Total	<u>108,404,654</u>

Summary of Operating Funds

The University budget is composed of two primary sources: state appropriations and funds held in trust. The various trust funds come from fees, grants, auxiliary activities and other sources. State appropriations are estimated at \$30M, Trust funds from tuition and fees \$53.4M, Auxilliary \$16.2M and Financial Aid, Grants, etc. at \$8.8M.

C81	State Maintenance	30,006,295
T65/T65P	University Fee	35,809,889
T10/T19	Continuing Education CPS	8,583,790
T11	Student Activity	400,000
T16	Technology Fee	1,308,560
T22	Dorm Authority	11,794,729
T25	Food Service	4,400,000
T24	General Purpose	133,125
T26	Student Financial Aid	31,200
T36	Summer Conference	129,650
T37	Bookstore Trust Fund	150,000
T38	Parking Scholarship	25,000
T99	Out of State Tuition	1,400,000
N91/N93	Retirement of Debt	5,400,416
F13	Federal Work Study	260,060
Transfer	Fin Aid, Grants, Clubs, etc.	<u>8,571,940</u>
		<u>108,404,654</u>

Staffing

The leadership team of the University continues to evaluate and capitalize on staffing vacancies to redeploy resources that strategically serve current and future needs. In addition, the early retirement program offered in FY2017 is performing as expected. Positions were refilled at a lower cost, which helps to hold down personnel costs even as new positions are added. However, it is important to note that our state appropriation of \$30.0 million still falls well short of the \$39.9 million needed to fully fund our payroll. This shortfall is further compounded because every payroll dollar not covered by the state appropriation adds an additional 35.41 percent to cover employee fringe benefits – or another \$3.5 million.

The three collective bargaining units – MSCA, APA, and AFSCME – are still currently in negotiation for new agreements. While it appears that some of these contracts may be finalized in the near future, in all cases FY2019 will be year two of these contracts. Funding for the retro and to increase the state appropriation base is not currently incorporated into the FY2019 proposed state appropriation. However, the University has developed the budget based on two percent salary increases, including the anticipated state appropriation, as that has been the practice with past contracts. Historically, subsequent contract years have not been funded by the state, thus shifting a larger portion of the payroll (and fringe costs) to the University to fund locally. Until these agreements and the appropriation to fund them are finalized, the compounded cost of these agreements remains unknown.

Accelerated Online Program Implementation

After a number of years of research and planning, the University took a significant step forward to increase enrollments and revenues by launching a partnership to support on-line degree program delivery. This strategy, identified in the strategic plan, targets the working adult community with cost-effective, convenient programs designed to allow for rapid completion of degree programs that support career advancement. The participation has been especially robust with the MBA program, which now boasts an enrollment of 659 students, with new cohorts beginning every seven weeks.

Student Success Initiatives

The University has continued its efforts toward increased retention of students, critical to both student outcomes as well as the financial health of the University. A major highlight of this effort

is the participation in the Student Success Collaborative (SSC), harnessing the data we have regarding student performance to target initiatives and efforts that will increase the probability of retention and graduation rates of our students. In FY2018 the student facing portal was launched, which includes communications and appointment tools. Faculty and advisors have widely adopted the tool for outreach to the students and student response has been positive, with more than 6000 advising appointments scheduled through the portal just this year. Additionally, progress reporting for Athletics was relaunched in spring 2018 using the SSC, which saw a 20 percent participation increase in reporting by faculty. Expanded use for FY2019 anticipates including groups such as freshmen and at-risk students.

Facility and Technology Improvement Program

The University has continued to deploy funds toward capital renewal. Significant investments, alone or in partnership with DCAMM and the MSCBA, continue to improve the learning, living, and working environment of the campus. Key among these undertakings are the ongoing work to completely renovate Percival Hall, which will see the second phase of construction in summer 2018. The result will be the transformation of the auditorium into business case rooms and classrooms. With the completion of the Edgerly project, where use of matching funds from DCAMM was provided, the last academic building without an elevator will be equipped. Also, in partnership with the MSCBA, the University completed the Landry renovation. The opening of the facility for Athletics and Exercise and Sport Science will provide a teaching, training and practice space. This project was completed with no increase to the capital fee.

Construction on phase one of the Theater Building is underway and will be completed in summer 2018, with the second floor being repurposed for use by the Game Design program for its Senior Intern Experience. An ideaLab, which in partnership with other organizations, will be able to leverage external support to equip the space.

The IT department undertook to develop a long-term planning cycle for renewal of systems and equipment that serve the student community. The ever-increasing demand for these services and capabilities, in addition to the rapidly improving and changing technology, requires a substantial and continued investment. To support this plan, the proposal to increase the Technology Fee by \$200 annually has been incorporated into the FY2019 budget.

Summary

This budget plan represents ongoing efforts to wisely invest in the future success of the University; at the same time, it demonstrates continued diligence in both cost containment and new revenue generation. By recognizing and planning for the ongoing budgetary climate, the University is well positioned for a successful future.

Cover Sheet

Annual Operating Budgets FY17-FY19

Section: II. Finance and Administration Committee
Item: B. Annual Operating Budgets FY17-FY19
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: Annual Operating Budgets FY17-FY19.pdf

