



Fitchburg State University

Board of Trustees with the Foundation Board of Directors

Amended on January 27, 2021 at 8:56 AM EST

Date and Time

Tuesday January 26, 2021 at 8:00 AM EST

Location

This meeting will be held remotely.

Notice of a Meeting of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.

This meeting will be a joint remote meeting with the Fitchburg State University Foundation Board of Directors.

For public comments dial (when announced in the meeting): 978.665.3698

Public streaming: <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/f5de5f1c-51cf-49e0-9fa3-bf76efdf55fc>

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			8:00 AM
Opening Items			
A. Record Attendance and Guests			1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Deborah Phillips	1 m
C. Welcome Karen Spinelli			1 m
D. Public Comments			3 m
E. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting on November 10, 2021- VOTE (13-20/21)	Approve Minutes		1 m
Approve minutes for Board of Trustees on November 10, 2020			
F. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on November 18, 2020 - VOTE (14-2021)	Approve Minutes	Richard Lapidus	1 m
Approve minutes for Board of Trustees on November 18, 2020			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
G. Approve minutes from the Fitchburg State Foundation Meeting on October 9, 2020 (FB-01-210126)	Vote		1 m
II. Foundation Report			8:09 AM
A. Foundation Year End Report			3 m
B. Planned Giving Initiative			3 m
C. Grants Update			3 m
D. Alumni Update			3 m
III. Enrollment and Finance			8:21 AM
A. Enrollment and Finance presentation	FYI	Jay Bry	30 m
B. Finance Dashboard	FYI	Jay Bry	5 m
IV. University Fee Policy Proposal			8:56 AM
A. University Fee Policy Proposal - VOTE (15-20/21)	Vote		5 m
V. Notifications			9:01 AM
A. Personnel Actions (N03-20/21)	FYI		2 m
B. Financial Statements (N04-20/21)	FYI		2 m
VI. Student Trustee Report			9:05 AM
A. Update from Student Trustee	FYI	Steven Olson	5 m
VII. Chair's report			9:10 AM
A. Update from the Chair	FYI	Deborah Phillips	5 m
VIII. President's Report			9:15 AM
A. Commencements (May & December 2020)	FYI		3 m
B. Opening of the Spring Semester	FYI		3 m
C. Fall Admissions Update			3 m
D. Black History Month	FYI		3 m
E. Strategic Plan	FYI		3 m
F. Campus Infrastructure Project	FYI		3 m
G. Housing and Economic Development Bill	FYI		3 m
H. Leading By Example Award	FYI		3 m
I. News Articles	FYI		1 m
IX. Closing Items			9:40 AM
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote		1 m

Cover Sheet

Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting on November 10, 2021- VOTE (13-20/21)

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: E. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting on
November 10, 2021- VOTE (13-20/21)
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for Board of Trustees on November 10, 2020
VOTE Minutes Nov. 10, 2020.pdf

APPROVED



Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Board of Trustees

Date and Time

Tuesday November 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Location

This meeting will be held remotely.

Notice of a meeting of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held via teleconference as approved by Governor Baker.

For public comments dial (when announced in the meeting): 978.665.3698

Public streaming:

stream.meet.google.com/stream/3e797815-a713-480a-8c1c-32674d2d8149

Trustees Present

A. Clementi (remote), C. Stimpson (remote), D. Irving (remote), D. Nieto (remote), D. Phillips (remote), D. Tiernan (remote), F. O'Donnell (remote), L. Barrieau (remote), M. Nicholson (remote), S. Olson (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Ex-Officio Members Present

R. Lapidus (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

R. Lapidus (remote)

Guests Present

A. Cardelle (remote), C. Canney (remote), G. Doiron (remote), J. Bry (remote), J. Murdoch (remote), J. Wolfman (remote), K. Smith (remote), L. Bayless (remote), M.

McKenzie (remote), M. Scarselli (remote), M. Scott (remote), M. Snyder (remote), S. Swartz (remote), Y. Malcolm (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Irving called a meeting of the board of trustees of Fitchburg State University to order on Tuesday Nov 10, 2020 @ 10:04 AM.

C. Public Comments

There were none.

D. Approve Minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting - VOTE (08/20-21)

L. Barrieau made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees on 09-15-20.

D. Tiernan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

A. Clementi Aye
S. Olson Aye
C. Stimpson Absent
D. Nieto Aye
D. Phillips Aye
D. Tiernan Aye
D. Irving Aye
L. Barrieau Aye
M. Nicholson Aye
F. O'Donnell Aye

II. Finance and Administration

A. Presentation by the auditors

Introductions were made. The following auditors from CohnReznick discussed the audit PowerPoint presentation:

Ms. Karen Smith, Audit Partner
Mr. Mark Snyder, Audit Senior Manager
Ms. Maryellen Scarselli, Audit Manager
Ms. Michelle Scott, Audit Senior

K. Smith presented the University audit results. She stated the financial statements are being issued with a "clean" unmodified opinion. The report on internal controls states that there were no findings. She thanked Jay Bry, Yvonne Malcolm, Denise Brindle and the financial services staff for their hard work given the unique circumstances with compiling the audit.

M. Snyder provided the financial statements overview. He said some modifications were made after the draft was distributed but there were no changes to the bottom line.

M. Snyder reviewed the university statements of net position and the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

C. Stimpson joined the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

M. Snyder explained the statements of cash flows, footnotes and disclosures. He asked the president to discuss the current impact of COVID-19 and anticipated impact moving forward.

The president briefly discussed COVID-19 related expenses. He started by talking about the rapid departure from campus last spring and the need to refund students for the unused portion of their residence hall fees, dining service fees and parking fees. A significant amount of money has also been expended related to PPE, cleaning, signage, technology and other items. He also discussed the other major expense involving COVID-19 testing. This included the expenses associated with hiring trained personnel to administer the test. Moving forward the university anticipates increased expenses associated with testing as the Commonwealth's is planning to introduce more rigorous testing requirements for spring semester. The university has already committed to an increased number of tests from the Broad Institute and is currently working on securing additional personnel to administer the tests which will most likely require five days per week.

J. Bry stated that other big challenges include enrollment and residence hall occupancy. He noted that the university has been making significant investments in admissions to assist with recruiting. The reconfiguring of the debt by the Mass State College Building Authority (MSCBA) has helped tremendously for this year. The restructuring of the debt does not change our long-term debt curve. The decline in residence hall occupancy will begin to be felt by the university in FY22 and beyond.

M. Snyder announced the upcoming GASB accounting pronouncements as they relate to the deferment of leases.

There is no separate management letter being issued related to the audit.

There was a discussion that included the CARES money, and the residence halls.

D. Phillips informed the Board that the Administration and Finance Committee met and reviewed the materials. The committee voted to accept the audit and recommend acceptance by the full Board.

D. Irving thanked the team for a great job.

The complete audit can be found in the Board packet.

B. FY2020 Audit - VOTE (09/20-21)

A. Clementi made a motion to accept the FY2020 audit as presented.

C. Stimpson seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

M. Nicholson Aye

S. Olson Aye

D. Irving Aye

F. O'Donnell Aye

L. Barrieau Aye

D. Tiernan Aye

A. Clementi Aye

C. Stimpson Aye

Roll Call

D. Nieto Aye
D. Phillips Aye

D. Phillips reinforced the idea that when residence halls occupancy is down, so is income needed to supplement the overall university budget. J. Bry responded that is a simple way to summarize. D. Phillips additionally commented that is important that our student trustee know that deferred maintenance and services within the residence halls will continue to operate at their specified level whether the halls are full or not. The president noted that we do not own the buildings and that failure to pay debt service could result in the MSCBA intercepting a portion of the university annual appropriation.

III. Sabbatical Requests

A. Act on President's recommendation for faculty sabbatical requests - VOTE (10/20-21)

The President presented the 21 sabbaticals. He indicated that they were all strong proposals. He indicated that there is a formal process before recommendations are sent to him. He recommended that the proposals be approved by the board. He stated that the university will back fill the positions with adjunct faculty as needed. He did indicate that the university has the ability to defer sabbaticals if it did not have the funds, but felt that funding would be available for the coming year. There was a discussion. Additionally, there was a question regarding the soon to be vacant Dean of Business and Technology position. The position will not be replaced and the duties will be split between the other Deans.

A. Clementi made a motion to grant the faculty sabbatical leaves for the academic year 2021-2022.

M. Nicholson seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

D. Tiernan Aye
A. Clementi Aye
D. Nieto Aye
D. Phillips Aye
S. Olson Aye
F. O'Donnell Aye
C. Stimpson Aye
L. Barrieau Aye
D. Irving Aye
M. Nicholson Aye

IV. Slate of Officers

A. Act on Board Officers

D. Irving said we normally vote on the slate of officers in May, but given that his official term expires in March. He felt as this was a good time for a change in the officers. He reported that the Executive/Nominating Committee met and recommend the following slate of officers beginning Nov. 11, 2020.

Chair – C. Deborah Phillips

Vice Chair – Lynn Barrieau

Clerk – David Tiernan

C. Stimpson made a motion to approve the slate of officers.

A. Clementi seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

D. Phillips Aye
M. Nicholson Aye
D. Irving Aye
S. Olson Aye
A. Clementi Aye
F. O'Donnell Aye
D. Tiernan Aye
C. Stimpson Aye
L. Barrieau Aye
D. Nieto Aye

The President extended his appreciation and thanks to C. Deborah Phillips, Lynn Barrieau, and David Tiernan for accepting the responsibility of their new roles and willingness to continue the work that needs to be done. He thanked Don Irving for his leadership and guidance during his time as Board Chair.

V. Notifications

A. Personnel Actions (N02-20/21)

The personnel actions were presented for informational purposes.

VI. Student Trustee Report

A. Update from Student Trustee

S. Olson stated he hoped board members would attend a Student Government Association (SGA) meeting. All are invited to SGA board meetings. He said the last couple of weeks he has been talking with students about Health Services no longer being on campus especially in regards to testing. He has also inquired as to what other schools are doing with routine testing. He said, in his opinion, there is very little testing at this campus and that he believes everyone should be required to test regularly. He has met with local Representative Elect Michael Kushmerek to assist in getting Health Services back on campus and to help with funding.

D. Irving asked what was S. Olson's experience with testing. S. Olson responded that he has not been tested. D. Irving was surprised that as the student representative, he had not been tested. A question and answer ensued. S. Olson has said students don't know where to get tested.

The president responded that the university is using what is considered the gold standard for COVID testing with the test kits provided and analyzed by the Broad Institute. The test is self-administered under the supervision of a registered nurse along with trained personnel. The process is specified by the state and public health officials. He indicated the testing site and location have been well publicized and student invitations for random testing provide clear email instructions as to the location of testing and the process for testing. All students have been selected for random testing. There was a discussion of testing process, cost, tracing and logistics.

D. Phillips asked why students don't know where the new location for health services is? The President responded that communication has gone out to students and information can be found on the website. He did indicate the unusual nature of the semester and that it might be possible, in this very transactional semester, that students were not keeping up with changes. He noted that additional communication and advertising was in process that will help to better communicate the availability of health services, if in fact, students are unaware.

VII. Chair's Report

A. Conflict of Interest

D. Irving asked who had not turned in their conflict of interest form. S. Olson is the only Trustee that is non-compliant and he indicated that he would promptly submit the document.

B. Board Assessment

D. Irving encouraged the Trustees to turn in their self-evaluations as soon as possible. He noted that this is an important tool for assessment.

C. Board Giving

The chair expressed the importance of board giving. He stressed that it is not about the amount given, but rather the number of people that contribute. He stated that he was hoping for 100% board giving. He noted the importance of 100% giving as it relates to the application of grants.

D. Strategic Planning - Board meeting on Nov. 18 at 11:00 a.m.

The chair reminded the board that there will be a meeting on Nov. 18 to review the strategic plan proposal. If approved it will be submitted to the Board of Higher Education for final approval at their Dec. 15 BHE meeting.

The president reviewed the strategic plan process to date. The Department of Higher Education had recommended a few modifications. After making those changes, the plan and DHE recommendations was sent out to the campus community for feedback. There were few substantive comments as of yesterday that would require additional changes to be made to the plan. Upon the board's approval, the plan would go back to the BHE for final approval. The president thanked those that participated in the process, especially Trustee Phillips and Pam McCafferty. He stated he was excited about the plan and that he felt that it is moving the university in the right direction.

D. Phillips said she enjoyed participating and found the experience to be very informative. She encouraged any board member to volunteer to serve in the future. You get to meet people you have not met and get to know the people better that you already have a relationship with. You get to see firsthand how highly dedicated the faculty, staff and students are to the process. On behalf of the board, she thanked everyone that was involved.

VIII. President's Report

A. COVID Testing

The President informed the board on the administration and results of COVID-19 testing. He indicated that the university is prioritizing residential students. There is also randomized testing as well. He also reiterated that convenience testing is readily available to any faculty, staff and students who walks in. He explained the process for testing and indicated that testing strategies were highly variable across the state's higher education institutions. The president indicated that the state has recently modified its testing control plan specifying the frequency required for testing. The campus will most likely move to a 5-day a week schedule. M. McKenzie explained our campus population testing protocol.

With the change in testing to be implemented for the spring semester, the president stated that conversations were taking place with regard to consequences for those that failed to participate in testing. He briefly discussed the challenges associated with a testing mandate testing and its enforcement. S. Olson suggested putting holds on accounts. There was a discussion.

B. NECHE Committee Representation

The President announce the upcoming NECHE ten-year study and the review team visit scheduled for next year.

C. Canney said that the university is a member of a regional accreditation agency known as New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). Every ten years she stated that the university must go through a full formal review, and prior to the visit we go through a process of self-study. At the end of that process and evaluation, we must submit a detailed report. The process began last fall. We have committees assigned to report on activities around each of the standards. The co-chairs of the university steering committee are herself and Dr. Daneen Deptula. She asked for a member of the board to join indicating the commitment would be approximately 18-months. Currently, 90+ campus community members are actively participating in the process.

The President extended a formal invitation for a board member to sit on the Steering Committee. L. Barrieau and A. Clementi expressed interest in participating. There was a discussion.

C. DHE Trustee Convening Meeting

The president reported on the DHE Trustee Conference. For those that have attended in the past, this conference was much more formal and structured with a focus on board governance. He discussed the upcoming training sessions now required of all trustees. He indicated that he anticipated increased formality moving forward as the fiscal health of higher education institutions moves more to the forefront of conversation. re was a brief discussion on Board of Higher Education oversight, three – year degrees and shared resources.

D. Phillips left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

D. Academic Calendar

The President informed the Board of an approved shift in the spring Academic Calendar that was recommended by the All University Committee. The shift involves delaying the start of the spring semester by one week and the elimination of spring break. Additionally, four wellness days were added to the calendar. The change was made in response to ongoing COVID concerns. S. Olson commented that he sits on the All University Committee and was part of the discussion.

E. Open House update

The president indicated that all Open Houses were virtual and seemed to have gone well. Self-guided tours are also being offered for those that want to visit campus. A range of strategies are being employed as a means to recruit students during these unusual times.

F. Virtual Commencement Ceremonies

There will be two virtual commencement ceremonies.

- May 2020 Virtual Ceremony: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17
- December 2020 Virtual Ceremony: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18

G. National Latinx Heritage Month Fall 2020

The President reported on the nice array of programming presented around Latinx Heritage month. Events ranged from formal presentation to cooking demonstrations.

H. News Articles

The new articles were submitted for informational purposes.

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

The trustees collectively thanked Don Irving for his leadership, and for being a wonderful role model as chair. They also expressed appreciation for the faculty, staff and students for all the good work taking place during these extremely challenging times. They also thanked the president for his leadership and he in turn thanked the work of his leadership team and the effort put forth by all members of the campus community.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Tiernan

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: January 26, 2021
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 13-20/21
SUBJECT: November 10, 2020 Board Meeting minutes	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2020 Board Meeting.

Cover Sheet

Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on November 18, 2020 - VOTE (14-2021)

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: F. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on
November 18, 2020 - VOTE (14-2021)
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for Board of Trustees on November 18, 2020
VOTE Minutes Nov. 18, 2020.pdf

APPROVED



Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Board of Trustees

Date and Time

Wednesday November 18, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Location

This will be a remote meeting.

Notice of a meeting of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held via teleconference as approved by Governor Baker.

For public comments dial (when announced in the meeting): 978.665.3698

Public streaming:

stream.meet.google.com/stream/a6d066f6-aba8-4221-9357-8fd23a8c6135

Trustees Present

A. Clementi (remote), C. Stimpson (remote), D. Irving (remote), D. Nieto (remote), D. Phillips (remote), D. Tiernan (remote), F. O'Donnell (remote), L. Barrieau (remote), M. Nicholson (remote), S. Olson (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Ex-Officio Members Present

R. Lapidus (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

R. Lapidus (remote)

Guests Present

A. Cardelle (remote), G. Doiron (remote), J. Bry (remote), J. Murdoch (remote), L. Bayless (remote), M. Siderwicz (remote), P. McCafferty (remote), S. Swartz (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Phillips called a meeting of the board of trustees of Fitchburg State University to order on Wednesday Nov 18, 2020 @ 11:18 AM.

