DRAFT

Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting

Board of Trustees Executive Committee

Date and Time
Tuesday March 24, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Location
This is a virtual only meeting and will be live streamed:

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

Committee Members Present
D. Tiernan (remote), L. Barrieau (remote), M. Fiorentino, Jr. (remote)

Committee Members Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
D. Hodge (remote)

Guests Present
K. Lundgren (remote), Nathan Robichaud (remote), Stacey Luster (remote), Stefan Dodd (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

M. Fiorentino, Jr. called a meeting of the Executive Committee Committee of Fitchburg State University to order on Tuesday Mar 24, 2026 at 10:03 AM.

II. Executive Committee Meeting

A. Review Updated By Laws

Update on Bylaws

S. Luster, VP of Personnel Services and General Counsel, presented the revised bylaws.

- Substance of Changes: The revisions align the bylaws with the Board of Trustees' reorganized committee structures.
- New Standing Committees: Academic Affairs, Student Experience, Finance, Operations and Safety, and Enrollment Management and Student Success were incorporated.
- Key Change: The Executive Committee will now handle the President's evaluation, as the Committee on Human Resources has been eliminated.
- Committee Requirements: According to the bylaws, every trustee must serve on at least one standing committee.
- Next Steps: Further updates are needed to ensure alignment with state mandates. These revisions will be reviewed during the trustee retreat in August, with a plan for a full board vote on additional revisions in the fall. The Chair may nominate a committee to perform this review.

L. Barrieau motioned to recommend approval of the revised bylaws by the full board.
D. Tiernan seconded the motion.

Roll Call
M. Fiorentino - Aye
L. Barrieau – Aye
D. Tiernan - Aye

Presidential Evaluation

L. Barrieau inquired about the timeline for the presidential evaluation.

- Timeline: M. Fiorentino noted that the commissioner provided a comprehensive approach, and the evaluation must be submitted by early September.
- Action: The Executive Committee should meet within the next month to determine if the evaluation will be handled by the Executive Committee or a special committee.

Advancement Operation

M. Fiorentino commented that attention to advancement must be a high priority for the board, as it relates to the university's overall finances and community role.

- Status: The President expressed concerns about the rapidly changing landscape of advancement and fundraising.
- Review: An expert advancement partner, Goner Gerber, has been hired to conduct an evaluation of the operation to prepare for the next ten years.

Three-Year Undergraduate Degree
M. Fiorentino raised the topic of the national momentum toward the three-year undergraduate degree and the need for the university to engage in the conversation.

- General Education Review: The President stated that the primary focus before moving to a sub 120-degree program must be on reforming the General Education program, which currently stands at 51 credit hours (compared to a national standard of 32–40). A committee has been charged with this work.
- Concerns: The President expressed concern that if state universities do not move forward with three-year degree options, community colleges may push for statutory changes to award bachelor's degrees.
- The three-year degree discussion will be included in the agenda for the trustee retreat.

L. Barrieau made a motion to Recommend that the Full Board adopt the updated bylaws.
D. Tiernan seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
L. Barrieau	Aye
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	Aye
D. Tiernan	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 10:42 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Fiorentino, Jr.