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Annual Operating Budgets FY17 - FY19		FY2017 Budget Approved BOT Approved Budget April 26, 2016	FY2018 Budget Approved BOT Approved Budget May 2, 2017	FY2019 Budget Proposal
2	Revenue Sources				
3	State Appropriation		29,109,894	29,400,756	29,400,756
4	Collective Bargaining/Other State Appropriations			618,215	605,539
5	DCAM		-	-	
6	Financial Aid		6,700,000	6,700,000	7,300,000
7	Grants		1,400,000	900,000	1,150,000
8	Auxiliary Services				
9	Dorm Authority - Housing		10,141,780	11,404,269	11,467,514
10	Food Service				4,400,000
11	Tuition and Fees				
12	Tuition and Fees		41,630,275	42,355,952	46,980,471
13	Retained Out of State Tuition		1,510,000	1,510,000	1,400,000
14	Non State Supported Tuition		900,000	900,000	1,100,000
15	Investment Income		450,000	450,000	437,285
16	Sales & Service		1,981,121	2,228,861	2,302,267
17	Unrestricted Assets		2,725,871	1,486,918	1,594,822
18	Foundation			266,000	266,000
19	Total Revenue Sources		96,548,941	98,220,971	108,404,654
20					
21	Operating Expenses				
22	Regular Employee Compensation		38,783,376	39,164,350	39,972,245
23	Pension and Ins-Related Exp.		3,520,737	3,335,001	3,822,112
24	Part-Time Salaries		6,024,613	6,501,216	6,972,662
25	Financial Aid		6,700,000	6,700,000	7,300,000
26	Grants		1,400,000	900,000	1,150,000
27	Auxiliary Services				-
28	Dorm Authority - Housing		10,141,780	11,404,269	11,794,729
29	Food Service				4,400,000
30	Department Budgets:				
31	Utilities' Expenses Space Costs		3,725,813	3,580,444	3,588,044
32	Scholarship Expenses Insurance Costs		2,849,559	2,851,059	2,906,059
33	Information Technology		3,499,431	3,618,524	4,553,362
34	Capital		4,725,000	4,725,000	4,725,000
35	Operation & Maintenance		10,142,883	10,475,693	11,820,025
36	Debt Service		5,035,749	4,965,415	5,400,416
37					
38	Total Operating Expenses		96,548,941	98,220,971	108,404,654

Cover Sheet

Technology Fee Increase - VOTE (25-17/18)

Section: II. Finance and Administration Committee
Item: C. Technology Fee Increase - VOTE (25-17/18)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: VOTE Technology Fee Increase.pdf

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 1, 2018
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 25-17/18
SUBJECT: Student Fee Increase	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to recommend the following annual student fee, effective for the fall semester 2018:

Technology Fee

Technology Fee: \$200.00 increase for FY2019. The new fee total will be \$350.00.

Cover Sheet

Student Parking Permit Fee Increase - VOTE (26-17/18)

Section: II. Finance and Administration Committee
Item: D. Student Parking Permit Fee Increase - VOTE (26-17/18)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: VOTE Student Parking Permit Fee Increase.pdf

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 1, 2018
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 26-17/18
SUBJECT: Student Parking Permit Fee Increase	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to recommend the following annual student parking permit fee, effective for the fall semester 2018:

Student Parking Permit Fee

Student Parking Permit Fee for FY2019: \$25.00 annual increase for commuter and \$50.00 annual increase for resident. The new permit costs will be \$75.00 for commuter and \$150.00 for resident.

Cover Sheet

Transcript Fee - VOTE (27-17/18)

Section: II. Finance and Administration Committee
Item: E. Transcript Fee - VOTE (27-17/18)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: VOTE Transcript Fee Increase.pdf

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 1, 2018
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 27-17/18
SUBJECT: Transcript Fee Increase	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to recommend the following student fee, effective for the fall semester 2018:

Transcript Fee

Transcript Fee: \$2.50 increase for an electronic transcript and \$10.00 increase for mailed paper copies. The new cost for transcripts will be \$7.50 for electronic copies and \$15.00 for mailed paper copies.

Cover Sheet

Extended Campus Programs Fee - VOTE (28-17-18)

Section: II. Finance and Administration Committee
Item: F. Extended Campus Programs Fee - VOTE (28-17-18)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: VOTE Extended Campus Programs Fee Increase.pdf

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 1, 2018
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 28-17/18
SUBJECT: Extended Campus Programs Fee Increase	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to recommend the following proposed Extended Campus Programs Fee increase, effective for the fall semester 2018:

Extended Campus Program Course Fee

Extended Campus Program Course Fee for FY2019: \$10.00 per course increase. The new extended program course fee will be \$295.00.

Cover Sheet

FY2019 Budget - VOTE (29-17/18)

Section: II. Finance and Administration Committee
Item: G. FY2019 Budget - VOTE (29-17/18)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: VOTE Budget FY2019.pdf

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 1, 2018
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER:
SUBJECT: FY2019 Budget	29-17/18

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to recommend the FY2019 Budget as presented by the President.

Cover Sheet

Roll Forward of Funds to FY2019 Budget - VOTE (30-17/18)

Section: II. Finance and Administration Committee
Item: H. Roll Forward of Funds to FY2019 Budget - VOTE (30-17/18)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: VOTE Roll forward of funds to FY2019 budget.pdf

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 1, 2018
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER:
SUBJECT: Roll Forward of Funds to FY2019 Budget	30-17/18

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to recommend that ongoing capital projects roll forward into the FY2019 University Budget.

Cover Sheet

Slate of Officers - VOTE (31-17/18)

Section: III. Slate of Officers
Item: A. Slate of Officers - VOTE (31-17/18)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: VOTE Slate of Officers.pdf

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 1, 2018
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 31-17/18
SUBJECT: Board Officers	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees Executive Committee vote to recommend the following slate of officers effective July 1, 2018:

- Chairman –
- Vice Chairman –
- Clerk –

Cover Sheet

Personnel Actions (N08-17/18)

Section: IV. Notifications
Item: A. Personnel Actions (N08-17/18)
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: BOT Notifications 05012018.pdf

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

NOTIFICATIONS

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 1, 2018
FROM: The President	NOTIFICATION NUMBER: N08-17/18
SUBJECT: Personnel Actions	

New Hire

Jasmine Yang, BS Effective: 4/2/18	Staff Assistant, Alumni & Development (NUP) Alumni & Development	\$52,500.00
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Change in Supervisor/Department

McCluskey, Richard Effective: 4/23/18	From: Director of Operations To: Director of Materials Management From: CPM To: Materials Management	\$88,560.76
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Promotion

DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor English Studies	From: \$60,646.25 To: \$64,849.25
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Deborah Benes Nodworny Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Nursing	From: \$86,380.78 To: \$90,699.82
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Nicole Chelonis Effective: 4/8/18	From: Staff Associate To: Director of Digital Learning Graduate & Continuing Education	From: \$67,500.00 To: \$85,000.00
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Christine Dee Effective: 9/1/18	From: Associate Professor To: Professor Economic, History & Political Science	From: \$73,753.83 To: \$78,442.83
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Daneen Deptula Effective: 9/1/18	From: Associate Professor To: Professor Psychological Science	From: \$77,109.90 To: \$81,798.90
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Summer Fetterroll Effective: 4/23/18	From: Accountant IV (AFSCME) To: Staff Associate (APA) Student Accounts	From: \$76,739.52 To: \$77,739.52
Steven Goldstein Effective: 9/1/18	From: Associate Professor To: Professor Communications Media	From: \$88,436.17 To: \$93,125.17
David Heikkinen Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Exercise & Sports Science	From: \$63,853.81 To: \$68,056.81
Phillip Karampatsos Effective: 4/16/18	From: Campus Police Officer II (AFSCME) To: Staff Assistant, Police Lieutenant (APA) University Police	From: \$62,154.56 To: \$70,000.00
Wendy Keyser Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor English Studies	From: \$76,899.96 To: \$81,102.96
Michael Zachary Lee Effective: 9/1/18	From: Associate Professor To: Professor Communications Media	From: \$74,966.68 To: \$79,655.68
Ricky Sethi Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Computer Science	From: \$81,796.24 To: \$85,999.24
David Weiss Effective: 9/1/18	From: Associate Professor To: Professor Behavioral Sciences	From: \$82,218.18 To: \$86,907.18
Danielle Wigmore Effective: 9/1/18	From: Associate Professor To: Professor Exercise & Sports Science	From: \$72,938.77 To: \$77,627.77
Tenure with Promotion		
Catherine Buell Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Mathematics	From: \$64,346.38 To: \$68,549.38

Lisa Grimm Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Biology/Chemistry	From: \$65,463.28 To: \$69,666.28
Katherine Jewell Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Economics, History & Political Science	From: \$64,766.77 To: \$68,969.77
Mathangi Krishnamurthy Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Biology/Chemistry	From: \$73,554.06 To: \$77,757.06
Denise LaFrance Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Education	From: \$69,735.10 To: \$73,938.10
Monica Maldari Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor Exercise & Sports Science	From: \$66,872.23 To: \$71,075.23
Elisabet Takehana Effective: 9/1/18	From: Assistant Professor To: Associate Professor English Studies	From: \$61,560.21 To: \$65,763.21

Tenure

Patricia Arend Effective: 9/1/18	Associate Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$68,507.63
Steven Edwards Effective: 9/1/18	Associate Professor English Studies	\$73,136.00
David Heikkinen Effective: 9/1/18	Associate Professor Exercise & Sports Science	\$68,056.81
Kevin McCarthy Effective: 9/1/18	Assistant Professor Communications Media	\$64,878.79
Joann Nichols Effective: 9/1/18	Associate Professor Education	\$70,324.33

Sean Rollins Effective: 9/1/18	Associate Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$71,836.80
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Renee Scapparone Effective: 9/1/18	Associate Professor Business Administration	\$76,113.95
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David Svolba Effective: 9/1/18	Associate Professor Humanities	\$70,681.05
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Reappointment, 2nd Year

Jessica Alsup Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Exercise & Sports Science	\$59,015.00
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Dennis Awasabisah Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$63,085.00
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Akwasi Duah Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Nursing	\$91,066.25
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Darlene Ficco Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Psychological Science	\$64,102.50
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Renee Fratantonio Effective: 9/1/18 End: 8/31/19	Assistant Librarian Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library	\$50,875.00
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Ruth Joseph Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Education	\$69,190.00
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Benjamin Levy Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Mathematics	\$63,085.00
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Tara Mariolis Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Nursing	\$76,312.50
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Phillip McCormack Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$56,941.59
Ozge Ozay Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$61,050.00
Sherry Packard Effective: 9/1/18 End: 8/31/19	Assistant Librarian Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library	\$52,910.00
Britton Snyder Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Communications Media	\$71,225.00
Connie Strittmatter Effective: 9/1/18 End: 8/31/19	Associate Librarian Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library	\$63,150.88
Diego Ubiera Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor English Studies	\$57,997.50
Sarah Wright Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Mathematics	\$63,085.00
Reappointment, 3rd Year		
Nermin Bayazit Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Mathematics	\$63,205.45
Deborah Benes Nodworny Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Associate Professor Nursing	\$90,699.82
Katharine Covino-Poutasse Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor English Studies	\$58,674.50

Emma Downs Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$63,205.45
Adem Elveren Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$58,122.03
Michael Hove Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Psychological Science	\$66,365.72
Wendy Keyser Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Associate Professor English Studies	\$81,102.96
Nirajan Mani Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Industrial Technology	\$68,472.57
Christa Marr Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$71,632.84
Lindsay Parisi Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Exercise & Sports Science	\$58,595.08
Kori Ryan Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$60,045.17
Robert Shapiro Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Education	\$65,312.30
Deborah Stone Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Nursing	\$81,056.38

Reappointment, 4th Year

Soumitra Basu Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Industrial Technology	\$74,161.93
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Danette Day Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Education	\$68,708.84
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Steven Fiedler Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$67,618.23
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Kyle Moody Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Communications Media	\$61,631.81
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Les Nelken Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Communications Media	\$64,346.38
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Billy Samulak Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$67,618.23
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Ricky Sethi Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Associate Professor Computer Science	\$85,999.24
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Joseph Wachtel Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$61,114.49
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Reappointment, 5th and Above

Jonathan Amakawa Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Communications Media	\$67,747.33
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DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Associate Professor English Studies	\$64,849.25
Andrew Chan Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Business Administration	\$76,780.31
William Cortezia Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Education	\$64,924.52
Janna Heiligenstein Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Education	\$73,739.69
Asher Jackson Effective: 9/1/18 End: 8/31/19	Assistant Librarian Amelia V. Gallucci Cirio Library	\$54,898.76
Abdel Mustafa Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Industrial Technology	\$79,038.55
Daniel Welsh Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$64,359.96
Retirement		
Lola Meskauskas Effective: 5/31/18	Instructor Nursing	\$51,669.20