C. Public Comments

There were none.

II. Strategic Plan 2020-2025

A. Accept the Strategic Plan - VOTE (12-20/21)

The president reviewed the process for developing the Strategic Plan. He indicated that the plan was developed over the course of the past year. process included a broad range of constituencies from both on and off campus. Participation was strong and inclusive from all interested voices (faculty, staff, students and the external community). Trustee Phillips served on the Steering Committee. process included five themed committees and the steering committee. president recognized Ms. Pamela McCafferty, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Research and Planning, for her role in assisting to manage the process and keeping it on-track so it could conclude in a timely fashion. He reminded the Board that the BHE received a copy of the draft plan on June 10. BHE and its strategic plan subcommittee evaluated the plan and their comments were shared with the campus community and the Board of Trustees. After receiving feedback from the campus for the last time, he asked that the Board approve the plan. If in agreement, the plan will be submitted to the Board of Higher Education for approval at their Dec. 15 meeting.

There was a discussion.

D. Irving made a motion to accept the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

C. Stimpson seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

A. Clementi Absent
D. Phillips Aye
L. Barrieau Aye
M. Nicholson Aye
D. Irving Aye
D. Nieto Aye
C. Stimpson Aye
S. Olson Aye
D. Tiernan Aye
F. O'Donnell Aye

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Tiernan

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: January 26, 2021
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 14-20/21
SUBJECT: November 18, 2020 Board Meeting minutes	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2020 Board Meeting.

Cover Sheet

Approve minutes from the Fitchburg State Foundation Meeting on October 9, 2020 (FB-01-210126)

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: G. Approve minutes from the Fitchburg State Foundation
Meeting on October 9, 2020 (FB-01-210126)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: 20201009 Foundation Minutes draft.pdf
Foundation Minutes Vote.pdf

Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 9, 2020

Foundation Board

Present: President Richard Lapidus, Jay Bry, Alberto Cardelle, Cindy Carroll, Martin Connors, John Mahan, Karen Spinelli, James Walsh, Jeffrey Wolfman
Regrets: Anthony Mercadante, Nicholas DiNinno, Donald Irving
Also Present: Jasmine Yang

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by President Richard Lapidus, who welcomed the board and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2020

President Lapidus requested a motion to accept the minutes for the June 10, 2020 Foundation Board Meeting.

Upon a motion made by Martin Connors and seconded by John Mahan, the directors voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the June 10, 2020 Foundation Board Meeting Minutes. (Request FB-01-20201009)

President's Report

President Lapidus informed the board of the actions the university undertook in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), then discussed the effects of the pandemic on campus. Following a set of prescribed rules and regulations, the campus opened at various levels of repopulation. To date, approximately 20% of the university's population has returned to campus, while the remainder is still telecommuting. The residence halls are at 60% occupancy by design with testing and tracing protocols in place. Mara residences have been designated as quarantine spaces. The university has conducted approximately 3,500 tests on students, faculty, and staff (based on voluntary or randomly selected participation) with zero positives, thus far. The university has, however, been notified by local public health facilities of 6-7 positive cases and those individuals are in quarantine.

For the fall opening, the university established different modalities for student learning from 100% remote to hybrid, offering only on-campus courses for programs with special requirements, for example, Nursing, which requires the simulation lab. Enrollment has continued to decline with a loss of 300 students due to demographic changes, the decreasing fertility rate, and the pandemic. In response, the university has adjusted its goals and reevaluated its financial management. Budgets were changed, as well as, the overall composition of employees. With fewer students, fewer adjunct faculty were needed.

There is a general shift in composition of students considering college. Latin-X and African Americans now make up 29% of the student population. This demographic change was addressed in the university's strategic planning, which is reaching finalization. It was submitted to the Department of Higher Education and returned with constructive criticism. The focus of the strategic plan is on educational justice, inclusive excellence, impacts of racism, and misappropriated resources to certain diverse populations.

Development

Jeffrey Wolman's report highlighted the Alumni and Development office's achievements for the 2019-2020 fiscal year end. The Annual Fund gifts totaled \$180K, corporate gifts totaled \$1.9M, and grants, both federal and state, totaled \$2.9M. In addition, 8 new endowments were established and a Planned Giving program was launched. Since the launching, 8 individuals and their families have included the university in their wills. One couple has named the university as the sole beneficiary.

While the office did not host the Foundation's golf tournament, it did receive \$20K in donor gifts which have been redirected to support students and programs. Unfortunately, the pandemic and the growing of the alumni base had made participation a challenge. Alumni engagement decreased from 3.7% to 3.2%. Pre-COVID-19 events could not be repeated this year. Instead, virtual events like the Falcon Talks with Alumni were organized. Although successful, these events had not engaged as many alumni as the Alumni Association had hoped.

President Lapidus thanked Connors and the Newman Foundation for moving funds that allowed the Speaker Series to run. In this series, speakers would discuss systemic racism, social injustice, inequalities, and other topics of that nature. Wolfman continued with thanking Unifit for being the primary sponsor for senior capstone projects in Engineering. The grant operations at the university are being reorganized and focusing on corporate engagement.

Nominations for New Directors

Wolfman welcomed James Walsh, the new Alumni Association Board president, to the meeting. He followed by announcing that the former president, Nicholas Smith, would remain on the board as a new director. Additional directors would soon be joining the board, unfortunately, the pandemic makes it difficult to connect with these individuals. President Lapidus thanked the board for submitting a robust list of nominees.

Adjournment

With no further business, President Lapidus requested a motion to adjourn the October 9, 2020 Foundation Board Meeting.

Upon a motion made by Martin Connors and seconded by Cindy Carroll, the directors voted unanimously (8-0) to adjourn the October 9, 2020 Foundation Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.



160 Pearl Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420-2697
Tel 978.665.4555 ■ Fax 978.665.3376

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

TO: Foundation Board of Directors	DATE: January 26, 2020
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: FB-01-210126
SUBJECT: October 9, 2020 Minutes	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors accept the minutes from the October 9, 2020 meeting.

Cover Sheet

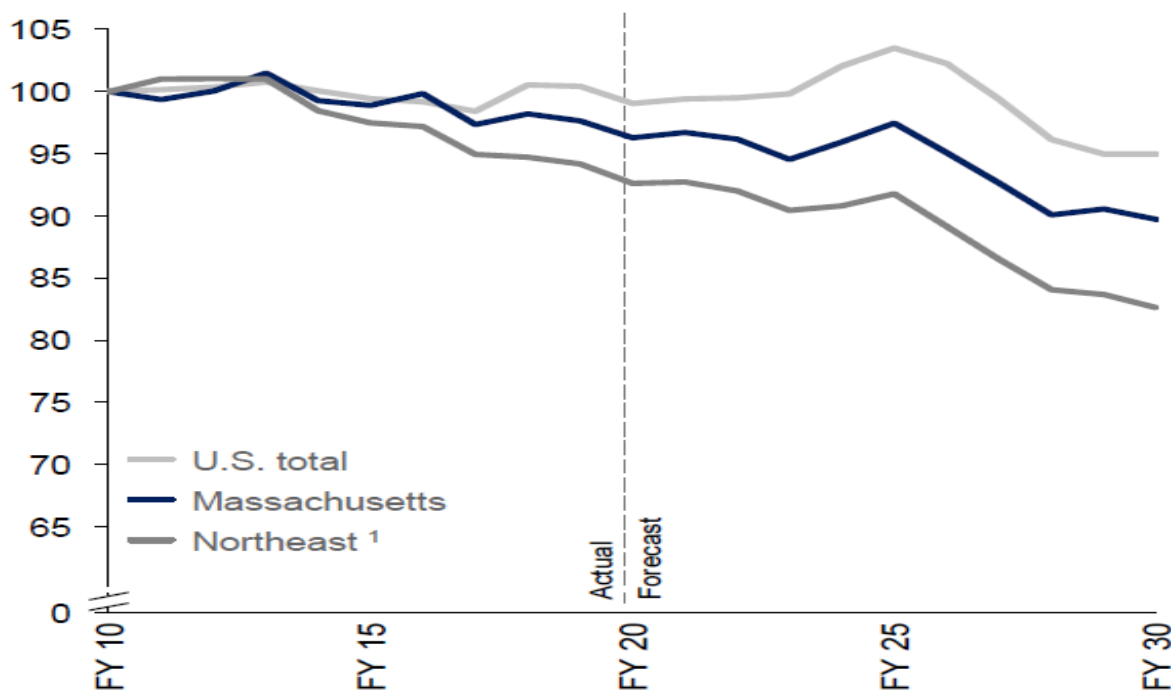
Enrollment and Finance presentation

Section:	III. Enrollment and Finance
Item:	A. Enrollment and Finance presentation
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Finance Presentation Fall 20 BOT.pptx

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

Northeast High School Graduate Trends

**Total public and private high school graduates by region,
U.S. total, Massachusetts, and Northeast
Indexed to FY10 (FY10=100), FY10 – FY30**



● 599,400 high school graduates, on average, projected per year between school years 2011-12 and 2031-32.

● The total number of graduates in the Northeast is not projected to increase after 2011-12, ending at 562,500 in 2031-32.

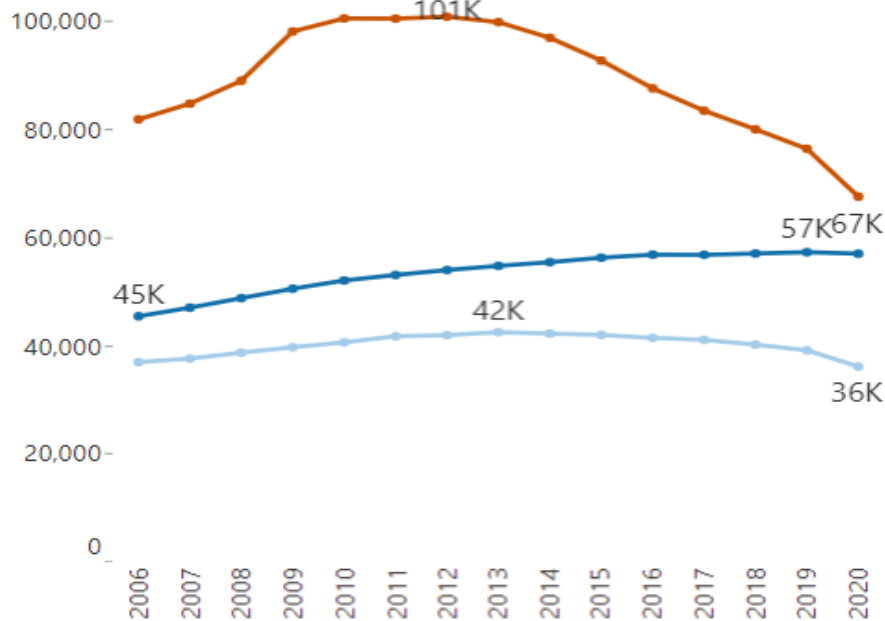
Enrollment Trends By Segment

Select a Trend Range

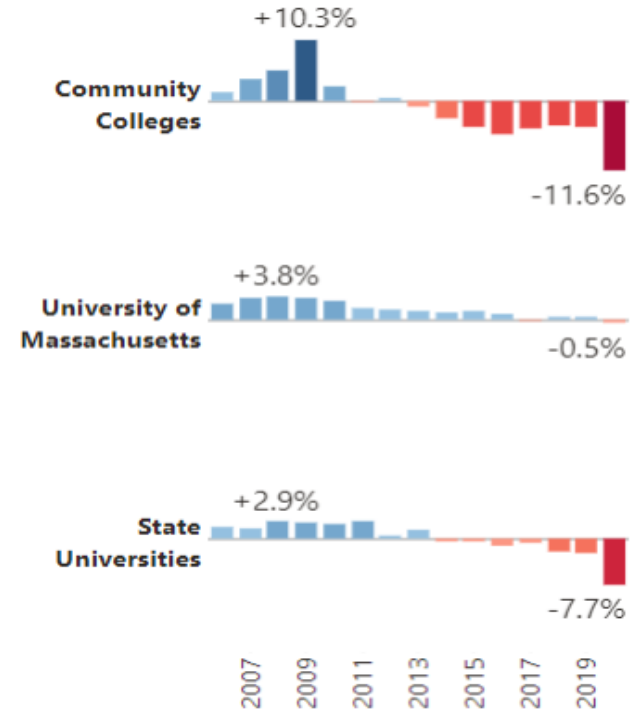
15-Year Trend

Most of the decline systemwide is attributable to fall enrollment in the community college segment, which is comparable to the level of 25 years ago. While UMass enrollment has held relatively steady this fall, the state university segment is also seeing a substantial and sudden decrease, bringing enrollment to its early 2000s level.

Undergraduate Students Enrolled—By Segment (15-Year Trend)



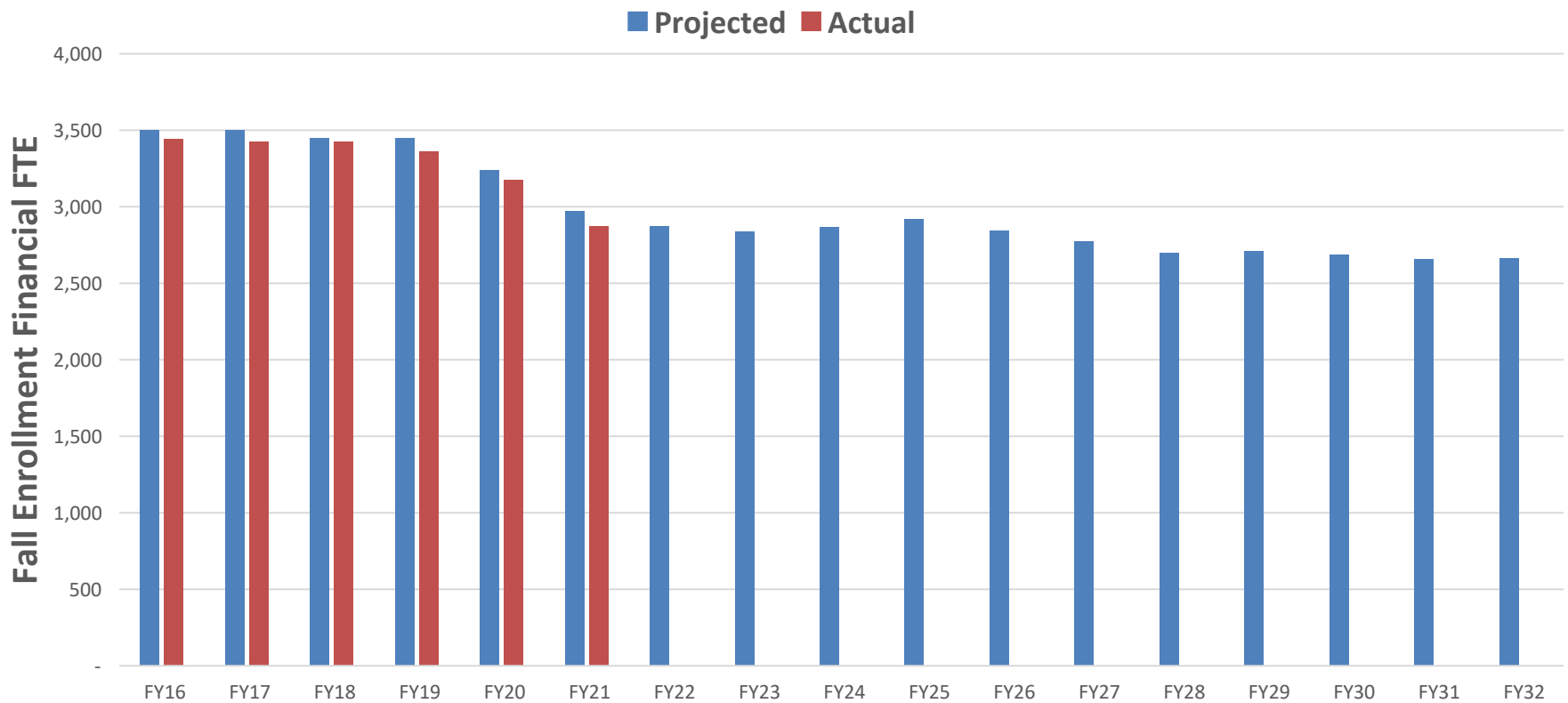
Annual % Change (15-Year Trend)



