DRAFT

Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Board of Trustee Joint Meeting (Foundation/Supporting Org)

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday October 29, 2026 at 1:00 PM

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

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

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

Trustees Absent
None

Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned
M. Morris

Ex Officio Members Present
D. Hodge

Guests Present
Anna Clemente, Catherine Buell, David Weiss, Elizabeth Gordon, Espi Esparant, Franca Barricelli, James Johnston, Jannette McMenamy, John Garten (remote), K. Lundgren, Karina Calvo, M. Bruun, M. Chadwick, Marc Dohan (remote), Matt Burke, Matt Lechter, Mia Vestal,

Michael Cloutier, Nate Robichaud, Nermin Bayazit, Pam McCafferty, Patricia Pistone (remote), Rebecca Newell, Scott Bruce, Stacey Luster, Stefan Dodd, Tim St. John, Tony Mercadante (remote), Travis Chambers

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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 Oct 29, 2026 at 1:06 PM.

B. Record Attendance - Board of Trustees

C. Call the Meeting to Order

The Foundation Board Meeting was called to order by President Hodge at 1:08pm.

D. Record Attendance - Foundation Board

In attendance:
Donna Hodge
Anna Clementi
Eric Gregoire
Tony Mercadante
John Garten
Marc Dohan
Patricia Pistone

E. Public Comments

No public comments noted

F. Approve Board of Trustee Minutes - 8/12/2026

E. Gregoire made a motion to approve the minutes from August 12, 2026 Board of Trustees on 08-12-26.
K. Spinelli seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
M. Morris	Aye
Y. Morales	Aye
L. Barrieau	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Aye
K. Spinelli	Aye
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	Aye
D. Tiernan	Aye

Roll Call

J. Flanagan	Aye
S. Rodriguez	Aye
J. Byrne	Aye
E. Gregoire	Aye

II. Finance Committee Update

A. Finance Committee Update

Karen provided an update on the committee meeting.

B. Audit Report (joined virtually by Foundation Board)

- Jim Johnston from Bollus Lynch presented the FY26 audit report for the University, the Foundation, and the Supporting Organization.
- All three entities received unmodified (clean) opinions with no material weaknesses or deficiencies noted.

C. VOTE: Approve FY26 Audit (Foundation Board) VOTE - 05-2026-2027

A motion was made by Tony Mercadante and was seconded by John Garten to approve the Draft Audit as presented.
D. Hodge - Aye
A. Clemente - Aye
T. Mercadante - Aye
E. Gregoire - Aye
J. Garten - Aye
M. Dohan - Aye
P. Pistone - Aye

D. VOTE: Approve FY26 Audit (Board of Trustees) VOTE - 06-2026-2027

S. Rodriguez made a motion to Approve the Draft Audit as Presented.
K. Spinelli seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

J. Flanagan Aye

E. FY26 Final Budget & Working FY27 Budget

Dr. Travis Chambers provided the university budget update for FY26 performance and FY27 YTD metrics.

III. Operations and Safety Committee Update

A. Operations and Safety Committee Update

- Shane Rodriguez, Chair of the Operations and Safety Committee provided an update on the committee meeting held on October 14, 2026.
- Updates were provided on IT improvements in Percival and Conlon Halls, new ticketing systems, and summer capital works.
- Chief Michael Cloutier was acknowledged for receiving the Paul Cellucci Mentor and Leadership Award.

B. Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

Chief Cloutier and Rebecca Newell presented the 2026 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (Clery Act compliance), detailing campus safety statistics, hazing reporting updates, and institutional administrative transitions.

IV. Enrollment Management & Student Success Committee Update

A. EMSS Committee Update

- Eric Gregoire, Chair of the Enrollment Committee provided an update on the committee meeting held on October 20, 2026.

B. Enrollment Management and Student Success

- Pam McCafferty delivered an overview of generated credits, sister university benchmarks, retention/graduation statistics, and Fall 2026 enrollment results.
- Fall 2026 incoming class totaled 770 new students (freshmen up 38%, transfers up 20%, direct admissions up 160%), marking the first non-decrease in day school FTE since 2017.

V. Student Trustee Report

A. Student Trustee Report

Trustee Yarielis Morales reported on recent campus activities, including Rock the Block, ROC Graduation, Hispanic Heritage Month events, and SGA voter registration initiatives.

VI. Academic Affairs Committee Update

A. Academic Affairs Committee Update

M. Morris left at 3:03 PM.

- Jennifer Flanagan, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee provided an update on the committee meeting held on October 14, 2026.
- Update on NECHE Reporting was given to the Board.
- Announcement that the B.S. in Finance received full approval from the Board of Higher Education on Oct 9, 2026.

B. NECHE Update

- Update on NECHE Reporting was given to the Board.

C. Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8)

- Presentation on the proposed B.S. in Mathematics Education (Middle School Grades 5-8 Licensure) by Dr. Buell, Dr. Bayazit, Dr. Gordon, and student Mia Vestal.

D. VOTE - Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) VOTE - 07-2026-2027

J. Byrne made a motion to Approve the Mathematics in Education (Middle School Grades 5-8 Licensure).
S. Rodriguez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VII. Student Experience Committee Update

A. Student Experience Committee Update

- Lynn Barrieau, Chair of the Student Experience Committee provided an update on the committee meeting held on October 14, 2026.
- Athletic update: 380 student-athletes competing this fall; preparation underway for inaugural varsity men's lacrosse season.

B. Housing Update

- Housing update presented by Tim St. John and Matt Lechter: Resident population increased to 1,020 students (local occupancy 81.02%). Highlights include launching family housing at 185 North Street and developing the Cedars Honors House (32 single units for upper-class honors students).

C. Future Project

Launching family housing at 185 North Street and developing the Cedars Honors House (32 single units for upper-class honors students).

VIII. President's Report

A. President's Report

President Donna Hodge let her report stand and provided institutional updates, including:

- Presidential Gala announced for Apr 24, 2027, honoring Coach Dean Fuller and the Fitchburg Art Museum.
- Institutional advancement updates: $24,000 raised in Go Falcons Challenge; revived annual golf tournament netted $63,000.
- Fitchburg State recognized with the 2026 Highly Established Action Plan designation by ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.
- Theatre block abatement underway, with demolition expected in two weeks.

B. Closing Remarks

C. Special Recognition

Official acceptance into the National FirstGen Forward Network.

IX. Closing Items

A. Closing Items

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Fiorentino, Jr.