Cover Sheet

Dashboard

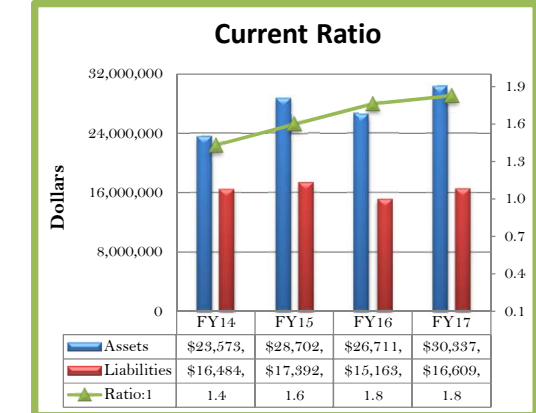
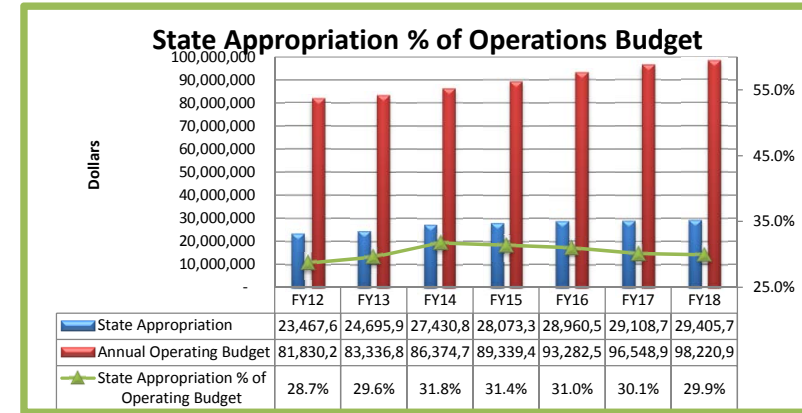
Section: V. Chair's Report
Item: A. Dashboard
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: BOT Dashboard 3.21.18.pdf

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Semester (Bi-Annual)	Fiscal Year	Full Time Equivalent Day Students	Full Time Faculty	Full Time Staff	Day Student/Faculty Ratio	Student/Staff Ratio	Cost/Annual/Day Student	Average Annual Aid for Day Commuter Student	Average Annual Net Price for Day Commuter Student Receiving Aid	Cost/Annual/Student Boarding	Budgeted Excess Cost per Student (unfunded component funded with reserves)	State Appropriation	Annual Operating Budget	State Appropriation % of Operating Budget	Current Ratio	Composite Financial Index	Balance of Unrestricted Cash & Investments	
8	Fall 14	FY15	3,436	183	332	15 to 1	10 to 1	\$ 9,260.00	\$ 4,111.00	\$ 5,149.00	\$ 9,020.00	\$ 892.26	28,073,334	89,339,440	31.4%	1.6:1	1.5	19,114,409
9	Spring 15		3,116															
10	Fall 15	FY16	3,494	189	340	14 to 1	10 to 1	\$ 9,934.00	\$ 4,138.00	\$ 5,797.00	\$ 9,210.00	\$ 733.38	28,960,545	93,282,564	31.0%	1.8:1	1.4	19,028,998
11	Spring 16		3,095															
12	Fall 16	FY17	3,467	191	320	14 to 1	11 to 1	\$ 10,134.00	\$ 4,494.00	\$ 5,641.00	\$ 10,260.00	\$ 825.15	29,108,794	96,548,941	30.1%	1.8:1	1.2	21,453,223
13	Spring 17		3,140															
14	Fall 17	FY18	3,425	211	304	14 to 1	11 to 1	\$ 10,154.00	\$ 4,549.00	\$ 5,626.00	\$ 10,632.00	\$ 456.81	29,405,755	98,220,971	29.9%			
15	Spring 18		3,085															

19 Legend:

- 20 Column 3: Institutional Factbook: All Fall Day-School Students FTE (*Spring data internal calculation)
- 23 Column 4/5: Provided by Human Resources/Payroll
- 24 Column 6: Common Data Set, Instructional Faculty, I-2
- 25 Column 9/10: Provided by Financial Aid - internal calculation based on aid applications and "free money" awards
- 26 Column 16/17: Fitchburg State Financial Statement, MD&A
- 27 Column 18: Fitchburg State Financial Statement, Notes to Financial Statement - Cahs, Cash Equivalents and Investments

28
29



Cover Sheet

Military Friendly School Designation

Section: VI. President's Report
Item: J. Military Friendly School Designation
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: Military Friendly School designation.pdf

A special message for our 2018-19 Military Friendly® Schools.

Email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



Congratulations on Your Military Friendly® Schools Designation!

We are pleased to inform you that your institution has earned the 2018-2019 Military Friendly® Schools Designation! We encourage you to tell the world about this achievement!

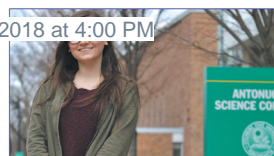
We've put together a page for you to use when preparing your announcement. Included are downloadable logos in a range of sizes and formats, a press release template, branding guidelines and more. Please note these resources are private and can only be accessed through this link.

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Cover Sheet

News Articles

Section: VI. President's Report
Item: K. News Articles
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: Clips for May 2018.pdf



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FRIDAY, April 13, 2018

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4 FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

LOCAL/FROM PAGE ONE

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Step by step, they're raising the flag for science

FSU student's spearheading Fitchburg walk on Saturday

By Elizabeth Dobbins
edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — Tallie Foster is bringing the march to Fitchburg.

Foster, a junior at Fitchburg State University, is organizing the March for Science at Riverfront Park Saturday — an event which will coincide with hundreds around the world.

“We stand with science,” she said. “We want it to remain funded and in policy and not be censored.”

According to the March for Science website, the Fitchburg event is one of three in the state joining rallies and marches planned in Boston and Great Barrington.

“This is a mobilizing movement for Fitchburg because we didn't get to do a march last year, but now we're standing among those cities in the state, in the world that are,” said Foster.

The event will start at 3 p.m. in Riverfront Park with speakers including Fitchburg State University professors, the chair of the Fitchburg Conservation Commission and Leominster state Rep. Natalie Higgins. Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale will also attend.

Around 4:15 p.m., the group will march in a half-mile loop down Boulder Drive and Main



Fitchburg State junior Tallie Foster is organizing the March for Science that will be held in Fitchburg at 3 p.m. on Saturday starting at the Riverfront Park.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JOHN LOVE

Street. The road will remain open, according to Foster.

