APPROVED

Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Board of Trustees Joint Meeting with the Fitchburg State University Foundation

Date and Time
Tuesday January 29, 2019 at 8:00 AM

Location
Fitchburg State Theater Block, 717 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Notice of a Meeting of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fitchburg State University ideaLab in the Theater Block, 717 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

This meeting with be a joint meeting with the Fitchburg State University Foundation

Trustees Present
A. Clementi, A. Ramos, Jr., C. Stimpson, D. Nieto, F. O'Donnell, L. Barrieau, M. Nicholson

Trustees Absent
C. Stover, D. Irving, D. Phillips, D. Tiernan

Ex Officio Members Present
R. Lapidus

Guests Present
A. Cardelle, A. Krishnamurthy, B. Railton, C. Canney, C. Picone, D. Benes, G. Doiron, J. Bry, J. Murdoch, K. McCarthy, L. Bayless, M. Bruun, M. McKenzie, M. Siderwicz, S. Battit, S. Swartz, Y. Malcolm

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Clementi called a meeting of the board of trustees of Fitchburg State University to order on Tuesday Jan 29, 2019 at 8:04 AM.
A. Clementi introduced and welcomed newest Trustee, Martha Nicholson.

C. Public Comments

MSCA Union Faculty members from various departments expressed their concerns regarding the contract. They compelled the board members to support the contract.

A. Krishnamurthy, MSCA Chapter President, read a prepared statement urging the Board to work with the MSCA to fund the contract.

D. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees October 30, 2018 Meeting - VOTE (18-18/19)

A. Ramos, Jr. made a motion to approve minutes from the Board of Trustees on 10-30-18 Board of Trustees on 10-30-18.
C. Stimpson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Approve October 4, 2018 minutes from the Fitchburg State Foundation Meeting (FB-01-190129)

The October 4, 2018 Foundation minutes were approved unanimously by the Foundation Board.

II. Institutional Advancement

A. Presentation by Suzanne Battit

The president introduced Suzanne Battit from the organization the Development Guild. S. Batitt's is serving in a consultant role for the university and assisting with the search for a permanent Vice President for Institutional Advancement. S. Battit thanked the board for the opportunity to meet with them and provide information regarding her work with the unit. She provided an update on the search. She indicated that her organization was in

the process of phone screening a candidate pool of approximately125 individuals. She explained the process and the timing for the search. Next, she briefly presented on the Theater Block initiative. Currently the Development Guild is conducting a feasibility of higher perspective donors and testing various levels of giving in order to assess the potential to raise money. She explained the scope of the work. She stated all opportunities would be looked at including grant funding M. Connors expressed concern about timing with the City of Fitchburg Library campaign. There was a discussion.

III. Foundation Committee Reports

A. Audit Committee - 990 Tax Review - VOTE- (FB-02-190129)

K. Spinelli reviewed the 990 Tax Form. The president requested a motion to accept the 990 Tax Form. The Foundation Board voted unanimously to approve the 990 Tax Form.

IV. Notifications

A. Personnel Actions (N04- 18/19)

Personal actions were presented for informational purposes.

B. Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were presented for informational purposes.

V. President's Report

A. Collective Bargaining

President Lapidus discussed the MSCA Collective Bargaining Agreement. He explained the bargaining process and the fact that the Office Employment Relations reviewed and rejected the agreement submitted as it exceeded the 2% specified by the Governor's Office. He emphasized that faculty are being paid, but not receiving the 2% increase. He reported that once negotiations are finalized, all raises would be retroactive. The president discussed a recent bargaining meeting that A. Krishnamurthy attended as well. He thought they had a productive conversation. He agrees that the current environment is not what we want on campus. He stated that the administration greatly values the faculty and the many contributions they make at the institution. He is hopeful that all both parties will come to a resolution at some point soon. He concluded by stating that the APA and AFSCME union contracts have been completed. There was a discussion.

B. Winter Commencement

The president informed the board that the Winter Commencement was well attended by graduates and faculty. He thanked the board members that participated. He reported that a good number of fully online students, who had not previously been on campus travelled to meet faculty in person and attend graduation.

C. Opening of the Spring Semester

The move in for the start of the semester went smoothly despite a winter storm during that time. The president expressed his concern with decline in student enrollment and indicated that it is consistent with what is being experienced on sister campuses. The university is down approximately 212 students from where it was in the fall. He indicated that a tightening of the budget was underway. The administration is also working more closely with Admissions to maximize the yields. He indicated that as enrollment declines, our residence hall occupancy has also declined. The university is looking at various strategies to increase the occupancy in the residence halls for fall. There was a discussion related to enrollment.

D. Financial Audit Restate

The president informed the board that when the Financial Audit was submitted, there was an error at the state level. The university will need to resubmit the audit however, there are no substantive changes.

E. ADA Audit Update

The president informed the board that State Auditors are on campus reviewing ADA compliance. They continue to work on this and it is a new process for them. He anticipates the findings will show that the campus is doing a good job, but there could be some recommendations for improvement.

F. Urban Agenda Grant

The university hosted the Urban Agenda Grant event at the ideaLab. Lt. Governor Karyn Polito recognized the recipients. Fitchburg State received a $60,000 grant in support of the ideaLab.

G. NECHE Approval of AUAI International School

The AUAI program was approved by NECHE. Fitchburg State faculty will now have the opportunity to teach classes in China to students from other institutions all over the world. He explained the program and its many associated benefits.

H. Beginning of Strategic Plan Process

The president explained the strategic process. Every five years the university must develop a new strategic plan. There is a new process mandated by the Department of Higher Education. There are no formal dates to complete the exercise, but there are touch points that guide the overall process.

The university will be celebrating its 125 Anniversary this coming academic year. There will be a committee structure that guides the planning process. He welcomed members of

the Board of Trustees, Foundation Board and Alumni Board to participate. There was a discussion.

I. News Articles

The news articles were presented for informational purposes.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

F. O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
C. Stimpson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Clementi