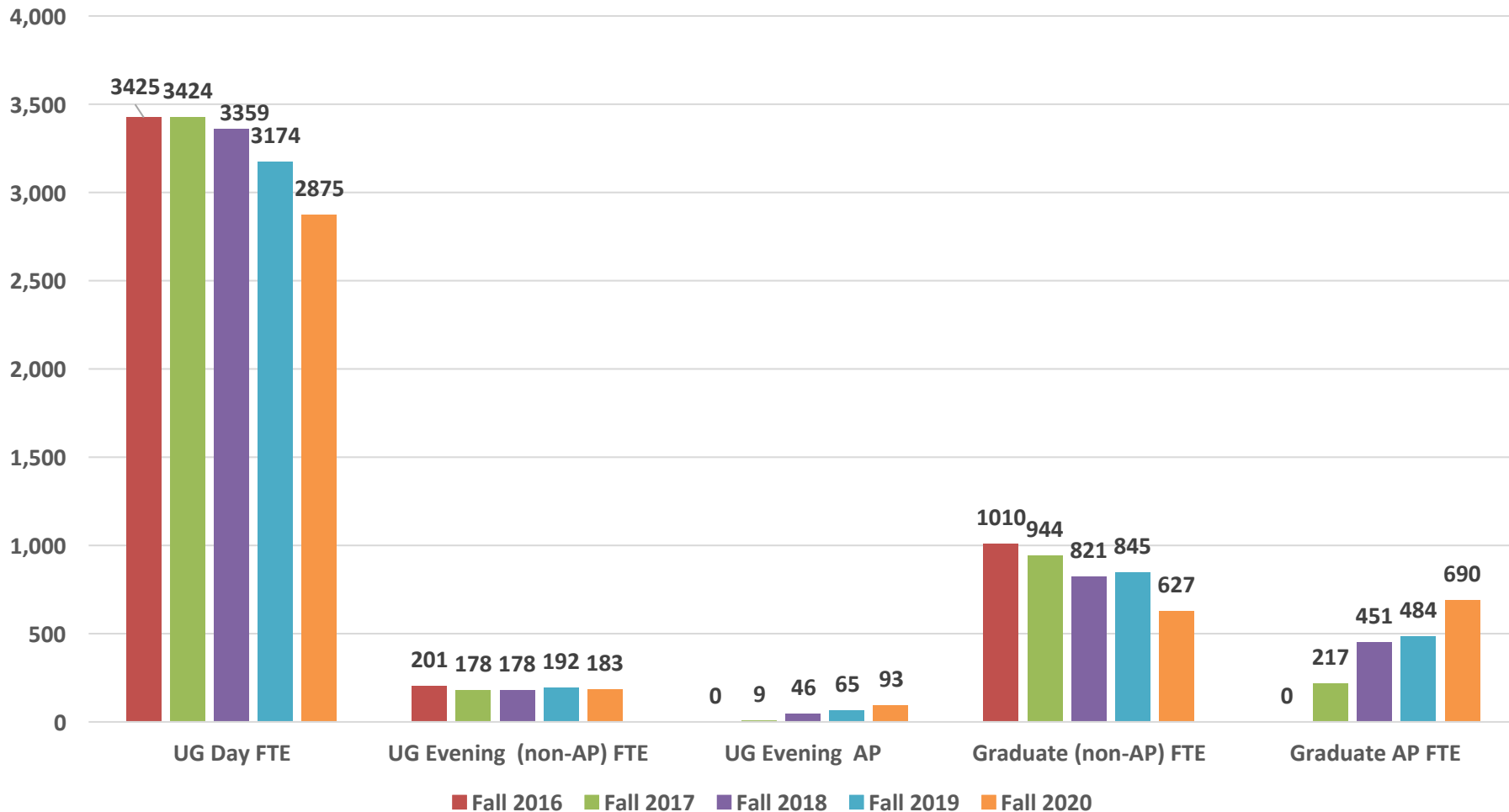
Data displayed is headcount enrollment of undergraduate students enrolled for credit in Massachusetts public higher education each fall. 2020 data are estimates prior to final fall data collection in December 2020. Source: Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

Community Colleges University of Massachu... State Unive

FSU Undergraduate Enrollment Trend: Actual & Projected



5 Year FTE Enrollment



What fiscal realities are different now than five years ago?

5 Years ago

Day Undergraduate & GCE enrollments stable

Current (FY21)

9.4% decline in Fall day enrollment

299 less full time day students compared to FY20

565 fewer full time day students compared to FY15 (16.4% decline)

GCE traditional enrollment flat

All growth in accelerate online division

COVID impact on Higher Education

Future fiscal realities?

Next 5 Years (FY22-27)

- Increasing competition
(more supply than demand; increased discounting; NE preference for privates)
- Declining enrollments
(traditional college age population is declining)
- % State Appropriations continue to decline
 - Reducing operating expenses
 - Prioritize academic portfolio
- Accelerated Online Division – growth???

Long Term Impacts of COVID on Higher Education

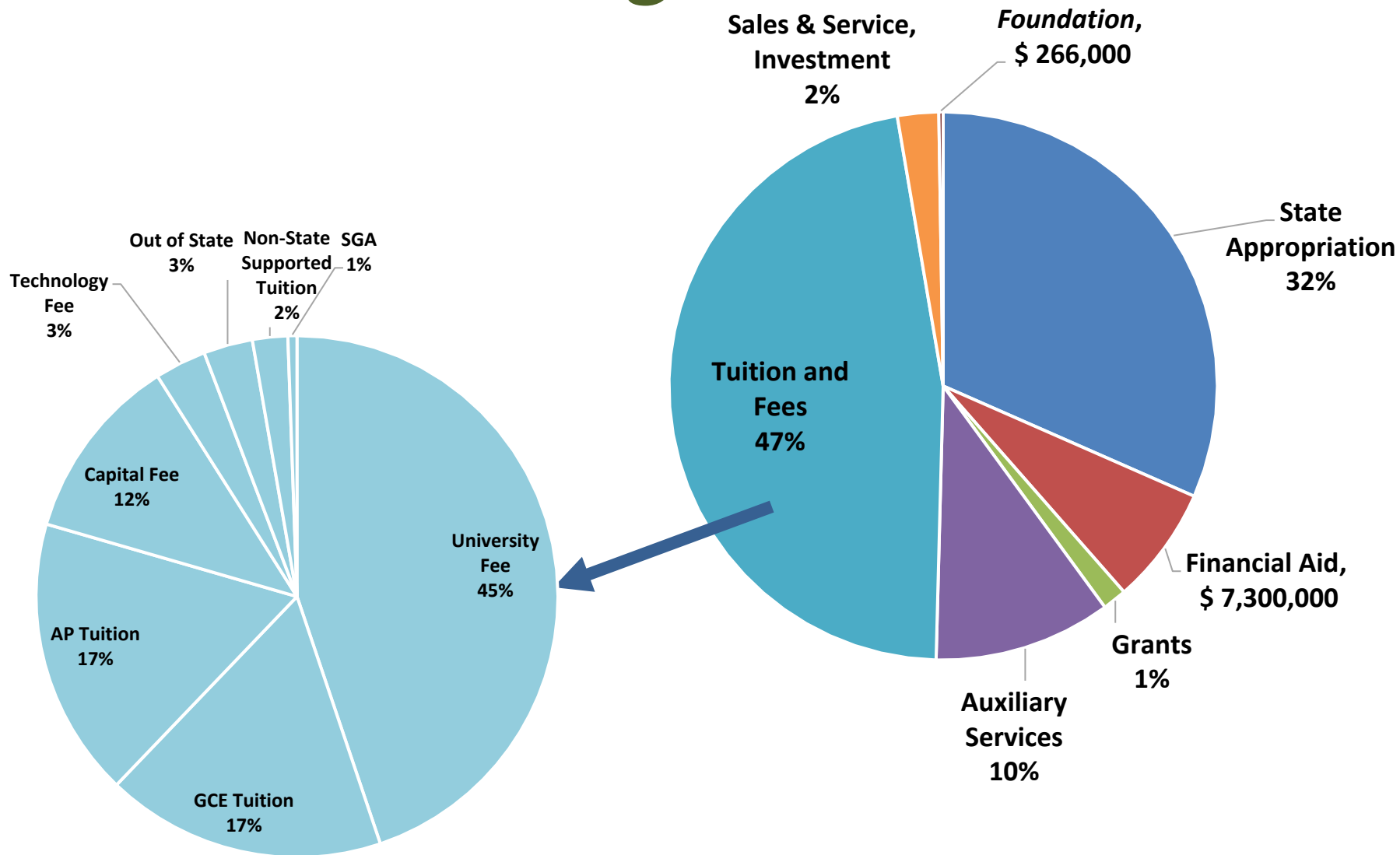
% of Operating Budget covered by State Appropriations

FY2001 = 61% FY2020 = 27%

Fiscal Year	State Appropriations	% of Operating Expenses
FY 2015	\$28.2 M	32%
FY 2016	\$28.5 M	31%
FY 2017	\$29.1 M	30%
FY 2018	\$29.4 M	28%
FY 2019	\$30.7 M	27%
FY 2020	\$32 M	27%
FY 2021	\$33.2 M	32%

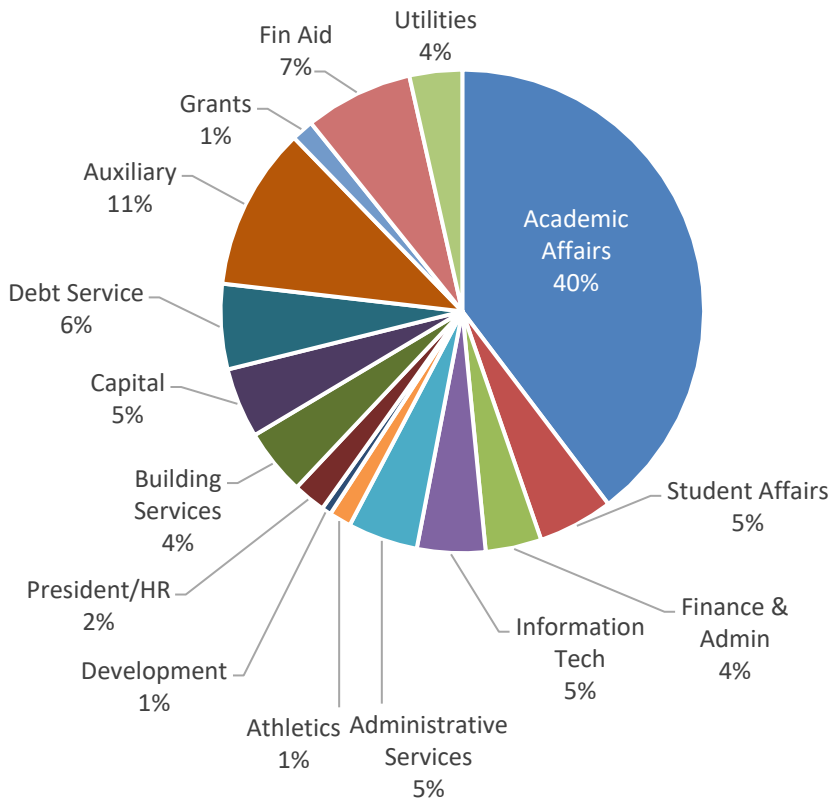
“...our state appropriation of \$33.2 million still falls short of the \$38.5 million needed to fully fund our payroll. This shortfall is further compounded because every payroll dollar not covered by the state appropriation adds an additional 38% percent to cover employee fringe benefits – or an additional \$4 million.”

Funding Sources

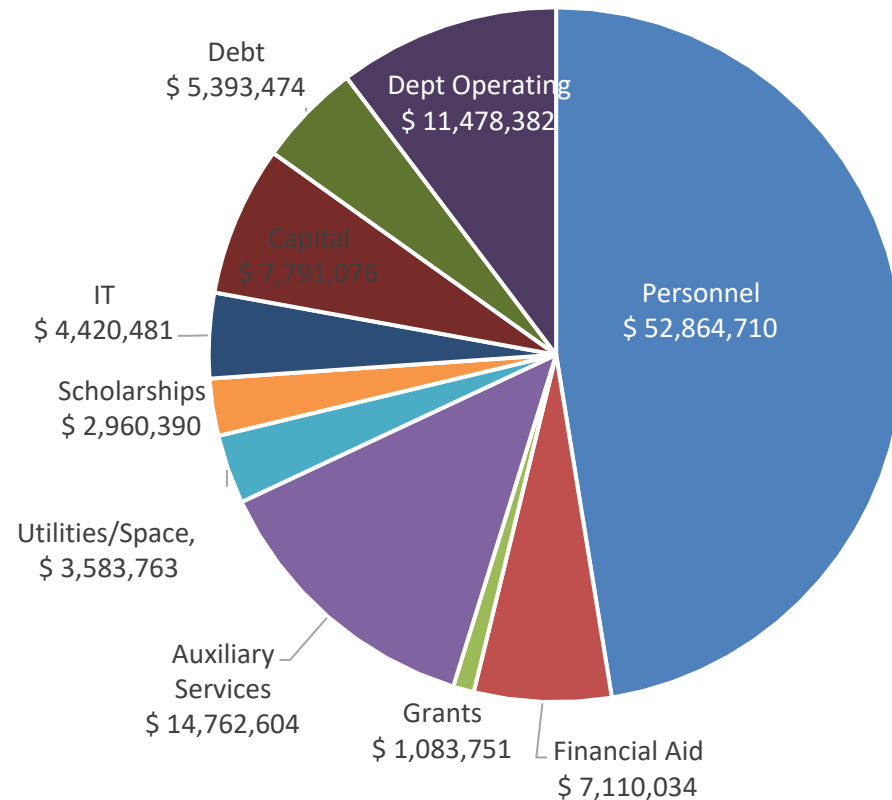


What are the Biggest Drivers?

Functional Areas



Discretionary Funds ONLY 15% of Budget



Expense Categories

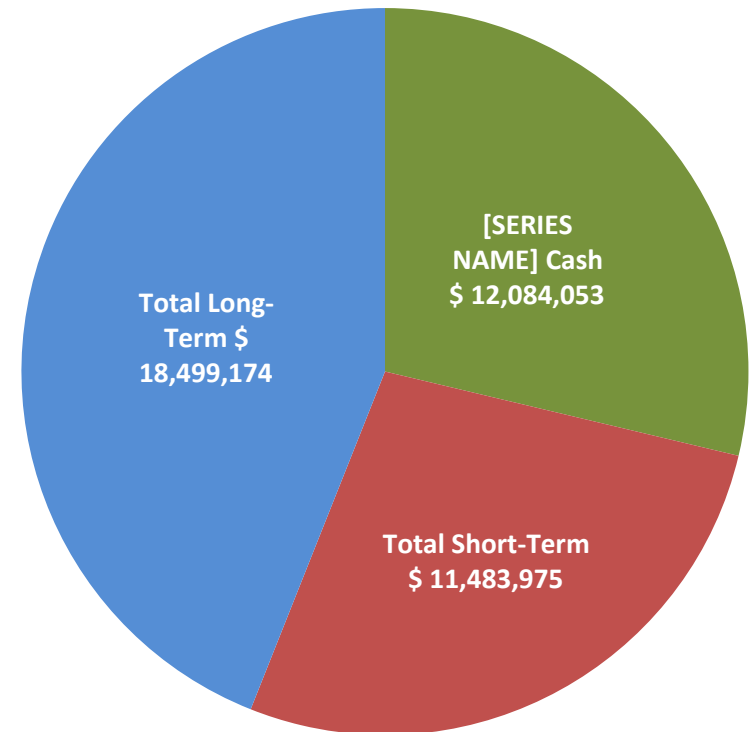
Investment Account Balances

	6/30/2019	6/30/2020
University Long-Term – retirement account	Market Value	Market Value
Enterprise Portfolio	\$ 2,137,103	\$ 2,251,582
Northern Trust Portfolio	\$ 10,884,168	\$ 11,046,923
Rollstone Portfolio	\$ 4,793,625	\$ 5,200,668
Long-Term Total	\$ 17,814,897	\$ 18,499,174

	6/30/2019	6/30/2020
University Short-Term – saving account	Market Value	Market Value
Rollstone Bank Money Market	\$ 5,211,610	\$ 5,282,637
MMDT - Control	\$ 6,098,818	\$ 6,201,338
Short-Term Total	\$ 11,310,428	\$ 11,483,975

	6/30/2019	6/30/2020
University Cash – checking account	Market Value	Market Value
Enterprise Bank	\$ 16,250,891	\$ 11,986,725
Webster Bank	\$ 97,149	\$ 97,328
Cash Total	\$ 16,348,040	\$ 12,084,053

University Investment Market Value as of 6/30/2020



AVERAGE MONTHLY SPEND

FY17 through FY20

no Payroll

\$3.5 Million

FY17 through FY20

With Payroll

\$7.6 Million

FSU CASH ANALYSIS

FY19 and FY20 ACTUAL

University Cash

Est. Market Value		Change in Value	
End of FY19	End of FY20	%	\$
\$ 16,348,040	\$ 12,084,053	-26%	\$ (4,263,986)