Last April, over a million people worldwide joined the first March for Science, according to the organization's website. Foster, an environmental and earth science major, attended the marches in Worcester and Boston

The event is non-partisan with a “very heavy climate change theme,” Foster said.

While many have been concerned about environmental policy changes under the Trump administration, she said the actual shifts have been mixed in the past year. The Environmental

Protection Agency has retained funding, though the withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement and the reduction of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah have some in the environmental community concerned.

Foster isn't sure how many will attend, but said the event

may continue in coming years if there is a need to “stand with science.”

“I hope it doesn't have to be annual, but if it does, then yes, we'll be in Fitchburg every year,” she said.

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ABOVE: People display signs as they walk down Boulder Drive during the March for Science in Fitchburg on Saturday afternoon. The event was organized by Fitchburg State University junior Tallie Foster.

BELOW: Fitchburg State Professor Chris Picone addresses the crowd. **See a slide show from the march at photos.sentinelandenterprise.com.**

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE PHOTOS / JOHN LOVE

Standing up for science

Calls for action on climate change at Fitchburg march



By Elizabeth Dobbins

edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — When Professor Chris Picone spoke about ongoing climate change at the March for Science at Riverfront Park Saturday, he acknowledged he was “speaking to the choir.”

But only about half of Americans believe the Earth is warming and only about an eighth of Americans believe there is scientific consensus on this issue, said Picone, who teaches biology at Fitchburg State University.

“Why is there this tremendous disconnect?” he asked the roughly 60 people

Please see **MARCH/6**

A March for the Environment

MARCH/From Page 1

gathered for the rally. “The science is overwhelming and clear, (but) the American public thinks we’re having a debate about it.”

The event, organized by FSU junior Tallie Foster, focused less on the dangers of climate change and more on what those present can do to help.

Picone suggested trying to find common ground with people who disagree, instead of burying them with data. He said efforts to decrease food insecurity and the dangers of extreme weather events can connect with a wide range of people.

Dr. Tatjana Kobb, a medical doctor and executive board member at the Physicians for Social Responsibility, described climate change as a health issue. She said it increases the frequency of lethal heat waves and allows insect-borne disease to spread to previously unaffected areas. Environmental issues, like bad air quality, can also have ill effects on health, she said.

Tracey Sarefield, the chair of the Fitchburg Conservation Commission, urged listeners to vote for candidates who consider data and the scientific process in their decision-making. She said residents should contact the city about volunteer-



Kathy Panagiotes, of Ashby, holds a sign during Saturday’s March for Science in Fitchburg.

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ing on local boards and commissions.

Jenn Berg, an FSU mathematics professor, emphasized the importance of data in sharing information and experiences.

The event, one of hundreds coinciding around the world, drew elected officials and political hopefuls.

Rufus Gifford and Keith St. John, both Democrat hopefuls in the 3rd District Congressional race, attended, as did Fitchburg state Rep. Stephan Hay ar
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cilor Sam Squailia.

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale and Leominster state Rep. Natalie Higgins spoke at the event.

“Please continue to have these conversations at home with your friends and family,” Higgins said.

During a march down Main Street and Boulder Drive, Fitchburg resident Mary Giannetti agreed.

“Events like this can be very visible, but what we do afterward is very important,” she said. 47 of 55

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018

PAGE 3

State justices to hold court at FSU

Criminal appeals cases to provide real-life legal lessons

By Elizabeth Dobbins
edobbins@sentinel
andenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — For the first time in nearly a decade, the Massachusetts Appeals Court will hold a session at Fitchburg State University.

On Friday, April 6, three appeals court justices will hear real criminal appeals in Hammond Hall during a session open to the public and expected to take most of the work day.

For political science professor Paul Weizer, the session is an opportunity for an unusual

educational experience not often available outside of Boston.

“It’s a rare and exciting opportunity,” he said.

The Massachusetts Appeals Court hosts at least four sessions a year outside its main headquarters in Boston, according to Fitchburg State spokesman Matthew Bruun. This is the first at Fitchburg State since 2009.

Unlike criminal trials, appeals cases often deal with a defendant’s constitutional rights and the procedures fol-

lowed, or not followed, during an investigation.

“(In a criminal trial) it’s a fact-based inquiry,” Weizer said. “When you get to the appeals case there are no facts in dispute.”

Though the defendants won’t be present, attorneys for the opposing sides will each take roughly 30 minutes to present their cases, according to Weizer.

He said the session is particularly relevant to students in his criminal procedure course. Students in the class — some of whom are interested in law

“It’s a rare and exciting opportunity. (In a criminal trial) it’s a fact-based inquiry. When you get to the appeals case there are no facts in dispute.”

*Paul Weizer, Fitchburg State University
political science professor*

enforcement, others in a legal profession — have been studying the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments.

Weizer said he is incentivizing his students to attend, but also expects to see others in from the public including local

attorneys and residents in the audience.

The Appeals Court’s online calendar lists six cases on April 6 starting at 9:30 a.m.

*Follow Elizabeth Dobbins on
Twitter @DobbinsSentinel* 48 of 55

FSU entrepreneurs make their pitches

FITCHBURG — More than a dozen enterprising Fitchburg State University students will compete for cash and other prizes at the inaugural Pitch Tank competition Saturday, April 14, starting at 9 a.m., at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

The competition was begun by Fitchburg State junior Gabriel Gavrilov, president of the student Entrepreneurship Society.

“Entrepreneurship is a mentality,” said Gavrilov, who started his first business — detailing cars out of his garage — just after graduating high school. “When opportunity doesn’t knock on the door, build the door and then open it.”

The Entrepreneurship Society solicited proposals from students, and the 12 finalists will make their pitches to a panel of invited judges Saturday.

Each contestant will have 60 seconds to make their pitch for their idea, followed by 10 minutes for a formal presentation that includes taking questions from the judges.

The proposals include prospective apps and services that would help college students as well as members of the wider community. Monetary prizes of \$1,250, \$750 and \$500 will be awarded to the top three pitches.

