APPROVED

Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Monday March 27, 2023 at 8:00 AM

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

Notice of a meeting of the Fitchburg State University Academic Affairs Committee on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 8 a.m. in Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center, 291 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420

Committee Members Present
E. Gregoire, J. Flanagan, L. Barrieau (remote)

Committee Members Absent
D. Phillips

Ex Officio Members Present
R. Lapidus

Guests Present
A. Tourigny, B. Copper-Glenz, F. Barricelli, G. Doiron, J. Bry, J. Hanselman, J. Murdoch, L. Bayless, M. Bruun, N. Mani, P. Marshall, P. McCafferty, R. Toomey, S. Swartz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Flanagan called a meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of Fitchburg State University to order on Monday Mar 27, 2023 at 8:02 AM.

C. Approve minutes from the November 1, 2022 meeting - VOTE (23-22/23)

L. Barrieau made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Meeting on 11-01-22.
J. Flanagan seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Barrieau	Aye
J. Flanagan	Aye
E. Gregoire	Aye
D. Phillips	Absent

II. Academic Affairs

A. New Academic Program: M.S. in Construction Management - VOTE (24-22/23)

J. Flanagan introduced Dr. Patricia Marshall, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
P. Marshall presented and discussed the new academic program, M.S. Construction Management, for consideration from the Engineering Technology Department.

The following introductions were made:
Dr. Jennifer Hanselman, Dean of Health and Natural Sciences
Dr. Becky Copper-Glenz, Dean of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education
Dr. Nirajan Mani, Department Chair, Engineering Technology

P. Marshall thanked them for their effort and hard work in putting this proposal together. She next talked about the processes and procedures in submitting a new program for approval to the Department of Higher Education. Once it leaves the campus, it will be submitted to the DHE where there will be an opportunity for the public to make comments. After the public period, the DHE will work with universities to align with system equity goals. Typically, this will
be fast tracked. She discussed the program highlights, demand, mission, intent, academic content, enrollment projections and projected costs.

J. Hanselman talked about what constitutes construction management, and that the program goal is to prepare students at a high level. There is a growing need in this field. The program aligns with the Strategic Plan. There is already an undergraduate major, so this new program creates the potential for 4+1 program offering. This program meets the demands of an expanding market and will be affordable.

N. Mani reiterated that there is significant demand and that Fitchburg State would be the only institution offering this program in the public higher education space in Massachusetts.
J. Flanagan talked about the mission of the program and that it has a two-path option. The program itself has many complexities. Students will be engaged and able to apply to real-world problems.

N. Mani discussed the program requirements. J. Flanagan discussed the enrollment projections that are tied to the budget. B. Copper-Glenz stated the program would be flexible and affordable and completely online. It is expected that the first year will be the most difficult and slight financial losses are expected. The five-year plan estimates steady growth.

There was a discussion on the course completion expectations, partnerships, admissions requirements, advertising and the decision to offer the program online.

There was a discussion regarding the current undergraduate construction management program.
L. Barrieau made a motion to to approve the M.S. Construction Management Program.
E. Gregoire seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Flanagan	Aye
L. Barrieau	Aye
D. Phillips	Absent
E. Gregoire	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 8:26 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Flanagan