APPROVED

Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday April 2, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Location
This meeting will be held at Fitchburg State University Main Lounge and will also be livestreamed

Public Live Stream:
https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/live

Trustees Present
E. Gregoire, J. Byrne, J. Flanagan (remote), K. Spinelli, L. Barrieau, M. Fiorentino, Jr., M. Gill, M. Morris, S. King-Goodwin, S. Rodriguez

Trustees Absent
D. Tiernan

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
J. Flanagan

Guests Present
Donna Hodge, K. Lundgren, Matt Bruun, Nate Robichaud, Stacey Luster, Stefan Dodd

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Fiorentino, Jr. called a meeting of the board of trustees of Fitchburg State University to order on Thursday Apr 2, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Public Comments

No public comments

D. Approval of Minutes from the January 29, 2026 meeting

M. Morris made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees on 01-29-26.
L. Barrieau seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Flanagan	Absent
J. Byrne	Aye
S. Rodriguez	Aye
L. Barrieau	Aye
K. Spinelli	Aye
M. Gill	Aye
D. Tiernan	Absent
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	Aye
E. Gregoire	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Aye
M. Morris	Aye

E. Executive Committee approval of Bylaws update (VOTE)

Vote - Passed. Lynn/Eric
M. Morris made a motion to Approve the updated Bylaws.
L. Barrieau seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Morris	Aye
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	Aye
E. Gregoire	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Aye
L. Barrieau	Aye
K. Spinelli	Aye
J. Byrne	Aye
D. Tiernan	Absent
S. Rodriguez	Aye
J. Flanagan	Absent
M. Gill	Aye

F.

Tenure and Promotions

Mike M Lynn Passed

Congrats to all tenure and Promotion faculty members.
L. Barrieau made a motion to Approve Tenure and Tenure with Promotion.
E. Gregoire seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
J. Byrne	Aye
L. Barrieau	Aye
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	Aye
J. Flanagan	Absent
M. Gill	Aye
S. Rodriguez	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Aye
M. Morris	Aye
K. Spinelli	Aye
D. Tiernan	Absent
E. Gregoire	Aye

II. Operations and Safety Committee

A. Operations and Safety Committee Update

Lynn - March 24.
University Police, Operations and Technology were covered.
Fleet discussed.
Family reunification
DCAMM funding for building funds
CMP - Storm events. Fleet was discussed as well. Sustainability efforts, EV charging, Holmes dining hall and back of the house upgrades. MART shuttle services discussed/MWCC
Technology - Digital accessibility updates.

III. Enrollment Management and Student Success

A. Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee Update

Over 4000 apps, over 3000 accepted. Yield increased 5.5%
Onboarding 3 new nursing faculty to increase accepted nursing majors.
Admissions staffing critical. 3 admissions recruiters (1 police) and one Director of Admissions due to a resignation.

IV. President's Report

A. Presented by President Hodge

President Hodge. Report stands.
Shared gratitude to board and community.
Theater block is focus of report. State supported. Redevelop the property. 89-100 market rate, community space, rest. space, retail space.
2nd Grand Royal Soirée. Student led event.
Events: detailed in report.
Undergrad research day. April 16th - KELLI SEND INFO
Commencement - May 16.
Text - Admissions center with FHS Welcome center. Yesterday registered 55 Kindergarten children shared by J. Thompson.

B. Chief Information Officer

Stefan Dodd - Technology update
Presentation re: Title II
Recognized staff for their hard work. Often behind the scenes and unnoticed.
2 initiatives
Digital accessibility
Substantive training offered to faulty and staff. Over 81 trainings since last fall.
Resource hub -
Remediating old documents.
Blackboard Ally will be rolled out to faculty and provide alternative methods.
Questions - What re the biggest 2 challenges? Biggest is people have to have foundational knowledge.
April 24 is the deadline.

Cyber security
Threats are intensifying. 2 specific risks. Student focused scams. Vector training will be rolled out to students to train. Admissions fraud. Fake applications.
Strengthening readiness - Offering tabletop exercises.
Questions: Sheila - Has AI impacted email scams. It makes the attackers more efficient.
Eric - Vendor relationships - Do they have to uphold a certain standard. Yes, there is a vendor vetting process.
Chief
Changing landscape. Dept evolving to meet needs.
Intentional modernization. PD, Equip upgrades, partnerships

Staffing - People most important asset. Thin.. 4 vacancies in front line. 75% capacity. current staff helping with voluntary and forced OT. Not looking to just "fill" positions. Not lowering standards. Want mentors and community partners.
Intro's 2 new members. Sargent and officer.
Grant for body worn cameras in process. Vital tool for community trust and safety. $35K from grant. Update on grant expected in September.
Fleet - Operated on 6 of 27 vehicles. But still have a very large maintenance charge for those 6 vehicles. Looking for a pro active program to rotate fleet.
Training in the fall...
Questions:
Eric - Thanked Chief and Dept. Vacancies - Peer comparison? And how does that relate to municipal depts. No hard data... Challenge for all over several years. Fewer applicants to become police officers. All have similar changes. Retirement boom....
Fleet questions - Lynn - How can we/community help?
Donna - Need to have a strategy.