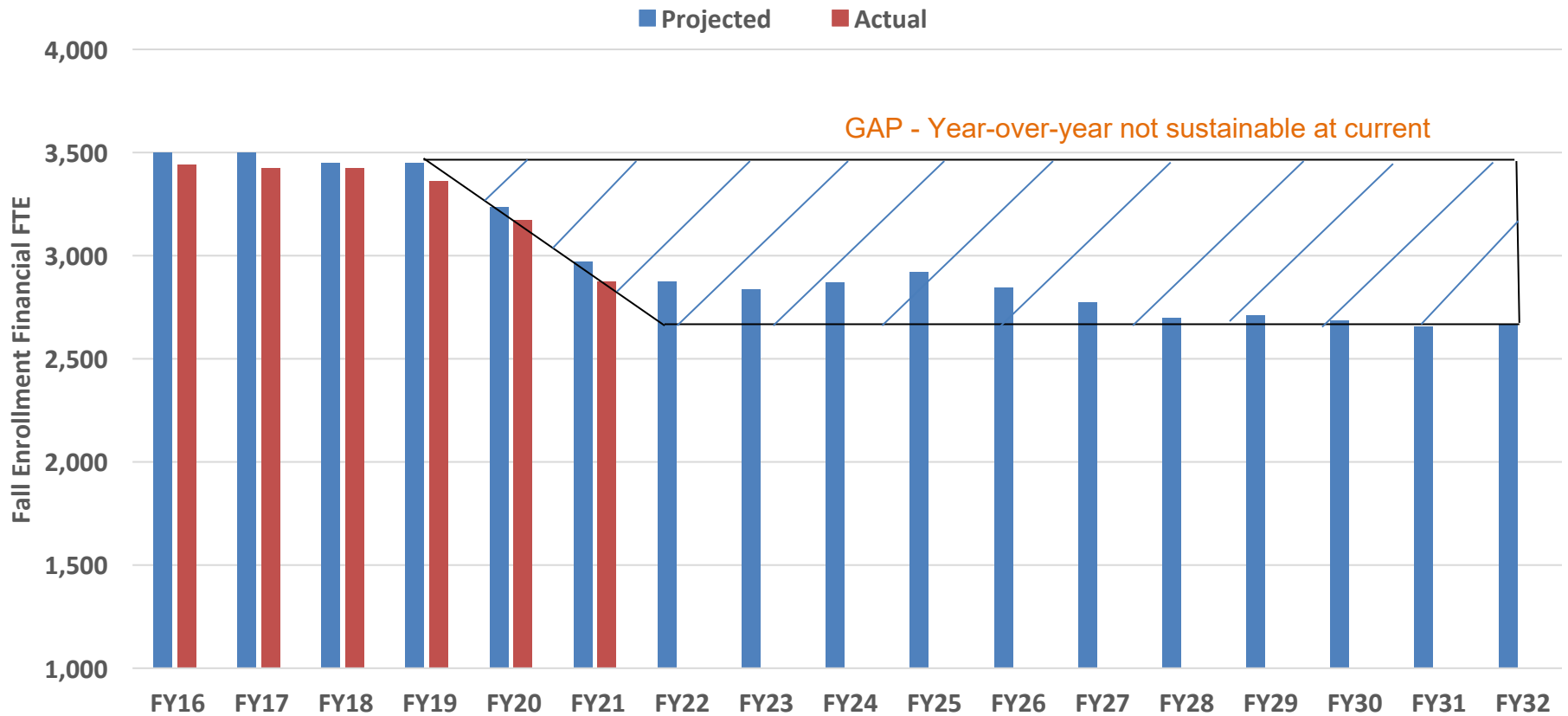
FY SCENARIOS

University Cash

PROJECTED	Est. Market Value		Change in Value	
	Start of FY	End of FY	%	\$
FY21	\$ 12,084,053	\$ 7,570,598	-37%	\$ (4,513,455)
FY22	\$ 7,570,598	\$ 3,788,013	-50%	\$ (3,782,585)
FY23	\$ 3,788,013	\$ (1,071,464)	-128%	\$ (4,859,477)

* Projection figures Undergrad Revenue 5% decline from FY21 ACTUAL, 2% decline FY22, 2% decline FY23; 2% Increase year-over-year GCE & AP revenue

FSU Undergraduate Enrollment Trend: Actual & Projected



Where do we go from here?



TABEA DAMM / UNSPLASH

- Enrollment
- Increase Revenue
- Decrease Expenses

Cover Sheet

Finance Dashboard

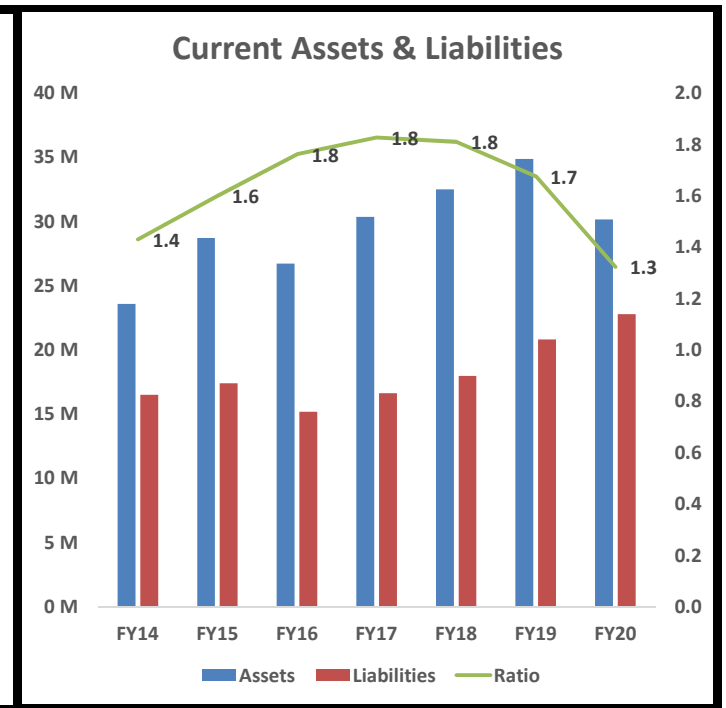
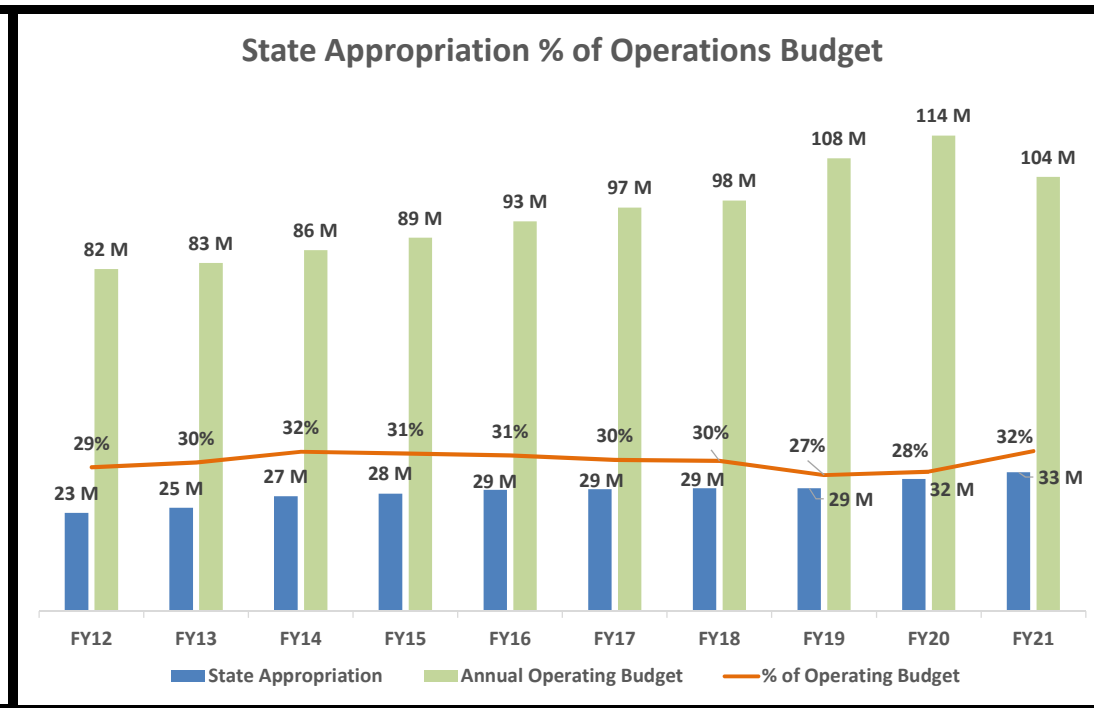
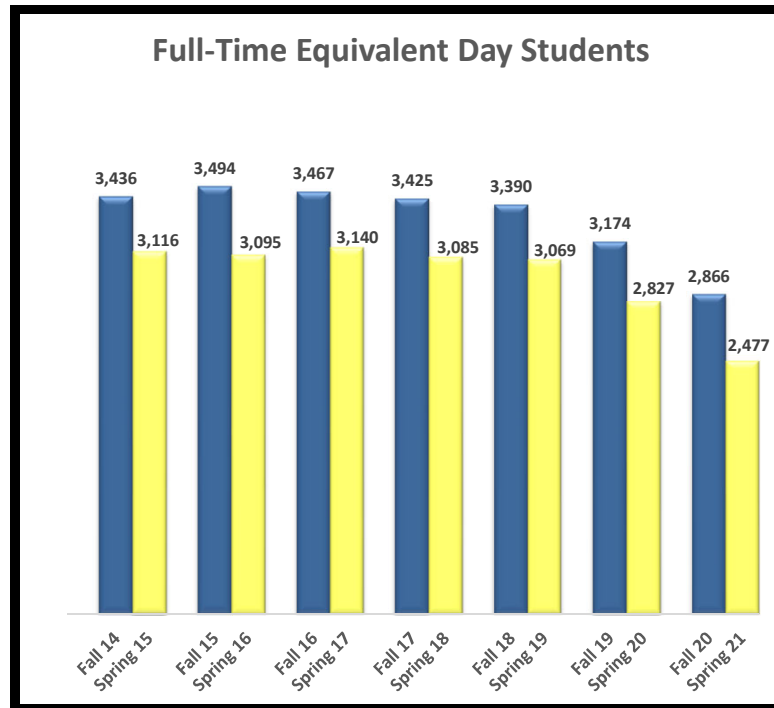
Section: III. Enrollment and Finance
Item: B. Finance Dashboard
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: FY21-Master Data Sheet-Dashboard (2021) v4.pdf

Board of Trustees Finance Dashboard

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Semester	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	Current Assets	Current Liabilities	Ratio
Fall 14	FY15	3,436	183	332	15 to 1	10 to 1	\$ 9,260	\$ 4,111	\$ 5,149	\$ 9,020	\$ 892	28.1 M	89.3 M	31.4%	1.6:1	1.5	19.1 M	28.7 M	17.4 M	1.6
Fall 15	FY16	↑ 3,494	189	340	14 to 1	10 to 1	\$ 9,934	\$ 4,138	\$ 5,797	\$ 9,210	\$ 733	29.0 M	93.3 M	31.0%	1.8:1	1.4	19.0 M	26.7 M	15.2 M	1.8
Fall 16	FY17	↓ 3,467	191	320	14 to 1	11 to 1	\$ 10,134	\$ 4,494	\$ 5,641	\$ 10,260	\$ 825	29.1 M	96.5 M	30.1%	1.8:1	1.2	21.5 M	30.3 M	16.6 M	1.8
Fall 17	FY18	↓ 3,425	211	304	14 to 1	11 to 1	\$ 10,154	\$ 4,549	\$ 5,626	\$ 10,632	\$ 457	29.4 M	98.2 M	29.9%	1.8:1	1.9	23.5 M	32.5 M	18.0 M	1.8
Fall 18	FY19	↓ 3,390	207	334	14 to 1	10 to 1	\$ 10,373	\$ 4,892	\$ 5,483	\$ 10,922	\$ 494	29.4 M	108.4 M	27.1%	1.7:1	1.8	24.7 M	34.9 M	20.8 M	1.7
Fall 19	FY20	↓ 3,174	212	340	13 to 1	9 to 1	\$ 10,523	\$ 5,009	\$ 5,336	\$ 11,293	\$ 670	31.6 M	113.8 M	27.8%	1.3:1	0.9	20.1 M	30.1 M	22.8 M	1.3
Fall 20	FY21	↓ 2,866	201	341	13 to 1	8.4 to 1	\$ 10,565	\$ 5,244	\$ 5,154	\$ 11,062	\$ 960	33.2 M	104.0 M	31.9%						

Legend:
 Column 3: Institutional Factbook: All Fall Day-School Students FTE (*Spring data internal calculation)
 Column 4/5: Provided by Human Resources/Payroll
 Column 6: Common Data Set, Instructional Faculty, 1-2
 Column 9/10: Provided by Financial Aid - internal calculation based on aid applications and "free money" awards

Legend:
 Column 13: From "Budget Proposed to Board" packet
 Column 16/17: Fitchburg State Financial Statement; The ratio is calculated by dividing the change in total net assets for the period by the beginning net assets for the period.
 Column 18: Fitchburg State Financial Statement, Notes to Financial Statement - Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments



Cover Sheet

University Fee Policy Proposal - VOTE (15-20/21)

Section:	IV. University Fee Policy Proposal
Item:	A. University Fee Policy Proposal - VOTE (15-20/21)
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	VOTE University Fee Policy.pdf

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: January 26, 2021
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 15-20/21
SUBJECT: University Fee Policy Proposal	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to approve the President's recommendation to adopt a one-time policy to not raise the University Fee for FY22.

Cover Sheet

Personnel Actions (N03-20/21)

Section:	V. Notifications
Item:	A. Personnel Actions (N03-20/21)
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	BOT Notifications 01262021.pdf

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**Board of Trustees****NOTIFICATIONS**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: January 26, 2021
FROM: The President	NOTIFICATION NUMBER: N03-20/21
SUBJECT: Personnel Actions	

New Hire

Stefanie Aiken, MA Staff Associate \$65,000.00
Effective: 12/13/2020 Admissions

Caroline Bollettiero, MS Instructor \$26,000.00
Effective: 1/25/2020 Nursing
End Date: 5/31/21

Retirement

Keith Chenot Professor \$92,536.33
Effective: 6/1/21 Computer Science

Rodney Gaudet Staff Associate \$98,821.276
Effective: 3/20/21 Technology

Wayne Munson Professor \$122,158.66
Effective: 1/2/21 Communications Media

Angela Nastasee-Carder Associate Professor \$89,852.93
Effective: 12/31/20 English Studies

Jennie Pao Staff Associate \$99,351.27
Effective: 1/2/21 Technology

David Petrucci Staff Assistant \$98,996.632
Effective: 2/6/21 CPM/Power Plant

Allison Shields Instructor \$80,722.98
Effective: 1/2/21 Nursing

Nancy Turnbull Associate Librarian \$73,553.702
Effective: 1/2/21 Library

Resignation

Emily Austin-Bruns Effective: 12/23/20	Director Alumni & Development	\$80,078.50
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Marilyn Siderwicz Effective: 1/8/21	Executive Director Marketing & Integrated Communications	\$ 111,426.84
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½ Year Sabbatical with Pay

Cheryl Armstrong Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Associate Professor Psychological Science	\$96,897.02
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Kevin Austin Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Computer Science	\$130,934.75
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Nerman Bayazit Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Associate Professor Mathematics	\$72,104.50
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Andrew Chan Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Associate Professor Business Administration	\$85,941.87
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Christopher Cratsley Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$98,044.71
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Danette Day Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Associate Professor Education	\$77,774.50
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Christine Dee Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$88,239.42
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Robin Dinda Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Professor Humanities	\$116,602.39
Emma Downs Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Assistant Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$67,074.13
Lisa Gim Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor English Studies	\$106,427.29
Beverley Hollingsworth Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Business Administration	\$97,288.34
Michael Hove Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Associate Professor Psychological Science	\$74,889.83
Wendy Keyser Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Associate Professor English Studies	\$86,068.33
Michael Lee Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Professor Communications Media	\$89,603.73
Sara Levine Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Psychological Science	\$103,873.07
Benjamin Lieberman Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$112,479.50
Nadimpalli Mahadev Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Professor Computer Science	\$153,751.34

Christa Marr Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Assistant Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$76,017.34
Janette McMenamy Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Psychological Science	\$100,144.83
Sarah (Sally) Moore Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Associate Professor Humanities	\$76,867.67
Les Nelkin Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Associate Professor Communications Media	\$72,746.89
Michael Nosek Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$99,165.16
Reid Parsons Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Assistant Professor Earth and Geographic Sciences	\$68,898.42
Christopher Piccone Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$92,747.62
Rene Reeves Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$103,532.30
Jessica Robey Effective: 1/13/22 End: 5/31/22	Associate Professor Humanities	\$78,022.25
Kori Ryan Effective: 9/1/2021 End: 1/12/2022	Assistant Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$63,720.42