Judges include James Glaser, managing partner at Jim Glaser Law; William Heitin, founding partner, chief financial officer and chief operating officer at Windrose Advisors, and a Fitchburg State alumnus; David Lowe, partner at Fireman Capital; Sandie Cataldo, manager at the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce; and Lee Qvian, manager at Mazak Corporation and a Fitchburg State alumnus.

Sentinel & Enterprise

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SUNDAY, April 8, 2018

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Gun ownership under a microscope

Fitchburg State University professor looks at stigma surrounding firearms

By Peter Jasinski

pjasinski@sentinelandenterprise.com

During the nine years he spent in the military, going to the shooting range was one of Justin Costa's favorite things to do.

"While you're there, you're focusing on your breathing and concentrating to get an accurate shot. You focus on that one moment in life and everything else you just forget about," he said. "Going

through the military, I always enjoyed that moment."

Costa, a Monty Tech graduate now living in Warwick, describes shooting as both a stress-reliever and a hobby, comparing it to other pastimes like woodworking or welding. But unlike those activities, it's a hobby he doesn't feel comfortable talking about around strangers.

"Do I think there are people who view it negatively? Yes, I know that. [Powered by BoardOnTrack](#) **GUNS/5**

fear the unknown and that's natural," he said. "People think because you choose to own a firearm, you're less intelligent or you fear the world around you when that isn't even the case."

As Fitchburg State University sociology professor Zachary Miner explained, most of the gun owners he's interviewed were introduced to firearms through a familial

LOCAL LICENSE TO CARRY PERMITS:

Leominster	2,986
Fitchburg	2,240
Lancaster	846
Ashburnham	980
Westminster	1,238

Lunenburg: Did not respond to request for permits

Source: The police departments from the above towns and municipalities.

FSU professor looks at gun ownership stigma

GUNS/From Page 1

relationship, usually with a father.

Miner's recently completed a study titled "A Kind of Peace: The Real World of Gun Owners" delves into what he refers to as the "complex phenomenon" of gun ownership by asking who these gun owners are and why do their guns matter so much to them.

He interviewed 37 upstate New York residents about their histories with guns, covering what each subject's lives are generally like as gun owners, how they view and experience the law, and whether they think they are viewed negatively for being gun owners.

While the research only covered a small group of people living in a specific region, Miner said this kind of academic study has become especially important at a time when gun rights and gun control are at the center of so many conversations.

"We have a group of people that are doing something that is legal, that is a huge industry, that many people enjoy that we know so very little about," he said. "There are so many of them and they're so poorly understood."

As Miner explained, limited funding for research on firearms and gun owners, particularly from the federal government, has limited the number of studies that can be done and has made it hard to evaluate stereotypes that often surround gun owners.

Of all the information he learned from his interview subjects, Miner said the most interesting was the lack of stigma he said they reported feeling from people who don't own guns.

"One of the major takeaways for me was that, at least in this particular group in upstate New York, this is a very normative, natural thing for people," he said. "It was nothing they felt



Fitchburg State University professor Zachary Miner answers question following his presentation "A Kind of Peace: The Real World of Legal Firearms Owners," last week at Fitchburg State.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JEFF PORTER

they had to keep secret, it wasn't anything they felt they couldn't talk about at work. They were fine to talk about it with people who disagree with them."

The reason this was so interesting to Miner is that it runs contrary to findings of previous similar studies in California, by the University of California, and in North Carolina by Duke University, which he said highlights the need for further research on this issue.

While he said he's never had any personal experiences of people judging him for being a gun owner, Costa said he does believe the stigma exists but also agrees with Miner on the need for more research on the topic.

"It's a different subject to study and I think it's a good thing he did," Costa said, adding

that he especially agreed with Miner's notion that most people own and use guns because of a family tradition. "It's part of their heritage and their way of growing up. For a lot of people, it's about keeping that sense of familial life together."

Westminster gun owner Al Hatch agreed with Miner's notion that there is less stigma surrounding gun ownership in rural areas, but he said he finds opinions on the issue start to change the further east you travel down Route 2.

"It's like we're viewed as these baby-slaying antichrists. That's what a lot of the hard core left seem to think about the hard core right," he said.

Hatch said he believes anti-gun thinking came into play when some town residents

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puter keyboard down and talk face to face. You've got to tell, don't yell," he said. "We need to have civil conversations because right now, as soon as either side starts getting heated the less listening the other side is going to do."

Though the lack of funding makes it difficult to do any academic research, Miner said he hopes to explore other areas of legal gun ownership in the future. He said he's particularly interested in the age at which it becomes acceptable to teach children about guns - comparing it to the age of being able to leave a child home alone - as well as the cultures of other groups of gun owners.

"A lot of gun owners are older white men, that's the normative group, but there are many people who are female gun owners, people of color who are gun owners, there's people of all different types that very few people have looked into," he said. "They might have very different reasons driving them to it in the first place or different things that are sustaining their interest."

Miner recently presented his findings as part of an ongoing speaker series at Fitchburg State. Sociology Professor Eric Budd, who organized the series, said he was interested in having Miner talk because it presented a different perspective on a timely issue.

"I'm very strongly for gun control, but I think we need to be better with understanding the legal firearms owners to know how they see it," he said. "Maybe we could reach some middle ground with solutions that would be agreeable to everybody. I think they're out there, but since we're so polarized, I think we are usually just talking past each other without getting anywhere."

Follow Peter Jasinski on Twitter @PeterJasinski53

COMMENTARY

T&G/FACULTY FORUM

The promise, challenges and future of social media

"Social media has connected us in ways that once seemed unimaginable, but those same platforms now appear to put privacy in danger and even undermine our very democracy. Rather than bringing us closer together, in many instances technology is exacerbating and exploiting our divisions. Where is it heading? Can social media live up to its initial promises? How should the current issues be addressed to limit the damage?" Amid a series of revelations and breaches of trust on an issue with personal as well as worldwide implications, we present several points of view in our latest T&G/Faculty Forum, an occasional feature offering perspectives from experts at Central Massachusetts colleges and universities.

Virtual reality as the future of social media

Our media are already set up to potentially create divisions among communities as a result of the way their interfaces operate as economic tools rather than as open channels for democracy.



