

Bridgewater State University  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 16, 2020  
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Durgin, Alexander, Caulfield, Benson, Denterlein, Longo, Murphy, MacCormack, Oliari, Turchon

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: President Clark; Provost Ismaili; Chief of Staff Leuenberger; Vice Presidents Gentlewarrior, Jason, Jean, Powers, Oravec, Shropshire, Molife; Acting Vice President Zuromski

Under the order suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, as declared on March 12, 2020 by Governor Baker, having been complied with, and a quorum of the Board virtually present, the Board of Trustees held a conference call meeting on April 16, 2020 with Chairman Durgin presiding.

Chairman Durgin called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Oliari) it was to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 1, 2020.  
(Attachment)

**EXECUTIVE**

Honorary Degree Recipient – 2020

VOTED  
FOR: Unanimous  
CARRIED

On motion duly made and seconded (MacCormack, Denterlein) it was that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to award an Honorary Degree to Stephen F. Lynch at the University's 2020 Undergraduate Commencement Convocation as outlined in the memorandum from President Clark dated April 9, 2020.  
(Attachment)

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Promotions to Rank of Full Professor  
Committee Chair MacCormack noted thorough reviews were

completed. Provost Ismaili

**PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW AND COMPENSATION**

Chairman Durgin noted we are not in a position to determine a format for presidential evaluations. President Clark has not had time to devote to this due to the pandemic. This will be deferred to the June meeting. President Clark looks forward to completing his self-assessment. This is an important effort and exercise. Chairman Durgin noted they have received guidelines which are centered around the equity agenda. There may be amended guidelines within the month.

**UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY**COVID-19 Update

President Clark stated this is the third time that the Board has convened and it's remarkable how things have changed in a short amount of time. At BSU we are proud of our faculty, staff and students. The conversion to online is nothing short of remarkable. He thanked the faculty for their hard work. At the last meeting, there were 6 cases amongst our students; it is now up to 19 6 (c)4 (u)-10 (l)-2 (t)-2 (y, s);nd

working on campus each day). There are about 250 undergrad students working in a telecommuting fashion as well as graduate students.

Tempo

We are predicting about a 10% decline. The sense is that students will stay closer to home.

President Clark noted the deficit will be the highest in our history; there is a big challenge ahead of us. In terms of next steps: \$9M is in the pipeline for this fiscal year. Until the money comes in, we will be nervous.

Vice President Jason has been doing a great job with DCAMM regarding deferred monies. There is an opportunity to obtain money for deferred maintenance. Currently, Summer I classes will be fully online and they will most likely offer Summer II to be fully online as well. Unfortunately, every event for the summer will be cancelled to include: orientation, Arts for Youth, FPAC, CASE opportunities, science camps, etc. The business of the university continues. There is focus on NECHE, recruiting students, infrastructure upgrades, new programs and student research. It's important to not lose momentum.

Trustee Oliari commends efforts from everyone. Things to consider: track unemployment, people have savings that will dwindle, come up with a formula to tie the two together which may be helpful. President Clark replied looking back at the recession, there is a correlation and people tend to go to public higher education. Vice President Shropshire noted this is a good point. In 2008, there was increased enrollment. He will look at these numbers.

first draft of the contract last Friday; their legal is backed up. She is hopeful to bring this to the Board in about 4 weeks.

Chairman Durgin said they will schedule a meeting surrounding the dining services contract as well as the priorities of President Clark.

Chairman Durgin asked committee chairs to stay in touch with divisional vice presidents and if there is anything to share, please do so.

Dr. Maria Hegbloom, MSCA Chapter President, spoke briefly. There is an enormous amount of work that went into converting to online and adjusting to this new world. Advising is taking place and every department has figured out a plan to work with the students. She thanked the administration for their cooperation with the union and particular thanks to Provost Ismaili in moving ahead to follow through with the contracts extended to tenure track faculty; this is significant and shows a commitment to full-time faculty. Despite the difficult circumstances, they are in contract negotiations. The union has put in a lot of effort into rethinking bargaining and to narrow proposals to what is really essential. Hopeful for a quick resolution.

Chairman Durgin noted he provided a draft letter from the Board to the President Clark/administration which acknowledges the herculean efforts over the past month. This university is prospering. Everyone has been affected by this and has stepped up to meet the challenges. He asked the Board to ascent to this letter. He wants everyone on campus to know the Board is part of the team and part of the effort to get through this difficult time.

On motion duly made and seconded (Longo, Alexander) it was that the meeting be adjourned (5:15pm).

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Davede Alexander  
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:  
Tracey Keif