Ricky Sethi	Associate Professor	\$91,264.31
Effective: 1/13/22	Computer Science	
End: 5/31/22		

David Weiss	Professor	\$92,227.17
Effective: 9/1/2021	Behavioral Sciences	
End: 1/12/2022		

Promotion

Kate Geyer	From: Staff Assistant	From: \$62,424.00
Effective: 1/3/21	To: Staff Associate	To: \$67,959.00
	Technology	

Jeanette Robichaud	From: Staff Assistant	From: \$70,000.00
Effective: 11/29/2020	To: Director, Grants and Sponsored Programs	To: \$83,500.00
	Alumni & Development/Grants	

One-time Bonus

Brooke Morgan	Staff Assistant	\$500.00
Effective: 12/5/2020	EHS & Risk Management	

Leah Fernandes	Director	\$750.00
Effective: 12/5/2020	EHS & Risk Management	

Change in Title

Jennifer Abbott	From: Staff Assistant	\$49,418.99
Effective: 11/22/20	To: Assistant Director	
	Academic Coaching and Tutoring Center	

Nancy Murray	From: Interim Dean of Education	From: \$135,000.00
Effective: 1/3/21	To: Interim Dean of Education and Interim Dean	To: \$144,000.00
	of Business	
	Academic Affairs	

Cover Sheet

Financial Statements (N04-20/21)

Section:	V. Notifications
Item:	B. Financial Statements (N04-20/21)
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Financial Statement Dec. 31, 2020.pdf

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

NOTIFICATIONS

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: January 26, 2021
FROM: The President	NOTIFICATION NUMBER: N04-20/21
SUBJECT: Financial Report	

Fitchburg State University
Executive Summary
Financial Statements for the Six Months Ended
December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018

Statements of Net Assets (pages 3-4):

- Total assets increased by approximately \$4.1 million between FY19 and FY20 and had a slight decrease in FY21. The changes between FY20 and FY21 were mainly due to a reduction in accounts receivable and a corresponding increase in restricted cash and Investments.
- Current liabilities decreased in FY21 when compared to FY20 and this was due primarily to a decrease in the current portion of bonds payable. The bonds outstanding to MSCBA were refinanced in July 2020 and this change culminated in the reduction in principal and interest payments that were originally scheduled to be paid in FY21.
- Total liabilities decreased by \$ 1.1 million between FY21 and FY20 even though there was an increase of \$2.42 million of OPEB and Pension Liability.
- Total net assets have basically remained unchanged between December 2020 when compared to December 2019

Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets (pages 5-6):

- Total revenue for the period was \$61.5 million versus \$62.4 million at Dec 2019
- Net Tuition and fee revenue have remained constant for the last 3 years and the institutional scholarship decreased slightly in FY21
- Auxiliary revenue, which represents the operation of both the residence halls and the dining facilities, totaled \$4.5 million. COVID 19 is still affecting the operation of these facilities.
- Currently no change in state appropriation received to date in FY21.
- Total expenditures decreased in FY21 compared to FY20 and this decrease was mostly due to decrease in auxiliary expenses and decrease in interest expenses due on bonds outstanding.
- The stock market rebounded in FY21 when compared to FY20.

Statements of Cash Flows (page 7):

- Total cash at December 31, 2020 was \$46.0 million, which represents an increase of approximately \$1.4 million when compared to FY20.
- Net cash provided from operations was \$16.4 million compared to \$9.95 million in FY20 and \$15.23 million in FY19.

**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 28,294,478	\$ 30,122,730	\$ 31,859,333
Cash and cash equivalents-restricted	5,092,806	6,649,549	6,438,680
Bond proceeds	-	-	93,900
Accounts receivable, net	2,677,787	4,938,143	2,698,914
Loans receivable, net	1,237	1,305	1,107
Other assets	<u>106,409</u>	<u>132,789</u>	<u>112,582</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>36,172,717</u>	<u>41,844,516</u>	<u>41,204,516</u>
Noncurrent Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	12,630,294	7,911,938	8,109,059
Investments	19,474,599	17,663,455	15,021,131
Endowment investments	1,025,676	957,833	795,156
Loans receivable, net	1,173,535	1,390,104	1,609,359
Prepaid expenses	1,988	69,814	62,394
Due from other funds	271,169	-	170,000
Capital assets, net	<u>179,482,187</u>	<u>181,222,300</u>	<u>180,549,684</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>214,059,448</u>	<u>209,215,444</u>	<u>206,316,783</u>
Total Assets	250,232,165	251,059,960	247,521,299
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Deferred outflows	<u>8,276,468</u>	<u>8,886,437</u>	<u>5,579,646</u>
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 258,508,633</u>	<u>\$ 259,946,397</u>	<u>\$ 253,100,945</u>

For those charged with governance and internal management use only

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Current Liabilities			
Bonds payable-current portion	\$ 830,592	\$ 3,935,543	\$ 3,523,606
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,701,146	3,830,148	3,104,464
Accounts payable-construction	418,204	46,943	321,150
Salaries and benefits payable	1,669,561	1,557,041	1,234,559
Accrued workers compensation-current portio	104,231	128,796	141,432
Compensated absences-current portion	2,373,284	2,243,334	2,306,066
Accrued faculty payroll	2,625,826	2,807,932	2,839,553
Deferred revenue-current portion	10,583,158	11,506,226	9,956,427
Capital lease-current portion	261,412	256,744	252,159
Other liabilities	<u>890,950</u>	<u>518,417</u>	<u>1,231,562</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>24,458,364</u>	<u>26,831,124</u>	<u>24,910,978</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Bonds payable	56,672,793	57,487,699	58,874,310
Accrued workers compensation	373,893	462,010	507,339
Compensated Balances	3,872,201	3,508,804	3,318,486
Capital lease	-	261,412	518,156
Due to federal loan programs-Perkins	1,121,155	1,495,463	1,472,948
Due to federal loan programs-Nursing	250,160	389,184	380,771
Deferred revenue	432,946	274,467	26,759
Net OPEB Liability	24,061,207	21,928,435	22,232,674
Unfunded pension liability	<u>12,763,415</u>	<u>12,484,412</u>	<u>11,430,648</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>99,547,770</u>	<u>98,291,886</u>	<u>98,762,091</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>124,006,134</u>	<u>125,123,010</u>	<u>123,673,069</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Deferred inflows - concessions	885,213	1,011,672	1,264,590
Deferred inflow-OPEB	6,233,735	6,838,918	2,609,760
Deferred inflows - pensions	<u>1,171,344</u>	<u>855,293</u>	<u>679,709</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>8,290,292</u>	<u>8,705,883</u>	<u>4,554,059</u>
Net Assets			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	122,473,083	122,108,807	119,139,389
Restricted for:			
Non-expendable			
Scholarships & fellowships	528,193	545,692	507,322
Expendable			
Scholarships & fellowships	374,291	430,709	454,890
Loans	195,482	263,435	258,769
Other	153,483	103,667	403,463
Capital projects	39,450	456,922	853,928
Debt service	11,740,654	11,010,938	10,974,462
Unrestricted	<u>(9,292,429)</u>	<u>(8,802,666)</u>	<u>(7,718,406)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>126,212,207</u>	<u>126,117,504</u>	<u>124,873,817</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Net Assets	<u>\$ 258,508,633</u>	<u>\$ 259,946,397</u>	<u>\$ 253,100,945</u>

For those charged with governance and internal management use only

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Six Months Ended DECEMBER 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Operating Revenues			
Student tuition and fees	\$ 25,453,422	\$ 25,300,025	\$ 26,323,598
Waivers and exemptions	(380,611)	(455,364)	(810,837)
Net student tuition and fees	25,072,811	24,844,661	25,512,761
Federal grants and contracts	4,094,856	4,304,268	4,429,262
State and local grants and contracts	665,787	515,085	468,636
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	250,098	479,423	429,387
Sales and services of educational departments	266,824	672,940	670,278
Auxiliary enterprises:			
Residential life (net of scholarship allowances)	3,385,585	5,240,868	5,822,572
Residential life- dining hall revenue	1,190,995	2,298,352	1,956,133
Administrative overhead	38,687	56,031	49,530
Fundraising	6,188	85,804	78,772
Commissions	398,022	375,875	202,975
Miscellaneous	27,797	5,320	3,252
Nursing and Perkins	2,689	15,948	15,111
Total Operating Revenues	35,400,339	38,894,575	39,638,669
Operating Expenses			
Salaries:			
Faculty	10,503,303	11,231,727	11,358,212
Exempt wages	2,236,526	2,335,475	2,003,645
Non-exempt wages	10,168,233	10,771,739	9,680,508
Benefits	7,784,994	7,781,649	7,704,985
Other Operating Expenses:			
Employee related travel	62,011	185,380	198,015
Administrative expense	1,220,557	1,269,051	1,069,623
Facility operational supplies	737,564	826,967	828,256
Utilities	1,343,572	1,484,517	1,370,660
Consultant services	794,851	650,707	650,322
Operational services	3,219,570	2,373,921	1,465,723
Equipment purchases	304,494	251,145	371,920
Equipment maintenance and repairs	216,561	397,545	379,107
Purchased client services-program	2,688	85,538	78,498
Construction and building improvement	808,666	674,871	875,809
Grants & Subsidies	33,750	50,213	38,899
Scholarships	4,804,605	5,386,694	5,418,074
Loans & special payments	62,684	368,368	(160,497)
IT expenditures	2,513,798	2,701,058	3,016,138
Depreciation	5,613,203	5,444,147	5,071,844
Bad debt expense	(21,928)	(8,589)	(17,632)
Auxiliary enterprises:			
Dining Hall Expenditure	1,022,377	2,172,375	1,948,470
Residential life	2,646,158	5,143,450	4,885,896
Total Operating Expenses	56,078,237	61,577,948	58,236,475
Operating profit/(loss)	(20,677,898)	(22,683,373)	(18,597,806)

For those charged with governance and internal management use only

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Six Months Ended DECEMBER 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Nonoperating Revenues(Expenses)			
State appropriations	22,487,193	22,453,607	21,229,365
Investment income (net of investment expenses)	508,544	476,490	446,607
Interest on capital debt	(801,168)	(982,607)	(1,095,906)
Unrealized gain/(loss)	<u>1,694,162</u>	<u>518,028</u>	<u>(1,083,035)</u>
Net Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>23,888,731</u>	<u>22,465,518</u>	<u>19,497,031</u>
Income (loss) before Capital and Endowment Additions	3,210,833	(217,855)	899,225
Capital appropriations	1,047,540	-	-
Capital grants and gifts	<u>126,459</u>	<u>126,459</u>	<u>586,458</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	4,384,832	(91,396)	1,485,683
Net Assets - beginning of period	<u>121,827,377</u>	<u>125,278,015</u>	<u>123,388,134</u>
Net Assets - end of period	<u>\$ 126,212,209</u>	<u>\$ 125,186,619</u>	<u>\$ 124,873,817</u>

For those charged with governance and internal management use only

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Six Months Ended DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Increase in net assets	\$ 4,384,832	\$ (91,398)	\$ 1,485,302
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to cash provided by (used by) operating activities:			
(Gain)/Loss on marketable securities	(778,042)	(518,028)	1,080,451
Depreciation	5,613,203	5,444,147	5,071,844
 (Increase) decrease in assets:			
Accounts receivable	61,533	(2,473,347)	(615,526)
Loans receivable	99,772	91,764	93,330
Other assets	110,211	147,953	268,859
 Increase (decrease) in liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,205,574	(1,680,893)	(936,410)
Compensated absences	503,742	246,788	283,271
Accrued faculty payroll	(1,605,485)	(1,185,868)	(670,806)
Deferred revenue	6,354,855	9,793,204	8,312,715
Other liabilities	<u>448,546</u>	<u>181,281</u>	<u>859,295</u>
 Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>16,398,741</u>	<u>9,955,603</u>	<u>15,232,325</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of investments	2,702,576	2,118,542	25,679
Purchase of investments	(4,424,189)	(2,690,422)	(193,491)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	<u>(3,625,325)</u>	<u>(3,845,716)</u>	<u>(4,172,004)</u>
 Net cash (used by) investing activities	<u>(5,346,938)</u>	<u>(4,417,596)</u>	<u>(4,339,816)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Federal loan program	16,944	12,681	8,354
Amortization of bond premium	(132,141)	(132,141)	(132,141)
Payments of capital debt	(255,611)	(255,611)	(255,611)
Payments of capital leases	<u>(124,387)</u>	<u>(124,387)</u>	<u>(124,387)</u>
 Net cash (used by) financing activities	<u>(495,195)</u>	<u>(499,458)</u>	<u>(503,785)</u>
 Net increase in cash	10,556,608	5,038,549	10,388,724
 Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of period	<u>35,460,968</u>	<u>39,645,667</u>	<u>36,112,248</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents - end of period	<u>\$ 46,017,576</u>	<u>\$ 44,684,216</u>	<u>\$ 46,500,972</u>
 Supplemental Disclosures:			
Cash paid for interest	<u>\$ 6,892</u>	<u>\$ 1,137,794</u>	<u>\$ 1,129,579</u>

For those charged with governance and internal management use only

Cover Sheet

News Articles

Section: VIII. President's Report
Item: I. News Articles
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: News Clips for Jan 2021.pdf

LOCAL NEWS

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LEADING BY EXAMPLE AWARDS

FSU's green efforts honored

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University was honored at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' 14th annual Leading by Example Awards for outstanding public sector energy and environmental efforts, according to a release from the university.

The university was among eight Massachusetts state agencies, public higher education institutions, municipalities, and public sector individuals recognized by the Baker-Polito Administration on Dec. 18 for their leadership in promoting initiatives that reduce energy costs and environmental impacts.

Fitchburg State was recognized for a host of sustainability efforts across campus, including completion of an extensive energy project with DCAMM resulting in elimination of #6 oil combustion on campus and an expected \$9 million in lifetime energy cost savings, achieving LEED Silver Certification for three buildings, comprehensive recycling and waste diversion programs resulting in over 40% of food waste being diverted, installing their first EV charging

FSU » 8A

FSU

FROM PAGE 3A

station in 2019, and more.

"Our state agencies, schools, and municipalities are making tremendous efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower operating costs and I'm proud to recognize their consistent, meaningful work today," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "I commend the awardees recognized today for their commitment to making the Commonwealth a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable place to live."

"Massachusetts remains a national leader in clean energy and energy efficiency because of the efforts of state and local leaders who work tirelessly to put climate change at the forefront of their work," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "Whether it's installing a solar array on a closed landfill, or expanding electric vehicle charging, these individual and group efforts help to advance the state towards our ambitious climate and energy goals."

Fitchburg State President Richard Lapidus accepted the award at the virtual ceremony.

"Our efforts at Fitchburg State span several campus buildings and operations, including replacing dirty fuels with renewable or cleaner alternatives; green construction and renovation projects; reducing electricity use across buildings; diverting food waste; and communicating with members of our community the importance of the work we are all doing," Lapidus said. "Most of the work we have done may not be readily visible to the campus community, as it has taken place behind walls, underground, and within building systems. But all of it is having an impact on moving us forward toward reaching our sustainability goals. That work is shared across departments and represents a truly comprehensive commitment to sustainability."

Lapidus singled out Vice President for Finance and

Administration Jay Bry, Director of Environmental Health and Safety & Risk Management Leah Fernandes and Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration Mary Beth McKenzie for their leadership in the university's sustainability efforts.

Awardees were honored for policies and programs that advanced substantial energy and emissions reductions, sustainable landscaping practices, renewable energy installations, energy efficiency, waste minimization, electric vehicle infrastructure, and a host of initiatives that reduce environmental impacts and costs for state and municipal operations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's award ceremony was held virtually.

The Leading by Example program is administered by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and works collaboratively with state agencies and public colleges and universities to advance clean energy and sustainable practices that reduce the environmental impacts of state government operations. Cities and towns across the Commonwealth receive similar support and grant funding through DOER's Green Communities Division. The awards were presented by Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Undersecretary Judy Chang, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, and Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) Commissioner Carol Gladstone.

In addition to Fitchburg State, the University of Massachusetts Medical School was recognized in the higher education category. Other awards were presented to: the city of Woburn; the town of Egremont; the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Facilities; the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division; Larry Sullivan from the Town of Norfolk; and Paul Antoniewicz from the state Trial Courts.

To learn more about the Leading by Example program, visit mass.gov/leading-by-example-program.

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FITCHBURG STATE

'Moving to College' to help homeless students

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University will support homeless students as part of the commonwealth's "Moving to College" scholarship program, designed to support unaccompanied homeless youth from the state as they embark on a college degree.