J. Flanagan arrived at 2:08 PM.

C. Chief of University Police Department

D. Associate Vice President of Capital Planning and Maintenance

Lechter - Spring and summer switch
Winter had lots of snow events off hours. Heating systems were monitored by the group
Equipment aging and last storm only had one working. During storm, able to purchase another
Shift to spring.
Lots, landscape, fencing etc.
Thompson Hall front being repaired now.
Capital Projects
Summer projects:
DCAMM Critical repair program. $6M
Lock replacement, sidewalks, Conlon network air cond system, Conlon window project will resume after commencement and complete in June.
Generator exhaust
Transformer swap - rec center.
EV Chargers - Fast chargers will be at the rec center. Fist in Fitchburg.
Comm Media is the biggest project.

Dining
Enhancements to dining room with new carpet, seating areas, couches, etc. Back of the house operations discussions are in progress now. New menu system... to view and order dining system. Remote monitoring of refrigeration.

$34k in February sales.
Encouraged all feedback.

Shuttle
MART conversations. Rout to McKay and upcoming year there will be a McKay shuttle stopping at McKay. Continuing conversations around circle.
Matt Gill - Parking lots. Already identified a vendor to do the work. PO will be done and lots will be repaired.

E. Break (10 Minutes)

F. President Hodge

Military and veterans services. Welcomed Tim and Nolan Buck.
Tim - Growth in numbers
News to Share:
Designated military friendly as silver level. And now we are gold level.
Students accessing their benefits: 199 for spring. 109 last spring.
Nolan - Word of mouth has been incredible.
Donna - Change in thinking to bring Nolan on board. Working thin.
Purple Heart Status. On our desk now.

G. VP of Enrollment Management & Student Success

Pam
Reiterate how wonderful is is to have Nolan and the veteran population.
Highlights:
Fall 26 UG day freshman class -
Future Falcon day was Saturday and we have one more scheduled. Enthusiasm is contagious. Lots of positive feedback.
Deposits looking strong. Above last two years.
Direct admissions working very well... Apps up 72%. Yield is high.
40% of Fitchburg students (seniors) have applied here.

Fall UG freshman - next 4 weeks are telling.

Transfer numbers for fall are looking good

Searched for 3 recruiters and director. One is a police academy recruiter.

Financial Aid
Mid March awarded 2100 awards to students vs. 1300 last year.

Will continue to push for the fall class.

V. Break

A. Break

Did not have a break

VI. Student Trustee Report

A. Presented by M. Gill

Matt Gill
SGA Issues... follow up
Trying to find solutions and not just complain.
Sustainability - Met with Lechter Robey and Piccone. And were invited to the staff meeting. They have short and long term goals.
OL applications increased. 350 total events
Bagels with the Board. Will be for next Trustee in the Fall. Kelli to reach out.
Senior committee - Senior week... Sr. dinner cruise cap decorating, and painting a senior mural.
SGA elections coming up. Meet the candidates next week.

VII. Student Experience Committee

A. Student Experience Committee Update

Lynn
Met on March 24.
Family housing
Simonds to 12 month housing
JED campus recognition in Counseling services
132 athletes qualified for MASCAC.

VIII. Academic Affairs Committee

A. Academic Affairs Committee Update

Jen
March 25
Gen Ed

B.

Bachelor of Science in Finance Presentation

Franca and Jannette
Presentation for the BS in Finance
Dean of Library introduced.
AUC proposal sent. GenEd proposal for committee to evaluate. Committee convened in April. This is so the committee can meeting in this AY and they can get started right away in the fall with the recommendations made. Fall of 2027 is when we hope to have the program started.
Christa and Andrew:
Presented on BS of Finance. Included PPT.
Students Andrew Woods and PJ Norton spoke.
Franca went through the phases of getting this program up and running.

K. Spinelli made a motion to Approve the BS in Finance Major.
J. Byrne seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Tiernan	Absent
J. Byrne	Aye
K. Spinelli	Aye
E. Gregoire	Aye
S. Rodriguez	Aye
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	Aye
L. Barrieau	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Aye
M. Morris	Aye
J. Flanagan	Aye
M. Gill	Aye

IX. Finance Committee Update

A. Presented by Karen Spinelli

Budget summary. and recruitment of major open positions in finance.

X. Budget Update

A. Budget Update

Travis
Financial recruitment. 5 EEs right now.
Progress in recruitment.

Thanked finance team.
FY26 Budget reviewed.
Questions on Revenue - None

Expenditures:
Reviewed.
Michael - Is there anything that concerns you? TC - Revenue streams in SGOCE.
Michael - What about expenses... TC - Utilities. More capital breakdowns are what worries him.

FY27 Process was reviewed
Under way.
Cabinet is doing a deep review of their department budgets. Funded level.

XI. Closing Items

A. Chair Fiorentino and President Hodge

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Fiorentino, Jr.