Kyle Moody

Social media are unique in their ability to allow us to have our own voice and give us a way to experience the world unlike anything else.

As virtual reality becomes more commonplace and integral to our awareness of the world, I foresee all media - but especially social

media - engaging us in a way that establishes new means of understanding. We are going to create the experiences of actually seeing how other people live, and these are going to push us to have more empathetic human encounters.

Social media have already changed the world, and nobody is putting the genie back in the lamp.

The initial promise has come true in that we are all connected, although those connections are more the product of serendipity of platform changes and mobile adoption in tandem with changes in the marketplace and how people use these platforms. It is better to focus on how we are all using these platforms and encourage platform holders to make changes to them based on ne

concerns. Quite frankly, we can approach social media as helpful environments to address real concerns, but only if these technologies stop segregating content for users through algorithms that we cannot understand and that only service advertisers, instead of their serving their base of users who utilize these platforms for democratic concerns.

Kyle Moody, Ph.D. in Journalism and Mass Communication, is an assistant professor in the Communications Media Department at Fitchburg State University, and is a former program director, radio station manager and social media consultant for several businesses, and speaks on how social media and fake news intersect.

Weekender

WEEKEND BEST BETS

Green Day — all weekend

FSU brings band's 'American Idiot' to the stage with timely updates

By Julia Sarcinelli
Correspondent

FITCHBURG — The Fitchburg State Falcon Musical Theater Club is ready to start a war with its first full production, Green Day's "American Idiot," this weekend.

"Expect a lot of head-banging and swearing," Daniel T. Hawkins said with a laugh. He is a sophomore who plays the role of Will, one of the main characters.

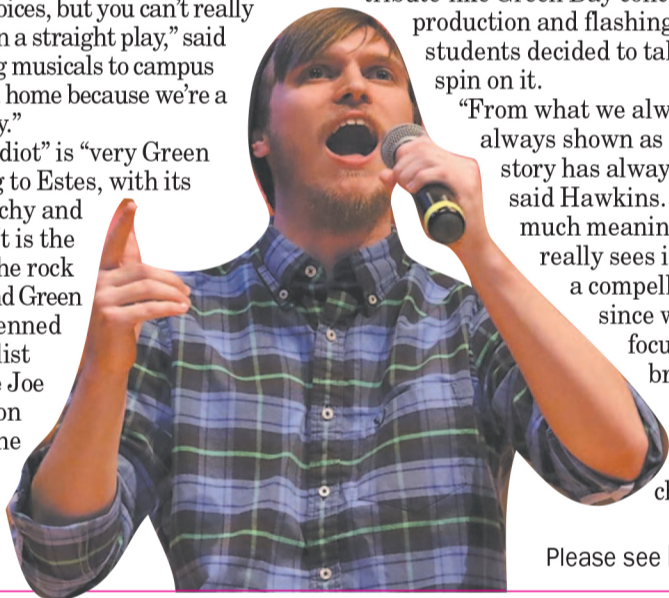
The musical will be presented today and Friday, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, at 2 p.m. The club has held a few showcases before, but this will be its first full production. Admission is \$3.

The musical group began in 2017 as a way to "show another side of theater," said James Estes, a senior and director for the play.

He added that FSU hasn't had musical theater on campus for about 25 years other than a few productions.

"There are a lot of talented people here and a lot of talented voices, but you can't really showcase that in a straight play," said Estes. "Bringing musicals to campus will give them a home because we're a very close family."

"American Idiot" is "very Green Day," according to Estes, with its themes of anarchy and fighting back. It is the adaptation of the rock opera by the band Green Day and was penned in part by vocalist/guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong, upon whom a lot of the characters and their experiences are based.



From left, FSU freshman Angelo Cosentino, 25, of Winchendon, sophomore Daniel Hankins, 20, of Abington and sophomore Ashley Jacobsen, 19, of Woburn, rehearse a song. Below, freshman Wylder Tallman, 18, of Wales, Mass., and junior Katie Williams, 21, of Gardner rehearse. SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE PHOTOS / JOHN LOVE

It follows the story of the characters Johnny, Will and Tunny and their personal struggles, whether it be with drugs, post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health or love and relationships, to name a few. The musical is usually portrayed as almost a tribute-like Green Day concert, with a big production and flashing lights, but the students decided to take a different spin on it.

"From what we always see, it's always shown as a concert, so the story has always been secondary," said Hawkins. "It hasn't had much meaning to anyone who really sees it. Obviously, it's a compelling story, but since we're kind of focusing more on bringing the story out, we're able to dig deeper into the roles of our characters."

Please see **BEST BETS/7**



CAST OF FITCHBURG STATE'S "AMERICAN IDIOT"

Johnny: Ashley Jacobsen
Will: Daniel T. Hankins
Tunny: Angelo Cosentino
St. Jimmy: Katie Williams
Whatsername: Meighread Dandeneau
Heather: Emily Wirth

Extraordinary Girl: Emily O'Neill
Favorite Son: Makayla Hicks
Theo: Haven Wichelns
Alysha: Sarah Machado
Men: Kevin Daggett, Mikel

Cravatta, James Estes, Michael LaFerriere, Wylder Tallman
Women: Allison Brousseau, Rebecca Joseph, Alydia Le, Sydney Morin, Disa Parker, Victoria Poole

FSU brings 'American Idiot' to stage

BEST BETS/From Page 6

Rather than taking place in 2002, after 9/11, with the anarchy movement in its youth, the students decided to have it take place today. They feature parts on the Black Lives Matter movement, women's empowerment, mental health, PTSD, drug abuse and more.

Playing the main role of Johnny is Ashley Jacobsen, a sophomore theater major.

Johnny is bipolar, schizophrenic and develops an addiction to drugs. Portraying St. Jimmy, the physical embodiment of one of Johnny's "inner demons," is junior Katie Williams.

"This is how we feel. We want to get our point across."

James Estes, director

"At the end of the day, it's very, very dark," William said of the production. "It's been difficult trying to get into, but it's been really fun."

Jacobsen said the students are also emphasizing women in the production. Johnny's manifestations are portrayed as two women rather than two men, Will struggles with his relationship with his pregnant girlfriend, and the charac-

ter of Tunny has his "military girl" help him while he goes through recovery.