Scholarships for up to 20 students are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Moving to Work program administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, with additional support provided by the Department of Higher Education, the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Commission and participating campuses, according to the university.

In addition to Fitchburg State, participants include Mount Wachusett Community College; Berkshire Community College; Framingham State University; Massachusetts Bay Community College; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; North Shore Community College; and Salem State University.

"We are proud to lend our in-

FSU » 6A

FSU

FROM PAGE 3A

stitutional support to this effort that will open doors of opportunity to students," Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus said. "Access and affordability are among our core institutional values, and we look forward to helping bring a college degree within reach for the students in this program."

What's Covered?: Year-round, on-campus housing; meal plans; case management and other support services.

What's Not Covered?: Tuition and fees; books and supplies; transportation; and student eligibility.

Other criteria include:

- Must be Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) income eligible. HCV uses 50% AMI for Individual Income limits. Guideline details can be found at: HUD User: Income Limits page.

- Must meet HUD's definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth or have recently aged out of foster care and meet HUD's criteria of an independent student.

- Provide a letter verifying homelessness written by applicant's school district's homeless liaison or service provider.

- Must be a US citizen (requirement because scholarships are paid using federal dollars).

Other Requirements:

- Applicant must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Applicant must provide proof of enrollment at a participating institution no later than July 1.

- Applicant must maintain full-time enrollment

For more details and application information, visit <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html>.

(12 or more credits) in a degree-seeking program and maintain passing grades in order to be eligible for a renewed scholarship. In some instances, campuses may grant a waiver to a student who, for a variety of reasons, may need to temporarily reduce his/her/ their course load.

- While there is no GPA requirement, students must maintain academic and behavioral standing as defined by the campuses where they are enrolled and (if different) reside.

- Applicant must agree to meet regularly with a member of the Moving to College support team to develop academic year, summer and post-graduation plans.

- Applicant is required to choose one of the following options during summer terms: 1. remain enrolled in at least two courses, 2. work full-time, or 3. enroll in one course and work part-time.

- Applications for the program are due March 1.

For more details and application information, visit <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html>.

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FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University nursing student Krista Flemming is shown in the nursing lab learning on a 'manikin.'

ALDEN TRUST BOOSTS NURSING LAB BY \$100G

Submitted Article

Funds will help buy technical equipment

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University's nursing simulation laboratory will receive \$100,000 worth of improvements thanks to a grant from

the George I. Alden Trust.

The funds will support the purchase of essential technical equipment that will assist nursing students in learning critical

thinking and clinical judgment skills in preparation for their health care careers.

University President Richard S. Lapidus said the Alden Trust

funds will enhance the capacity of Fitchburg State's simulation lab, including an upgraded audio-visual system and related

FSU » 6A

FSU

FROM PAGE 3A

programming for its "manikins," as the lifelike patient simulators are known.

The investment will allow students to enhance their clinical skills at a time when the ongoing pandemic is making it harder for students to find clinical placements.

Fitchburg State's existing simulation lab re-

'This project will positively impact our students...'

— Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus

mains in use, but will be enhanced and expanded over the next two years.

"In these unprecedented times, the university

transforming educational leadership to the communities in North Central Massachusetts," Lapidus said.

"This project will positively impact our students and the thousands of lives that our nurses will care for in the future," he said.

"We are extremely grateful to the Alden Trust for their investment in ensuring our students continue to have access to the best training and equipment available," Lapidus added.

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COLLABORATION WITH HUSSON UNIVERSITY

Students at FSU can now streamline degrees

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Students at Fitchburg State University can now take advantage of new collaborations with Husson University in Maine that will allow them to complete two degrees in less time, according to a release from the university.

They can complete their bachelor's degrees in biology or chemistry along with a doctor of pharmacy degree, or their bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science along with a doctor of physical therapy degree, on an accelerated schedule. This will save students a full year of study.

"This collaboration underscores Fitchburg State's commitment to creating opportunities for students, laying achievable academic paths toward rewarding careers," said Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus. "We are grateful for the collaboration with Husson to open these doors for our students."

"This agreement is providing students with a clear trajectory

FSU

FROM PAGE 3A

for education beyond their bachelor's degree," said Husson University President Robert A. Clark, PhD, CFA. "We appreciate the opportunity to work with Fitchburg State. Creating a seamless transition from a bachelor's program at Fitchburg State to a doctoral program at Husson will save students both time and money."

Under terms of the agreement, students will be eligible to enroll in the accelerated programs while freshmen at Fitchburg State.

Students' first three years will follow specific programs of study, after which qualifying students will continue in a doctoral

Students' first three years will follow specific programs of study, after which qualifying students will continue in a doctoral program at Husson.

program at Husson.

At Husson, their first year's credits can be applied toward the Bachelor of Science in biology or chemistry (for the Doctor of Pharmacy program) or exercise and sports science (for DPT program).

Sentinel & Enterprise

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

\$2.00

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FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Commencement's on, online, for 2020 grads

Two virtual ceremonies set for this week

Staff Report

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University will celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2020 with several virtual commencement ceremonies this week.

"We are honored to recognize the singular accomplishments of these graduates, who have completed their degrees despite unprecedented challenges," FSU President Richard Lapidus said. "Every university graduate must balance the demands of their studies and external factors, but the Class of 2020 had to contend with all of those as well as a global pandemic. They truly embody the university's motto of 'perseverance,' and we are proud to honor them."

The university will have a virtual ceremony for May 2020 graduates at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and a virtual ceremony for December 2020 graduates at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

The graduates' names will be shared in individual virtual ceremonies according to the university's academic schools: School of Arts and Sciences; School of Business and Technology; School of Education; and the School of Health and Natural Sciences

The virtual ceremonies will include remarks from the corresponding undergraduate valedictorians from May and December, as well as the recipients of the Graduate Student Leadership Award for each semester.

Lapidus will deliver the keynote com-

FSU » 8A



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University's May 2020 Valedictorian Stanley L. Choruzek will deliver remarks in a virtual ceremony for graduates at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

FSU

FROM PAGE 1A

commencement address at each ceremony.

For the May 2020 ceremony, Valedictorian Stanley L. Choruzek, who earned a computer information systems degree and lives in Lancaster, will deliver remarks, as will Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Paul Thibodeau, who earned a Master of Science degree in counseling and is from Royalston.

For the December 2020 ceremony, Valedictorian Caroline Anderson, who earned an environmental and earth science degree and is from Lunenburg, will deliver remarks, as will Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Michelle Tilden, who earned a Master of Education in occupational education and is from West Wareham.

Additional details about the ceremonies, as well as links to watch the proceedings, will be posted at fitchburgstate.edu/commencement.

Choruzek is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who enlisted as soon as he was old enough in order to join the War on Terror. When an injury during training kept him from being deployed, he turned his attention to being a full-time father while earning a college degree. He began studying liberal arts and appreciated the foundation of critical thinking it fostered.

The Worcester native graduated from Mount Wachusett Community College in 2017 and then attended Fitchburg State. In addition to his studies, he worked on campus for Information Technology. He also appreciated the diversity of students he met on campus, including fellow veterans.

Looking ahead, Choruzek sees parallels in the computer networks he helped support and the human networks that sustain all of us.

Choruzek hopes to transfer his new degree in computer information systems into a career in cybersecurity. His drive to serve and protect his fellow citizens has led him to the virtual front lines, where hackers try to interfere with social networks or elections.

Thibodeau has faced many challenges in his life but still considers his a blessed existence. After years of drug and alcohol addiction, Thibodeau got sober 25 years ago and is now committed to helping others overcome their own challenges.

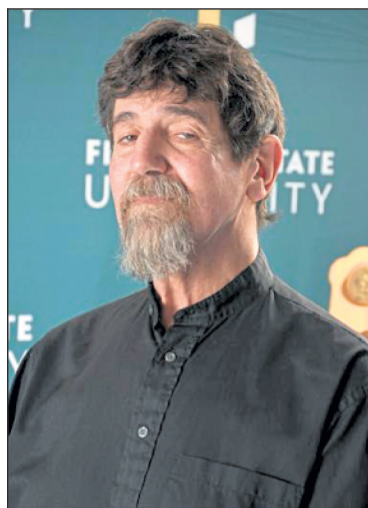
After completing his undergraduate degree in human services from Fitchburg State in 2015, Thibodeau continued his studies at the graduate level in the hopes of building a career in counseling. Those plans were interrupted after a horrific car crash in 2017 that shattered his femur and left him with a traumatic brain injury.

Despite those challenges, Thibodeau considers his a blessed life. He believes he has survived so that he can help others overcome their own adversities.

In nominating Thibodeau for the graduate award, faculty members saluted his resilience and his commitment to continuing his studies despite the challenges created by the accident — including delaying his graduation by a full year.

Thibodeau now works as a counselor for Fitchburg-based social services agency Making Opportunity Count and looks forward to getting his a license to practice on his own.

Anderson is graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average



Fitchburg State University's May 2020 Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Paul A. Thibodeau.

and a record of significant scholarship and academic achievement at Fitchburg State University.

Anderson's passion for the world around her is reflected in her major of environmental and earth science with a minor in chemistry. She has a deep interest in climate change and its impacts on the ocean.

As an undergraduate, Anderson was among the first cohort of students to participate in a grant-funded summer research program in which she worked with peers and faculty members on projects related to the local environmental and community health. The following summer, Anderson returned to the program as a peer mentor to the second cohort of researchers.

She has presented original research at conferences across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico, and interned with professor Jane Huang on a project for the Worcester County Overdose Death Response Initiative Project, an effort begun by the Worcester District Attorney's Office in response to the opioid crisis.

Anderson was also the valedictorian of her graduating class at St. Bernard's Catholic High School in Fitchburg, where she was awarded the Rensselaer Medal for excellence in math and science.

Following graduation, Anderson is pursuing graduate school to continue her studies in oceanography.

Tilden is a career educator, having worked with diverse learners for nearly 30 years. Since 2002, she has taught early education at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School in Franklin, where her students are training for employment in the field of human services.

Like many graduate students, Tilden had to balance personal and professional challenges with her scholastic demands. She overcame these hardships to complete her degree and graduates with a Master of Education in occupational education.

In being nominated for this award, Tilden's adviser cited numerous contributions to her field, including bringing students to the national SkillsUSA conference where they won fourth place. The experience led her to be one of the lead advisers for many years. She continues to coach individuals and teams of students from the early education program.

At her school, Tilden has shown herself to be a leader through service on numerous committees and training projects.

She is the vocational representative for a team of teachers and administrators who work together on bettering the educator evaluation process in their district.



Fitchburg State University's December 2020 Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Michelle A. Tilden.

The stated vision for this evaluation process is to embrace a collaborative coaching model of evaluation with an emphasis on reflective practices to promote individual and school development and growth, recognizing individual strengths and contributions consistent with continuous school improvement and the school's core values.



PHOTOS COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University's December 2020 Valedictorian Caroline Anderson will speak during a virtual ceremony for December 2020 graduates at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Fitchburg State University grad list

FSU graduates for the May and December 2020 commencement are:

Ashburnham: Amanda M. Allen, MBA, Business Administration; Adam R. Goguen, BS, Business Administration; Karin O. Gould, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Jack A. Halliday, BS, Psychological Science; Johnathan A. Levesque, BS, Industrial Technology; Sarah E. Robbins, MED, Special Education; Michelle M. Salvucci, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; and Travis W. Stewart, BS, English Studies

Ashby: Ashley M. Gravelle, MED, Special Education; Ashley M. Gravelle, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; Kristina Ruhnau, BA, Biology; and Kelsie L. Twombly, MBA, Business Administration

Ayer: Rebecca L. Ernst, BS, English Studies; Angela M. Gill, MED, Special Education; and Michelle E. Scott, MED, Curriculum and Teaching

Fitchburg: Iba S. Algarin, BSE, Business Administration; Patrick Babineau, BS, Nursing, RN to BS; Carlington C. Clarke, BS, Exercise and Sports Science; Lucia M. Collette, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; Nicholas G. Cormier, BS, Industrial Technology; Eric D. Desgroseillers, BS, Psychological Science; Tiffany Dilling, MBA, Business Administration; Edwin J. Feliz, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Kerryn S. Fitzpatrick, BS, Human Services; Alissa C. Frederick, MED, Special Education; Dakota P. Gates, BS, Human Services; Helena J. Jackson, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Cole R. Johnson, BS, Business Administration; Jennifer L. Jones, MBA, Business Administration; Nydia Y. Leger, MED, Education 5-12; Zi Lin, MS, Computer Science; Nicole M. Maille, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Sara M. Moller, MA, English; Christie M. Mullen, MED, Special Education; Alondra Y. Pedraza, MED, Early Childhood Education; Rachel M. Perrault, BS, Biology; Jonathan M. Prescott, BA, History; Hayley Remillard, MBA, Business Administration; Florencia J. Rivas,

BS, Criminal Justice; Alex V. Rodriguez, MBA, Business Administration; Christina M. Rodriguez, BA, Biology; Bob A. Williams, BS, History; and Jasmine L. Yang, MBA, Business Administration

Gardner: Sadie R. Brehio, MBA, Business Administration; Amanda Brown, MBA, Business Administration; Glenn Butler, BS, Business Administration; Jason Carl, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Moses Gomez, BS, Biology; Kayleigh E. Laughlin, MED, Special Education; Tami M. Morin, BS, Business Administration; Nathan R. Oliva, BS, Criminal Justice; Connor M. Puchol, BS, Industrial Technology; Rebecca L. Therrien, MED, Special Education; and Emilia M. Torres, BS, Human Services

Lancaster: Amber N. Gustafson, MED, Special Education; Andrew Martinez, BS, Comp Info Systems; Matthew T. Mason, BS, Business Administration; and Nicole S. Visaggio, MS, Forensic Nursing

Leominster: Orlando P. Acero, BS, Business Administration; Nicholas M. Allain, BS, Psychological Science; Guelmari Alvarado, BS, Business Administration; David R. Barry, BS, Business Administration; Kaylin M. Basso, BSE, Early Childhood Education; Samantha M. Battaini, MED, Special Education; Victoria Berko, BS, Biology; Debra J. Bettencourt, MED, Special Education; Tyler D. Brandt, BS, Criminal Justice; Brennan E. Cuddahy, BS, Business Administration; Catherine R. Djerbaka, MED, Special Education; Cassidy A. Edwards, BSE, Early Childhood Education; Alyssa M. Fay, BS, Business Administration; Paula S. Fuentes, BS, Human Services; Emily A. Gianakis, BS, History; Zachary P. Grautski, BS, Human Services; Mary Lively, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Stefanie L. Loebertman, MBA, Business Administration; Jordan D. Long, BSE, Special Education; Elizabeth D. Marquis, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; James E. McKenna, MS, Criminal Justice; Elizabeth M. McNiff, BS, Business Administration; Peace

K. Mecha, BS, Psychological Science; Iddriss Mutari, BS, Comp Info Systems; Allie M. Pandiscio, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Derek B. Patno, MED, Special Education; Catherine M. Puskas, BS, Human Services; Mark A. Ramos, BS, Communications Media; Joseph A. Rand, BS, Computer Science; Alexa J. Russo, BS, Psychological Science; Frances L. Santos, MBA, Business Administration; Shauna M. Soroka, MBA, Business Administration; Emily R. Thibodeau, MED, Early Childhood Education; Olivia L. Tonry, BS, Psychological Science; Paula J. Valiton, MED, Early Childhood Education; Pithy Vann, BS, Business Administration; and Ciara K. Whitney, BSE, Elementary Education 1-6

Lunenburg: Caroline Anderson, BS, Environmental & Earth Science; Emily L. Bodkin, BS, Communications Media; Shannon L. Creedon, BS, Communications Media; Paul R. Della Valle, MED, Special Education; Zachary R. Haas, BS, Business Administration; Kelly A. Harvey, MED, Special Education; Michael R. Jeffreys, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Kerry E. O'Gorman, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Sofia M. Selme, BS, Business Administration; Rebecca F. Wilson, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; and Danae Young, MBA, Business Administration

Shirley: Michael K. Brown, MBA, Business Administration

Sterling: Jillian Gawlik, MED, Special Education

Townsend: Kianna M. Dutton, BS, Business Administration; Teresa Marshall Bradbury, MBA, Business Administration; Juan R. Orta, MBA, Business Administration; and Kathryn J. Schatia, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies

Westminster: Krushauna C. Bartkus, BS, Biology; Taylor M. Bourgeois, BS, Communications Media; Ebony L. Martin Early, BSE, Childhood Education; Alyssa C. Reynolds, MED, Special Education; Janet C. Smith, CAGS, Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Katharine C. Sparks, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; and Yvonne J. Wandless, BS, Bio

HIGHER EDUCATION

FSU releases names of winter commencement grads

Staff Report

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University's winter commencement ceremonies included graduates whose degrees were conferred in August.

