

Fitchburg State University Foundation, Inc.,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.
Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center
Minutes

Present: President Richard S. Lapidus, Jay Bry, Alberto Cardelle, Cindy Caroll, Nicholas DiNinno, Anthony Emerson, Eric Gregoire, Scott Foster, Rick Healey, John Mahan and Anthony Mercadante

Absent: Marc Bingham, David Celuzza, and Michael Montuori

Ex-Officio: Christopher Hendry

Also Attending: Steve Swartz and Carolyn Garrahan

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Richard S. Lapidus, who welcomed the board and introduced the newest directors; Dr. Nicholas DiNinno, Jr., John Mahan and Tony Mercadante.

Consideration of Minutes: President Lapidus asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2017 Foundation Board Meeting.

Upon a motion made by Scott Foster and seconded by Eric Gregoire, the directors voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2017 Foundation Board of Directors Meeting. (Request # FB 01-100417)

President's Goals: President Richard Lapidus explained that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees runs in tandem with the Foundation Board. He said that each year he proposes goals that are consistent with the campus strategic plan and are designed to support and strengthen the mission and vision. He discussed the following goals;

- Maintaining sound financial management and operational controls.
- Continuing to increase student enrollment.
- Initiating and completing searches for a business dean, executive director of the library and an admissions officer.
- Continuing the evaluation of the campus organizational structure and growing faculty and staff in support of the university mission.
- Overseeing ongoing capital projects and advocating for additional funding to address deferred maintenance and renovation needs.
- Continuing to strengthen university/community relationships.

Campus Updates: President Lapidus went on to share news of what is taking place on campus.

- Our enrollment numbers are strong with an expected 1100 incoming students from approximately 240 Massachusetts high schools. Students are also coming from 20 or more

states as well as international students from 26 different countries. President Lapidus commented that our campus is becoming more of a destination rather than just a regional option.

- We have received clean audits for fiscal year 16 and fiscal year 17.
- The work deficit is down by 47% resulting in cost saving efficiencies.
- NEASC evaluates our strategic plan on a ten year cycle. They are required to visit us at the five year half point. That visit took place last year and the President is confident that our next ten year visit will be favorable.
- Our Criminal Justice Program graduates hired by police departments are taking the burden of the cost of putting them through the police academy off of the departments.
- Our on-line programs numbers have been positive.
- New hires include Deans, a Vice President of Student Affairs and a Director of Marketing.
- The early retirement incentive proved successful resulting in salary savings and making way for new hires to come on board.
- The President spoke of capital projects taking place on campus such as the new Highland Avenue chiller which will provide air conditioning to older buildings on campus, the Information Technology department's upgrade of wireless service, and improvements to parking and snow removal.
- There is a strong interest in living on campus as more students express interest in the traditional 4 year college experience. We have purchased Simonds Hall and the Office of Residence Life reports full occupancy.

Presentation: Student Jobs:

- Steve Swartz, Chief Information Officer, spoke about a project he is working on that will help find jobs for students on campus. He said that President Lapidus asked him why students left campus on weekends. The President said that he often hears students talk about the vibrancy of the campus on weekends, and their desire to stay, but the necessity to return to jobs at home. Steve, in trying to come up with a solution thought of Carolyn Crowley Stimpson, owner of Mount Wachusett Ski Resort, who hires Mount Wachusett Community College Students. Steve tried to come up with a way to find something similar for FSU students. A website has been developed that is only available to FSU students. Local businesses are able to post job openings which are sent to our server for approval. Then students can upload their resumes.
- President Lapidus added that national statistics show that students who engage in campus life are more likely to stay in school, have higher gpa's and higher graduation rates. The President has reached out, visiting the chamber of commerce and the mayor to help find jobs for our students. He asked for suggestions of other local companies that we can approach.
 - Cindy Carroll suggested the downtown retail merchant association.
 - Tony Mercadante commented that the Chamber of Commerce would be the best resource.
 - John Mahan suggested an e-blast to parents. He cited the importance of family awareness.
 - Scott Foster suggested talking to students about what kind of jobs they are looking for.

Alumni & Development Update: Vice President Christopher Hendry reported on gifts, events and grants.

- Richard Fisk has made a gift of \$161,451.79 of which \$156,000 is to be endowed. His gift will establish the *Richard and Elizabeth A. Fisk Nursing Scholarship*, in memory of his wife Elizabeth who graduated in 1958 with a degree in nursing. The scholarship is to provide one scholarship of \$5000 annually to a full-time upper-class nursing major.
- Vice President Hendry presented the 2017 Golf Tournament P&L saying that this year's tournament was very successful, with profits topping last year by about 2%. We reached the one million dollar mark. This was the 20th year of the event, and we invited the Bill Connors and Roberta Fitzmaurice Connors '63, who played a big role in beginning the tournament all those years ago. The Connors brought their daughter and three grandsons.
- Chris talked about homecoming weekend crediting the Office of Student Development for stepping up and providing fireworks and a bonfire, and activities that accomplished the goal of keeping students on campus. Eric Gregiore added that this year's homecoming provided the opportunity for different segments of our alumni population to participate in activities related to what they were connected to when they were here as students. He spoke about the Gold Key breakfast which was attended by alumni as far back of the class of 1949.
- Chris told the directors about the first ever "Day of Giving" to be held on October 17; an effort to raise money for athletics in a single day. This fundraiser has been promoted to alumni athletes, current student athletes and their parents.
- Vice President Hendry reported that the University has received the Upward Bound Math & Science grant, which will provide \$260,000 annually for the next five years. The grant will fund college preparation services for 60 first generation low income, students from Leominster and Fitchburg High Schools.

Adjournment: With no further business, President Lapidus thanked the directors for their continued support and adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Garrahan