"All three of us have this female backbone that's powering us," Jacobsen said. "It's led by these three males, and the women are the secondary leads, but they are the ones with the power over the men. We've kept everything true to the actual production, but the way we present it is different"

The musical offers moving storylines with some Green Day hit songs, such as "Last of the American Girl" and "Know Your Enemy."

"We just really wanted to focus on us as a generation as millennials and Gen-X," Estes said. "This is how we feel. We want to get our point across."

Email juliasarcinelli@outlook.com if you have any upcoming events you would like to be featured in *Best Bets*.



FSU freshmen Disa Parker, 19, of Newton, left, and Allison Brousseau, 24, of Attleboro, rehearse a song.

Weekender

WEEKEND BEST BETS

‘Hate will not have the last word’

FSU play deals with aftermath of terrorist bombing over Lockerbie

By Julia Sarcinelli
Correspondent

FITCHBURG — Students in Fitchburg State University’s theater program will present a play set in Lockerbie, Scotland, about the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, and will travel to the country this summer.

“One of the lines in the play is, ‘Hate will not have the last word in Lockerbie,’” said Kelly Morgan, FSU professor and director of the play, adding, “It’s about how to deal with the loss of loved ones brought upon by hateful acts by one’s fellow man. How does one grieve? How does one go through that process and come to continue a life?”

The play, “The Women of Lockerbie,” will open Wednesday, April 11, and have performances through April 21 at the Wallace Center for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road, Fitchburg. Tickets are \$3, and proceeds will support the cast and crew’s trip to Scotland in August to perform the play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The play, by Deborah Brevoort, is based on the events surrounding the terrorist bombing 30 years ago this December of Pan Am Flight 103. The play depicts a U.S. mother and the women of Lockerbie who are trying to get the U.S. government to release pieces of clothing from the plane crash that killed all 243 passengers, 16 crew members and 11 additional people on the ground in Lockerbie.

“The Women of Lockerbie” also includes a Greek-style echo chorus of seven students who add to the atmosphere, creating sounds of nature while lying unmoving on the stage floor, dressed to match the grass and water of the mountainside and representing the lives of those who died.

“Most of our props are weathered down to look as if it’s been in a plane crash, so it was a lot of ripping up clothes in suitcases and burning them,” said FSU senior Ami Do, the props master.

The stage design is minimal, chosen in part to make the trip to the Edinburg Fringe Festival in August easier. FSU students have been going every four years to the worldwide theater festival to perform, but this year feels much more significant because it’s where the plane crash took place.



The actors researched the crash and the victims.

“Those of us who have kids, we can’t express to (the students) what it’s like to lose a child, so it’s really intense for them to perform this,” said Cap Cordeuan, tech director and designer.

If anyone thinks they won’t see the play because of its serious topic, the actors highly encourage audience members to come witness their “homage,” in a sense, to the victims of the bombing.

Please see **BEST BETS/8**

They are also setting up the hallway outside the auditorium with information about the crash and props.

“It will be like an exhibit. You’ll be able to feel it when you walk in,” said senior Beth Conte, who plays one of the women of the title.

“We really want to put them in the space,” said junior Lauren Esper, who is playing Olive, another of the women from Lockerbie. “There are times we’ll be through the audience because we want to involve the whole entire theater as the hills instead of just the stage. You get the whole presence of being there.”

Ma’ayan Shaveet, a ninth-grader from Sizer School in Fitchburg, is playing the character of Emily. She said that although learning how to speak in a Scottish accent has been one of the more difficult parts, it was important to her to create a backstory for her character.

“I’m in the mindset of just being a young person of 8 to 15, just watching people die in front of you,” she said. “It’s really hard to get into that mode when you get to rehearsal.”

THE CAST

Madeline Livingston: Brittany Messuri
Bill Livingston: Justin Katz
Olive Allison: Lauren Esper
Woman 1: Rachael Miles
Woman 2: Beth Conte
Woman 3: Sydney Lipsett
Woman 4: Ma’ayan Shaveet
Woman 5: Natalie Scott
Hattie: Nina DiRusso
George Jones: Charlie Barbera
Echo Chorus: Maribelle Flint (Choragus), Felipe Ferreira, Derek Holbrook, Michael Morgan, Geoffrey Reichert, Rebecca Joseph, Nicholas Spatola Brooklyn Tawyea, Tyler Rost, Ty Campana

◀ FSU’s theater program presents “The Women of Lockerbie” this month. COURTESY PHOTO

▼ FSU students, from left, junior Natalie Scott, freshman Sydney Lipsett, junior Rachel Miles, senior Brittany Messuri and senior Justin Katz, pose on stage during Monday’s dress rehearsal for “The Woman of Lockerbie.” SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JEFF PORTER



Fitchburg State Drag Show is set for April 5

FITCHBURG — The Gay Straight Alliance at Fitchburg State University will present the 13th annual Galactic Goddesses Annual Drag Show on Thursday, April 5, at 7 p.m., to build awareness and raise money for the university's new LGBTQ student scholarship.

The show will be held at the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St.

This year's program will feature dancing and cabaret-style performances by 10 stage performers, including Lady Sabrina, Mizery, Miss Kris, Vita Summers, Destiny, Roxy Brooks, G Licious G, newcomer Onyx, with Raquel Blake acting as mistress of ceremonies for the evening. DJ Scotty P will spin the tunes for the show. Special guest appearances by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will also grace the stage.

Tickets are \$5 for FSU students and \$10 for the public. Tickets can be purchased at the information desk in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., or online at marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu by selecting from the "student activities" tab.

Associate Director of Student Development Shane Franzen has supervised the development of the show since its inception on campus.

"This drag show is an important part of the fabric of LGBTQ life at Fitchburg State and surrounding communities," Franzen said. "It shows that Fitchburg State does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, color, race or identity. It solidifies the openness of the faculty, staff and community but, most importantly, the students.

"With the changing climate of the country, it is now more important than ever to show off our culture," Franzen added.

"The students of GSA work tirelessly over many months to put the show together. It is a privilege to be their adviser, and an honor to watch them grow and flourish as active citizens of the LGBTQ+ community and to share who they are to all."