

DRAFT



## Fitchburg State University

# Minutes

## Executive Committee Meeting

Board of Trustees Executive Committee

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### 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>

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### Committee Members Present

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

### Committee Members Absent

*None*

### Guests Present

D. Hodge (remote), K. Lundgren (remote), Nathan Robichaud (remote), Stacey Luster (remote), Stefan Dodd (remote)

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## 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
D. Tiernan	Aye
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	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.