Their names were not included in the list published earlier this week in the Sentinel & Enterprise. Those graduates are as follows:

Ashburnham: Natalie E. Arsenault, BS, Business Administration; Madison R. Tocci, BS, Exercise and Sports Science; and Symantha M. Vallee, BA, Biology

Ashby: Kristina M. Baker, BS, Business Administration; Megan J. Drummond, MBA, Business Administration; and Mitchel Plamon-

don, MBA, Business Administration

Ayer: Zachary W. Connell, BS, Communications Media; Stephen A. Ferreira, MBA, Business Administration; Andrew J. Gower, MS, Criminal Justice; and Douglas Phillips, MBA, Business Administration

Fitchburg: Andrew J. Allen, BS, Communications Media; Moise Calypso, BS, Criminal Justice; Khianna N. Del Valle, BS, Biology; Rebecca A. Goodlett, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; Ashley L. Goodman, BS, Psychological Science; Zachary D. Lapidus, BS, Game Design; Nicole Maldonado, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; David T. Oster, MBA, Business Administration; and Ashley M. Tarckini, CERG, Applied Behavior

Analysis Cert

Gardner: Samantha G. Haskins, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; Alisha E. Pierce, MED, Special Education; and Alisha E. Pierce, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert

Lancaster: Lea N. Lafond, MED, Early Childhood Education

Leominster: Lekan R. Akeju, MBA, Business Administration; Julia L. Bonica, BS, Biology; Nolan J. Brassard, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Jessica M. Caouette, BSE Elementary Education 1-6; Richard J. Christian, MBA, Business Administration; Carissa Ciccone, BS, Industrial Technology; Gianna M. Cordio, BS, Business Administration; Andrew J. Cornacchia, BS, Psychological Science; Pat-

rick A. Dolan, MBA, Business Administration; Katie P. Doughty, BS, Biology; Angela Douthwright, BSE, Early Childhood Education; Adeola A. Fasan, BS, Biology; Cheyenne L. Frost, BS, Business Administration; Michael Gauthier, BS, Game Design; Danielle M. Hebert, MBA, Business Administration; Matilda Kola, BS, Business Administration; Rebecca L. Leblanc, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Ethan P. McCaffrey, BS, Geographic Sci & Technology; Nathan J. Monat, MBA, Business Administration; Kyle M. Paskvan, BS, Criminal Justice; Courtney E. Powell, CAGS, Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Luis X. Reveron, BS, Political Science; Nicole T. Rooney, MED, Curriculum and

Teaching; Christopher C. Turner, MED, Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Jayson R. Urato, MS, Criminal Justice; Matthew D. Valeri, MBA, Business Administration; and Danielle E. Waseleski, BS, History

Lunenburg: Gerald J. Lane, BS, Computer Science

Shirley: Justine A. Carrillo, BA, Interdisciplinary Studies; Cecilia P. Somes, MBA, Business Administration; Tyler J. Warila, BS, Business Administration

Sterling: Kevin A. Chabot, BS, Business Administration; Katherine M. O'Malley, MED, Special Education; Ashley L. Rodgers, MBA, Business Administration; and Coral M. Stephenson, MED, Arts Education

Townsend: Matthew C. Beal, MS, Criminal Justice;

Karen A. DiStasio, MA, Biology; Tyler D. Dodge, BA, Interdisciplinary Studies; Eammon R. Gosselin, MA, English; Erinn B. Melus, BS, Mathematics; Erinn B. Melus, BS, Environmental & Earth Science; and Matthew T. Russell, MA, History

West Townsend: Rachel Nadworny, MS, Counseling

Westminster: Mackenzie H. Aveni, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; Mark K. Brillon, MBA, Business Administration; Haley L. DeCarlo, BS, Business Administration; Susan A. Keddy, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; Taylor E. Nelson, BS, Nursing - BS; Micayla J. Varieur, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; and Micayla J. Varieur, MED, Special Education.

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FSU PRODUCTION

Students take on current issues

'Our Reckoning' available online

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » This fall, despite being in a pandemic-ridden semester, the Fitchburg State University Communications Media Department is saying, "On with the show!"

The production of "Our Reckoning" speaks for itself, in that it faces the issues of today

FSU » 6A

FSU

FROM PAGE 3A

head-on. The show's individual pieces, which are mostly student-written and student-performed, aim to focus on issues surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement, PTSD, struggles with academia with ADHD, our current coronavirus pandemic and mental illness, among other important issues.

Director and professor Mary Vreeland says about the show that it is about the notion that we have to come to a collective or personal reckoning with these important issues.

The compounding stress of them weighs heavy on us, so the production is aimed to enlighten audience members on the issues and give them the strength to face them.

Professor Kelly Morgan also said the show offers opportunities to serve students professionally, but also serve the student body. This production aims to further the audience's own understandings/dialogues, and help alleviate their own stresses and create a larger sense of community awareness.

The students and performers are excited to share their voices to spread their messages and



MATTHEW BRUUN / COURTESY OF FSU

awareness across the campus community. For many, the pieces they are performing are personal to themselves, and want to connect with others and raise their voices as well. For Fernando "JC" Santiago, who has experienced racism from both sides, or Freddie "Susan" Timmons, who is a survivor and an LGBT+ individual, among others, their pieces

may have been in similar situations, and ask for them to listen and reach out in turn.

While the show was meant to hold an in-person audience, for safety reasons the decision was made to record, edit and post the video of the performances online for a broader audience to view. The video will be live at <https://vimeo.com/user98628342> until Nov. 16.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Virus spike prompts big changes

College switching to remote learning, closing dorms

The changes were announced after consultation with local officials and public health professionals. The university will switch to remote instruction – with the exception of a small number of pre-approved face-to-face classes – no later than Saturday, Nov. 21.

Staff Report

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University will close its residence halls and switch to remote

learning for most of its courses later this month in response to a spike of COVID-19 cases in the city.

“These steps are being taken as a direct result of a steep rise in

COVID-19 infections in the city of Fitchburg and the surrounding areas,” President Richard Lapidus said in a memo to the campus community on Thursday morning. “This increase in infec-

tion rate has begun to impact our campus. The state’s ‘Stop the Spread’ program will soon be implemented in Fitchburg as a means of working toward curtailing new infections.”

FSU » 8A



JOHN LOVE / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus at a press conference last year. He praised the campus community’s response to the pandemic, stating, ‘Though every positive COVID-19 case is one too many, because of your efforts, we have been able to keep the number of positive cases on campus small among our students, faculty, and staff.’

FSU

FROM PAGE 1A

Since the campus opened in late August, the university has tested its employees, staff, faculty and students nearly 6,000 times and until two weeks ago, had only four confirmed infections.

However, in the last two weeks, an additional 12 members of the campus community have tested positive, according to information the university’s COVID-19 dashboard.

Residence halls will close for the semester at midnight Nov. 22. Students in pre-approved, face-to-face classes and those approved due to extenuating circumstances may remain in the residence halls. Additional information was being shared with residential students, including adjustments to housing and dining charges. The university is continuing its weekly COVID-19 testing protocol and invited students to take advantage of testing prior to any Thanksgiving-related travel. The spring semester will start one week later than originally planned, with classes beginning Jan. 25. The spring recess scheduled for March has been canceled, though four “wellness days” have been added to the academic schedule.

In his memo to the campus, President Lapidus praised the university community’s response.

“The COVID-19 safety of all.”

Residence halls will close for the semester at midnight Nov. 22. Students in pre-approved, face-to-face classes and those approved due to extenuating circumstances may remain in the residence halls.

ic, while challenging and stressful for all, has also demonstrated the outstanding character and caring nature of our campus community,” Lapidus said. “People have shown compassion, empathy, and a heightened sense of responsibility for the well-being of others. I am proud that so many members of our community have stepped-up and acted in a safe and responsible manner this semester.

“Though every positive COVID-19 case is one too many, because of your efforts, we have been able to keep the number of positive cases on campus small among our students, faculty, and staff,” Lapidus continued. “By further de-densifying our campus, we are better able to preserve the

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Friday, November 13, 2020

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Fitchburg State to finish term remotely

By **Scott O'Connell**
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

FITCHBURG – Citing the worsening virus trend, Fitchburg State University on Thursday announced it will close its campus a month ahead of schedule this semester.

Originally Fitchburg State's plan was to bring students back to campus after Thanksgiving break to finish out the semester, which ends mid-December. Residence halls were scheduled to close for the winter break on Dec. 17.

According to a memo the school's president, Richard Lapidus, sent to staff and students Thursday morning, Fitchburg State now will move most classes to remote formats by Nov. 21, and close dorms to all but a few approved students by Nov. 22.

"These steps are being taken as a direct result of a steep rise in COVID-19 infections in the city of Fitchburg and the surrounding areas," Lapidus said. "This increase in infection rate has begun to impact our campus."

According to the university's COVID-19 data dashboard, there were 12 positive tests on campus for the week ending Nov. 8; two of those individuals are in isolation.

Since Fitchburg State began running tests in late August, there have been 16 positive COVID cases in total.

The university still plans to reopen campus for in-person learning and living on Jan. 25 for the start of the spring semester, but that date is one week later than previously scheduled. Fitchburg State leadership also has eliminated spring break this year, and instead scheduled four "wellness days" throughout the semester.

This semester, there were approximately 1,000 students living on campus, only 150 of whom will be allowed to stay through December, according to a university representative.

In his message, Lapidus credited students and staff for following COVID prevention protocols while

See **FITCHBURG, A7**



FITCHBURG – A sign of support seen at Fitchburg State University as daffodils bloom on an empty campus Thursday, April 16. [T&G STAFF/ASHLEY GREEN]

FITCHBURG

From Page A1

on campus this fall.

"Though every positive COVID-19 case is one too many, because of your efforts, we have been able to keep the number of

positive cases on campus small among our students, faculty, and staff," he said. "By further de-densifying our campus, we are better able to preserve the health and safety of all."

Scott O'Connell can be reached at Scott.O'Connell@telegram.com. Follow him on Twitter [@ScottOConnellTG](#)

OPINION

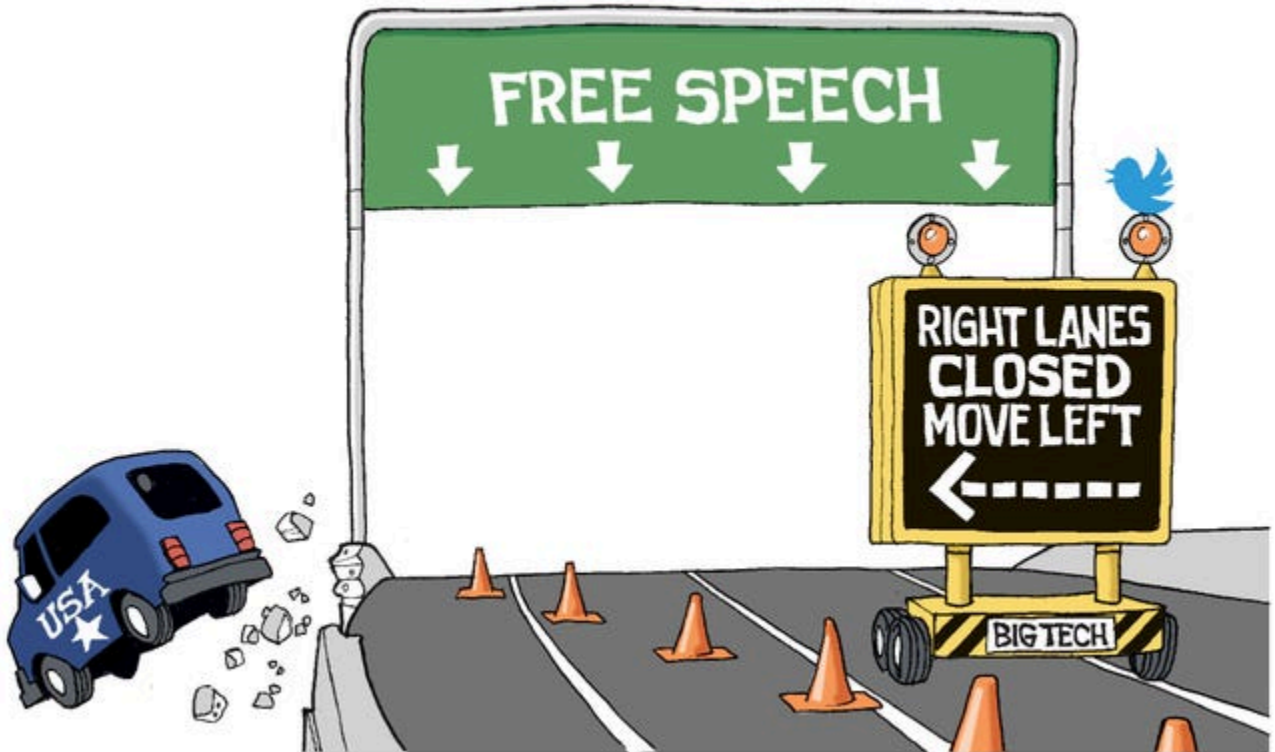
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Published 5:00 a.m. ET Jan. 17, 2021 | Updated 10:03 a.m. ET Jan. 17, 2021

Moody: Internet conspiracy theories have consequences. Here's what we can do about them

Kyle Moody

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This week was a sobering one for the American people. Between the violent attempted coup of the government, and the decision by large social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to remove outgoing impeached President Donald Trump, we have experienced much as a nation. Unless we

address our nation's issues with conspiracy theories and social media, these problems are only going to get worse.

The Americans that flooded into our nation's capital and caused destruction that left five people dead were not acting based on factual information. Rather, they were incited by frequent exposure to conspiracy theories online, and now we are seeing the consequences of this misinformation pooling around our democracy.

What comes next is going to be based on a combination of actions: our own individual and collective responses, and those belonging to Big Tech platforms like Facebook and Twitter. We can fight these conspiracy theories, but it's going to take action on all of our parts.

It's important to know why these conspiracy theories emerged. A conspiracy theory is a way to explain events that credits a small group of powerful persons, the conspirators, acting in secret for their own benefit, which goes against the common good. If you've been online at any point during the past five years, you've probably heard of conspiracy theories such as the Deep State, where a cabal of secret government workers – including President-Elect Joseph Biden – are dedicated to overturning the will of right-wing leaders such as President Trump.

Perhaps you've heard of related conspiracies such as PizzaGate, which posits that liberal government officials like former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton used a Washington D.C. pizzeria as a front for child trafficking. Maybe you even believe the intricacies of the delusional gamification of the QAnon conspiracy, where Donald Trump is actually toiling to expose the Deep State as child-molesting cannibals that are trying to overtake the country. These are patently false, but their very spreadable nature came about as a result of misinformation spread across platforms to gullible users.

As social media and technological changes grow at a rapid pace with shifts in political and social culture, the massive scale of these changes can become

overwhelming. Proportionality bias is one such way of understanding these changes, where such varying changes can be explained by equally huge causes. In this case, the creation of a fictional Deep State that is doing the bidding of “globalists” was one way that proportionality was used to wave away the shifts of society. The narrative presented by them wipes away their own culpability in the violence that transpired at our nation’s capital, and across our country.

What has been lacking throughout this administration is a solid application of media literacy by American citizens. This is infuriating to educators like myself, who provide skills to students and encourage critical thinking, research, and to identify news and information that they can trust as reliable. But the fact remains that our job will be a hard one in the coming years as we work to extricate ourselves from a glut of misinformation across the fabric of society, where users both old and young are enticed by false information narratives that appeal to their values.

There is value in learning about the information we consume on a regular basis. I regularly offer courses at Fitchburg State University on best practices for social media. Usually those include telling students of all ages that their best recourse for posting and sharing content is to slow down and check the veracity of the information they encounter.

Checking information on an independent fact-checking site like Snopes or Politifact is useful to make sure one is not engaging with false claims. Moreover, social media platforms are driven by speed and rapid information sharing. Slowing down allows us to better process the information critically and at a remove, and it requires us to take a step back. This personal strategy is a way of taking back control from conspiracy theories, which thrive on our inability to extricate ourselves from their fictive and fast-moving “reality.”

There are useful methods available to all of us when engaging with friends or loved ones that have been taken hold by conspiracy theories. Strategies for pulling them out of the disinformation abyss including talking with the person

and not the story they are parroting, or appealing to their sense of integrity, reason, and conscience.

Suggesting alternative information sources means we'll all need to examine our own habits of media consumption and bias, and thus need to expand our media diets. We have a plurality of beliefs in American society, and the onus is on us to learn where our friends and neighbors are getting their information. We will get there by improving our own collective media literacies.

