APPROVED

Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Board of Trustees Student Life Committee Meeting

Board of Trustees Student Life Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Friday April 11, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Notice of a virtual meeting of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees Student Life Committee on Friday, April 11, 2025 at 4:00pm

Committee Members Present
C. Stimpson (remote), D. Tiernan (remote), M. Gill (remote), S. King-Goodwin (remote), S. Rodriguez (remote)

Committee Members Absent
None

Guests Present
Donna Hodge (remote), K. Lundgren (remote), L. Barrieau (remote), M. Bruun (remote), M. Fiorentino, Jr. (remote), Matt Burke (remote), Matt Lechter (remote), Michael Fiorentino (remote), Tim St. John (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. **Record Attendance**

B. **Call the Meeting to Order**

S. King-Goodwin called a meeting of the Student Life Committee of Fitchburg State University to order on Friday Apr 11, 2025 at 4:01 PM.

C. Approve Minutes from the January 23, 2025 meeting - VOTE (14-2024-2025)

D. Tiernan made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Student Life Committee on 01-24-25.
C. Stimpson seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
S. King-Goodwin	Aye
M. Gill	Aye
S. Rodriguez	Aye
D. Tiernan	Aye
C. Stimpson	Aye

II. Student Life

A. Student Life Overview

Tim St. John provided an overview of student life, highlighting its robustness and student-driven nature.

- He reported over 600 registered events by 50 clubs and organizations.
- He highlighted the successful "Grand Royal Suarez" event, a collaborative cultural celebration with over 350 attendees. The event's size raised considerations about using the recreation center for such large events.
- Future initiatives focus on intentional inclusion of graduate students, adult learners, international students, and veteran students.
- Two new clubs were mentioned: the Indian Student Association (approved) and a Student Veterans Organization (internally approved, going to SGA).
- Existing student life efforts include reserving trip tickets for graduate students and providing commuter passes for dining hall events.
- Tim St. John emphasized the focus on the student experience and offered to answer questions.

Discussion on the Process for Approving New Student Groups:

- Sheila King-Goodwin inquired about the process for approving new student groups.
- Tim St. John explained the internal process involving a constitution, letter of intent, 10 student signatures, and a faculty/staff advisor, followed by SGAA approval.
- President Hodge added the importance of including non-traditional student groups and the collaborative effort with SGA to establish a process for graduate student

organizations, citing the Indian Student Association as an example. The aim is a total student experience from enrollment to graduation.

B. Housing & Residential Services

Matt Lechter provided a housing update.

- Spring semester occupancy is 919 students.
- The returning student housing selection process has 625 students participating.
- New student housing applications are ahead of last year.
- Efforts are underway to encourage commuter students to live on campus.
- Updates on on-campus projects with MSCBA include the Townhouse 5 lounge renovation and Herlihy Hall phase three, which is popular and allows for more premium single rooms.
- A formal signing of an MOU with Mount Wachusett Community College to house their students at Fitchburg State was announced, aiming for seamless transfer and increased campus vibrancy.
- Discussion followed regarding a summer bridge program (not specific to Mount Wachusett) and articulation agreements.

Update on Vendors and Campus Partners (Matt Lechter):

- The focus shifted to vendor contracts, specifically dining services with Chartwells.
- Positive feedback on Chartwells' service was noted.
- An RFI (Request for Information) is planned to assess the broader marketplace for dining services before a potential RFP, as the current Chartwells contract ends in June 2026.
- An update on the bookstore announced a new agreement with eCampus (online) and University Gear Shop (in-store) starting in the fall, following a collaborative state bid. This aims for efficient textbook delivery (3-day shipping) and potential cost savings, with temporary digital access. Communication about the transition is planned.
- President Hodge elaborated on the bookstore transition, noting the shift to a three-day delivery model directly to students, eliminating the need for extensive on-site inventory. Temporary digital access to textbooks will be available. The Council of Presidents collaborated on this initiative.
- The importance of a thoughtful approach to the dining services RFP was emphasized to avoid disruption while aiming for improved service and student success.
- The communication plan for the bookstore transition is still under development, with informing the board as a first step.
- Sheila King-Goodwin congratulated the committee on the bookstore agreement.

Questions and Discussion:

- Shane Rodriguez inquired about online purchasing options for alumni and others unable to visit the UGS store.
- President Hodge confirmed an e-commerce shop for gear will be available, with potential for customization based on campus needs. The physical store will focus more on gear than books, addressing inventory cost concerns.
- President Hodge announced a new large campus event on September 3rd, including matriculation of new freshmen and faculty in regalia, a president's address, and a community picnic.

C. Athletics and Recreation Updates

- Matthew Burke highlighted the Men's Ice Hockey program's championship win in the MASCAC Conference and their participation in the NCAA tournament.
- An update was given on the transition of club sports from Student Development to Athletics and Recreation to better support students with waivers, physicals, equipment, and scheduling.
- Growing interest in club sports was noted, including successful programs in cheerleading, men's lacrosse, men's volleyball (recent club champions), and a developing women's ice hockey club.
- The transition aims to enhance student experience and potentially aid enrollment.
- President Hodge added that student safety and consistent branding were additional rationales for the transition, ensuring athletic trainers are present at club sport events.
- Matthew Gill inquired about budget support for club sports under the Athletics Department.
- Mr. Burke stated that funding sources are still being worked on, including student dues, fundraising, and potential baseline budget allocation from the university, pending a cost assessment.
- President Hodge indicated that existing budgets would likely shift to athletics, with potential for SGA to fund specific student-wide requests.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. Stimpson made a motion to Adjourn.
D. Tiernan seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Rodriguez	Aye
M. Gill	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Aye

Roll Call

D. Tiernan	Aye
C. Stimpson	Aye

- Carolyn Stimpson shared positive feedback from an adult learner regarding the increased activity and sense of pride at FSU.
- Sheila King-Goodwin echoed the positive sentiments.

C. Stimpson made a motion to Adjourn Meeting.
D. Tiernan seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Stimpson	Aye
M. Gill	Aye
D. Tiernan	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Aye
S. Rodriguez	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. King-Goodwin