Technical platforms also have a major role in shaping public discourse. This wasn't the only time the president has used his voice to rally his base into violent behavior. He was fond of his 88 million followers on the platform Twitter, which he used as his personal megaphone. Before and after the election, President Trump spread baseless conspiracy theories of voter fraud, falsely claiming the process was "rigged" and dedicated himself to overturning the results. On Friday, after nearly every other major social media platform has indefinitely suspended him for his role in inciting the attack on Washington, Twitter took the major step of banning the personal account of the president of the United States.

We will likely see more bans of accounts like this before the year – possibly even the week – is over. Social media platforms are facing continued scrutiny over their role in distributing misinformation and highlighting extremist posts that have caused violence during the Trump administration, and their role in our everyday information exchange cannot be denied.

Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube have benefitted from extreme right-wing media's migration from the airwaves to the internet, and now that the political winds in Washington are changing, we will see more of these tech giants look to regulate and reform their network policies to ensure that it never happens again – or that they can be held blameless.

We should collectively encourage this, as reformation on a massive scale is needed to make sure that publishers are held accountable for the lies and

violence they foment. After all, these were the sites where domestic terrorists were able to share lies that formed their ideologies; it's also where they organized and set up the "Stop the Steal" march that led to violence and death. Small wonder that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's famous slogan was "Move fast and break things."

The choices before us are simple: we must become more media literate as information consumers, and we must also hold these platforms to task for not acting sooner to mitigate the violence that they profited from while democracy grew more fragile.

We must encourage our legislators to begin engaging in discussions that will lead to new regulations on these platforms and hold them accountable for the misinformation that they have highlighted on their sites, including high-profile users and demagogues like Trump.

This needs to change, and soon. Only by becoming more engaged in our media consumption and distribution can we become a better citizenry.

Kyle Moody, Ph. D., is an associate professor of communications media at Fitchburg State University. He is an expert in online communities, media and information distribution, and social media production.

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

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FITCHBURG



COURTESY MATT BRUUN

From left, Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus, Dario's restaurant owners Elmer Melendez and Delmy Melendez, and Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale visit the future home of Dario's Ristorante at 655 Main St. Melendez anticipates the new restaurant opening in spring 2021.

DARIO'S RISTORANTE INVESTING IN DOWNTOWN

Popular eatery moving from River Street to 655 Main St.

By Matthew Bruun

FITCHBURG » Elmer Melendez looks at downtown Fitchburg and sees opportunity.

“I’ve been living in this area since 2005, and for some reason Main Street in Fitchburg has always captivated me,” he said. “As an immigrant, when I drive on Main Street I really

feel it’s New England.”

Melendez, who came to the U.S. from El Salvador, has had success with his local Dario’s restaurants, and this winter he will realize a long-held dream

by relocating his Fitchburg eatery from River Street to 655 Main St. A spring 2021 opening is anticipated.

“I see a lot of talk about

DARIOS » 8A

Darios

FROM PAGE 1A

Fitchburg's old days. That's good history, but why don't we talk about Fitchburg in 2025?" Melendez asked. "The only way to do that is we as a community — business owners, City Hall, institutions — we have to do something about it to be able to do it. I really believe this is a beautiful area. To me, Fitchburg has one of the most beautiful Main Streets for miles around."

Melendez said he's seen much stronger governmental support for local businesses, and combined with other investments on Main Street — like the renovation of City Hall and the Fitchburg State University Theater Block project — he sees a bright future.

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale said Dario's relocation builds on a strong public/private partnership in Fitchburg's Transformative Development Initiative district. The district includes major projects like the residential Fitchburg Arts Community now under construction, as well as the renovation of City Hall and Fitchburg State University's purchase and rehabilitation of the Main Street Theater Block.

The city has established a 0% revolving loan fund that is supported by Community Development Block Grant funds that is helping support projects like the Dario's move.

"I am thrilled to see Dario's relocating to Main Street," DiNatale said. "I know this undertaking is the result of much effort and planning, and I want to congratulate everyone who worked to make this a reality. Thank you, Elmer, for joining our partners and investing in the future of downtown. Dario's is a perfect dining experience that will help to make downtown a destination. I expect Dario's business will

continue to thrive."

"Dario's on Main will be a great addition to downtown Fitchburg, and complements Fitchburg State's investments in the heart of our city," University President Richard S. Lapidus said. "Our students are always looking for opportunities downtown, and Dario's could become a destination for visiting families as well as members of the campus community."

Ray Belanger and Jacqueline Mastrangelo of NewVue Communities worked with Melendez on his business plan and helped assemble a complex financing package to help turn his dream of a "showcase restaurant" in Fitchburg's central business district into a reality.

"It is so refreshing to work with an entrepreneur who exhibits the amount of passion for business, his customers, and for the revitalization of downtown Fitchburg," said Belanger, adding that Melendez and his wife, Delmy, have enhanced the neighborhoods in which their family-owned and operated businesses thrive.

"Inside their doors, the Dario's establishments reverberate with livelihood, simplicity and innovation; a modern, yet traditional setting in which conversation is king," Belanger said.

NewVue's work with small businesses in the region is funded in part by Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation.

Rick Boscardin and Jimmy Pappas, the property owners and developers of 655 Main St., have worked with Melendez the past two years on prospective downtown locations for Dario's.

"We are very pleased to have Elmer at this prominent location on Main Street where other investments are happening," Boscardin and Pappas said. "We believe Elmer's success as a regional restaurateur, his business acumen, and passion for Fitchburg is absolutely

the right fit for this location, and we are proud to have him in our building. We like getting stuff done and we have further plans for property development downtown," said the owner-developers."

Fitchburg Art Museum Executive Director Nick Capasso said Dario's on Main will help continue the revival of the city's core.

"The Fitchburg Art Museum looks forward to the opening of Dario's Restaurant on Main Street," Capasso said.

"Dario's will be a much-needed lunch and dinner venue for our Museum guests, and the growth of dining and retail establishments in In-town Fitchburg will be key to our efforts to create a state-sponsored downtown cultural district," he said.

Melendez was also supported by Athol Savings Bank in his expansion plans. In a statement, bank officials described Dario's as a well-established business. "We wish for the continued success for Elmer, Delmy and his team, and that his restaurant flourishes in its new location. Athol Savings Bank is committed to providing financing to local, profitable businesses with the goal of supporting local industry in the area."

MassDevelopment, operators of the TDI program, said Melendez's plans align with their objectives.

"MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) Fellow Francisco Torres has worked extensively with owner Elmer Melendez and other TDI partners to bring Dario's On Main to downtown Fitchburg — from scouting locations, to providing technical assistance, to delivering grant funding," said MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss. "This success highlights the unique value of our TDI program and its high-touch, collaborative, and multi-disciplinary approach to urban economic development. The project

represents a 'win' for downtown Fitchburg and the TDI partners, and we are thrilled to have been a part of it."

"This redevelopment project shows forward movement in our larger revitalization efforts within the Fitchburg TDI Arts and Culture District and the North of Main," said Jay Bry, Vice President of Finance and Administration at Fitchburg State University and Fiscal Agent for the Fitchburg TDI Arts and Culture District. "In addition to the public and non-profit sector capital projects underway, such as the University's Theater Block, City Hall, and the Fitchburg Arts Community, private sector projects such as Dario's Ristorante complement our overall goals for bringing more residents and visitors to Main Street."

"This project is an example of what can be accomplished when cities such as Fitchburg prioritize and deliver on collaborative partnerships," said ReImagine North of Main Director Joe Ferguson. "At every level of this project, from Elmer and the property development team, to the TDI partners involved with grant and technical assistance, this project is a testament to the value of partnership."

Melendez is exploring other restaurant ideas on Main Street, and sees a synergy from further development. "We need all kinds of eateries — you need fast food, different kinds of food, everything complements each other. People don't understand that. More restaurants will have Main Street have more appeal."

"I see Fitchburg having big potential, and I want to harvest this potential now," Melendez said. "I don't want to be a chaser — I want to be a pioneer."

Bruun composed and submitted this article for Fitchburg's ReImagine North of Main.

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FITCHBURG

Restored 1941 film shows city of yesteryear



COURTESY OF FSU

The public is invited to look at a curated selection of clips from footage shot in Fitchburg in 1941, introduced by professor Charles Roberts, and take part in a discussion led by Fitchburg Historical Society Executive Director Susan Navarre in a virtual event at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » In November 1941, a film crew came to the

city of Fitchburg to capture local faces and places for a “slice of life” film designed to be shown in local cinemas.

The footage went unseen for

years but has now been digitized and is in the midst of a meticulous restoration under the auspices of Fitchburg State University Professor Charles

Roberts from the Communications Media Department.

The public is invited to take a look at a curated selection of

FILM » 4A

Film

FROM PAGE 3A

clips from the footage introduced by Professor Roberts and take part in a discussion led by Fitchburg Historical Society Executive Director Susan Navarre in a virtual event at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Go to meet.google.com/ujn-otbf-tat to take part.

Navarre will set the context for how Fitchburg would see itself: how people presented themselves in public spaces like Main Street or at church, the

world of men and the world of women, and a glimpse into children’s lives at school and at play. In this Fitchburg Historical Society program, she will present a few stories drawn from the reminiscences, documents and artifacts of Fitchburg residents found at the Historical Society to accompany Professor Roberts’ extraordinary film digital remaster.

Funding for this project was generously provided by the Fitchburg State Alumni Association. The talk is presented as part of the Alumni Association’s Falcon Talks series.

Sentinel & Enterprise

Monday, January 11, 2021

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fitchburg history now on YouTube

By Cheryl A. Cuddahy
Correspondent

FITCHBURG » Years ago, there were programs about Fitchburg history on local television, one created by Joy Contois and the other created by Anne O'Connor.

They were a fitting sequel to the Fitchburg Historical Society's earliest educational projects, which were books on the history of Fitchburg and hour-long lectures on original research.

Because Fitchburg has been a center for education, culture and entertainment, as well as for industry and manufacturing, Susan Navarre, director of the Fitchburg Historical Soci-

ety, says their collections included the kind of surprising stories that make for interesting and educational TV programs.

"People loved them and learned a lot, and we have always thought it would be a good idea to create more television shows highlighting our collection," Navarre said. "Now that the COVID-19 pandemic has led us to close off our headquarters and library for in-person visits, it seemed a perfect time to start creating some shows again."

Navarre said that the wonderful thing is that since the society moved to the Phoenix Building on Main Street, they

HISTORY » 6A



PHOTOS COURTESY FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY; SCREENSHOT, AT LEFT

Susan Navarre, above, director of the Fitchburg Historical Society, announces the society's new project, which will feature the Fitchburg Historical Society's own YouTube channel. At left, Fitchburg State University Professor Charles Roberts helped present the first video, 'Fitchburg on Film in 1941,' of the Historical Society's new YouTube channel.

History

FROM PAGE 1A

have been creating exhibitions, talks and new publications that all feature new research and new documents, pictures and objects in their collection.

“In addition, we have been given many new collections in the last 10 years, because of our visibility on Main Street,” she added. “We are researching on those and working with the historians who have been researching here in recent years, to make their new ideas and research available to the public in an entertaining form on videos.”

Navarre is excited to say they have finished up another project that will feature the Fitchburg Historical Society’s own YouTube channel.

“This project could not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the society’s staff and volunteers,” Navarre said. “Many of our volunteers, or one-time community experts, like professors from Fitchburg State University who are used to doing Zoom recording and are helping out in their fields of expertise, are being filmed to create the programs. Board member Jessie Olson created the YouTube channel and is helping the society load content up onto it.”

Their first approach is to turn that new information into new shows and short films that they can share with the public on a YouTube channel.

“This way, people all over the world can connect with Fitchburg again,” Navarre said.

Another great benefit, she said, is that people who are not able to come out and see the society’s talks and exhibitions in person (in normal times) can take advantage of them from home.

“It has always been important to us that both people who live far away but still care about Fitchburg can connect with the city through us,” she said. “And people who are older or ill can use local history as a wonderful form of entertainment that is also very educational and thought provoking.”

The Fitchburg Historical Society will be sharing the television shows that they are making now as well as older videos and films that they have in their collection about Fitchburg history.

“The first two shows that we have loaded up are a ‘Falcon Talks’ talk created by Fitchburg State University Alumni Relations office with professor Charles Roberts and me,” Navarre said. “We will be discussing a fascinating movie filmed in Fitchburg in 1941, just before the attack on Pearl Harbor pulled the Unit

Another great benefit, Navarre said, is that people who are not able to come out and see the society’s talks and exhibitions in person (in normal times) can take advantage of them from home.

into World War II.”

Navarre credits Roberts’ creation of a new digital master of the film that “looks beautiful.”

“Also, as a film expert, he is able to analyze how the movie was made, who filmed it, etc. in a really fascinating way,” she said. “Since the program started airing, people have contacted us that they recognize people that you can see in the 1941 footage — it’s really exciting.”

The YouTube channel is now live, with two programs loaded so far. More are expected by mid-January.

“They can be watched at any time online,” she said.

Also, the new “I Remember When...with the Fitchburg Historical Society” television show can be watched on Fitchburg Access TV or on the society’s website at fitchburghistoricalsociety.com.

The show airs at 11 a.m. Mondays, 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, and plans are in the works to also load them up on the society’s YouTube channel, for added access.

Program funding is provided by the Fitchburg Historical Society members and donors to the Fitchburg Historical Society year-end appeal.

The project is also funded by a grant from NEH Cares program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Fitchburg Historical Society is also partly funded by grants from MassHumanities, Mass Cultural Council, Fitchburg Cultural Council and Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority.

“We are looking forward to sharing lots of Fitchburg history content there,” Navarre said. “We invite the community to visit us frequently and share with your friends and family. We figure that we are taking the lemons provided by the pandemic and making lemonade. And we hope it will be really delicious lemonade!”

The Fitchburg Historical Society is located at 781 Main St. in Fitchburg. For more information, call 978-345-1157 or visit fitchburghistoricalsociety.com

LOCAL

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Fitchburg State student-athlete shot dead in Tulsa

By Craig S Semon

Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

FITCHBURG — A first-year student at Fitchburg State University, a member of the school's football team, was fatally shot Friday night at a house party in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, according to authorities.

Desmond Clayton, 19, was shot multiple times and died at the hospital, Tulsa police said.

Matthew J. Bruun, director of public relations at Fitchburg State University, confirmed Clayton's status at the college.



Clayton

“Our campus community mourns the untimely passing of Desmond Clayton, a first-year student and member of our football team. We have been in touch with Desmond's family to offer our condolences and support during this difficult time, and we ask our entire community to keep his family and friends in their thoughts,” Bruun said in a statement.

FSU football coach Scott Sperone said Desmond was a confident and outgoing member of the team whose big personality would light up any room. In his first year as Fitchburg State's head football coach, Sperone called a virtual team meeting on Saturday morning and encouraged the players to support one another in these difficult times.

The university reminds students that counseling services staff are available to them as they process this tragedy.

According to the Tulsa Police Department, the shooting happened around 10 p.m. Friday at an Air BnB rental where a party was being held. Police said about 25 people were at the party at the time of the shooting.

Homicide detectives asked anyone with information that could help their investigation to call Tulsa Crime Stoppers at (918) 596-COPS. Calls are anonymous and callers may be eligible for a cash reward.

LOCAL NEWS

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FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Adult Learning sign up begins

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Brush up on

your conversational French or Spanish, learn about scientific principles that affect our daily lives,

get tips on how to de-clutter your life or learn how to play the ukulele through

FSU » 4A

FSU

FROM PAGE 3A

Fitchburg State University's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area (ALFA) program.

Registration is now open for ALFA's spring courses, which will be offered in remote format. Visitors may register online at marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa. Most courses are just \$40 (and free for students over age 90). ALFA is a lifelong learning institute that serves adult learners in

Fitchburg and the surrounding communities. ALFA is sponsored by the School of Graduate, Online, and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State University in collaboration with volunteer members of the community. We offer non-credit daytime classes, trips, special events, and a free speaker series. ALFA students are encouraged to volunteer and participate in program leadership and development, as well as social and recreational activities. A limited number of scholarships are available.

This spring's varied offerings include

for beginners, Native American basketry, an introduction to yoga, a guide to winter botany, and the history of folk music, along with classes on creative writing, the art and culture of Islam, ancient lore in modern times, and the cinema of Oscar-winning director Bong-Joon Ho, among many other topics. There will also be a free "Food for Thought" lecture on March 30 about abolitionism, emancipation and Civil War memory in Central Massachusetts in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries.

Powered by BoardOnTrack full list of pro-

grams, and information about the instructors and schedule, please visit fitchburgstate.edu/alfa.

Also, ALFA is always on the lookout for new instructors and new subject matter to share with its students. Anyone with a specialty that they think others would be interested in should contact the program directors at alfa@fitchburgstate.edu for details about becoming an ALFA instructor. Also, direct any questions to the ALFA office at 978-665-3706, or email at alfa@fitchburgstate.edu.