



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Affairs Committee

December 19, 2022

Minutes

Loughman Living Room, Scanlon Hall

And via Zoom in accordance with Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20 dated March 12, 2020.

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing also took place on YouTube.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chair Dr. Gloria Williams and Secretary William Reichelt

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Vice Chair Chloe Sanfacon

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Trustees Madeline Landrau and Lydia Martinez-Alvarez

TRUSTEE GUESTS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Theresa Jasmin, Dr. Robert Martin, Chris Montemayor, and Ali Salehi

Also present and participating were Westfield State University President Dr. Linda Thompson; Provost Dr. Juline Mills; Assistant Provost Dr. Enrique Morales-Diaz, Dean of Assessment and Accreditation Dr. Brian Jennings; Dr. Megan Kennedy (Education Dept.); Dr. Lynn Shelley (Psychology Dept.), Assoc. Dean of the School of Business, Mathematics, Computing, and Sustainability Dr. Rebecca Morris, Dr. Jesse Johnson (Mathematics Dept.), and Director of Faculty Affairs Susan Davignon.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Committee Chair Williams. A roll call was taken of the committee members participating as listed above and it was announced that the meeting was being livestreamed.

MOTION made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Sanfacon, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2022, meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE passes motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Reichelt, Sanfacon, and Williams.

Campus Academic Master Plan. Dr. Morales-Diaz presented the status of the Campus Academic Master Plan (CAMP). The purpose of this Plan is to determine the academic direction of the institution by establishing a process for resource allocations and setting a path for the next five years. The Advisory Committee on Academic Planning collaborated with the departments, programs, and offices in the division of Academic Affairs and created a mission and vision for the division, together with guidelines for developing an Academic Master Plan. A potential timeline for the Plan was also shared.

- Programs drive finances, enrollment, facilities, etc. As they become prioritized in Academic Affairs, they will be brought to cabinet and the president.
- Collaborative decisions will be made of how the CAMP will feed into the IDEA framework and the next strategic plan. Chair Martin suggested being as collaborative as possible with other divisions at all stages of the process. It was stated that for some programs, departments need to flush out the specifics before giving the idea to Facilities and Finance.
- Facilities and Academic Affairs need to be in constant communication about planning cross disciplines, merging pedagogy, and programs for non-traditional learners for the next 10-30 years due to the cost of building renovations.
- New programs are being developed through collaboration with students and community partners. The committee will send a survey to a wider selection of students for feedback.
- To help pay for portions of the Plan, innovation funds will be requested for an investment and data analytic lab and new revenue-generating programs are being studied.

Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE). Drs. Kennedy and Shelley presented an update on the SCORE, which has been working on the general education reform for nearly two years. The charge for the committee was shared as well as the explanation that general education is the common curriculum for all students, providing broad study in liberal arts. The current core curriculum was shared, which is a distributive model and does not teach students to learn integrative thinking across different types of classes. A new general education plan is being developed through NECHE guidelines and all decisions have been data-based and included student surveys and focus groups. The timeline of the process was shared. A new model was presented, which includes the important subject of student wellbeing. A Davis Educational Foundational Grant was received to assist with funding for faculty stipends. Transfer students will be very much part of the implementation. Presently, 230 courses are offered every semester. This model will be less expensive as it puts a hard stop at 40 credits. As courses start to come in, calculations will be made. Current core classes average 20 students. All classes will be reviewed for efficiency.

Motion – Mission Statement Review. Dr. Morris presented an update from the Mission Statement Advisory Committee, stating that most people responded positively to the survey but that overall percentages believe the mission/vision/values statements do not inform the decisions of Westfield State. Dr. Johnson shared the data analytics on the survey results. The committee’s recommendation is that the mission and vision statements be revised as part of the next Strategic Plan and offered recommendations for those revisions.

MOTION made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Sanfacon, to accept the Mission Statement Advisory Committee’s Mission/Vision/Value Statement Survey Results Report as presented at the October 12, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting and the Addendum to the Report dated December 19, 2022. The Board expects the mission statement to be revisited, along with the recommendations from the report, as part of the University’s next strategic planning process in the 2023 spring semester. There being no discussion, roll call vote – all approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE passes motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Reichelt, Sanfacon, and Williams

Motion – Faculty Emeritus/a. Provost Mills shared the justifications for all the faculty emeriti candidates.

MOTION made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Safacon, to approve the granting of Faculty Emeritus/a status, effective December 20, 2022, to the following individuals:

Dr. Sandra Berkowitz, Education
Mr. Nigel Dobereiner, Communication
Dr. Barbara Goff, Education
Dr. Frederick Harling, History
Dr. Michael Konig, History
Dr. Wilma Ortiz, Education
Dr. Elizabeth Preston, Communication
Dr. Elise Young, History

ROLL CALL VOTE passes motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative:
Reichelt, Sanfacon, and Williams

Motion – Honorary Degree. President Thompson shared the justification for presenting Mr. Steven Marcus as a candidate for an honorary degree.

MOTION made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Sanfacon, to approve the granting of an honorary degree to the individual listed below, subject to a final vetting before the degree is granted:

Mr. Steven P. Marcus, Doctor of Public Service

ROLL CALL VOTE passes motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative:
Reichelt, Sanfacon, and Williams

Board of Higher Education Program Approvals 10-year analysis 2012-2022. Provost Mills shared the summary of BHE approvals over the last 10 years.

NECHE site visit. The NECHE accreditation site visit will take place March 5-8, 2023.

There being no further business, **MOTION** made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Sanfacon, to adjourn.

ROLL CALL VOTE passes motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative:
Reichelt, Sanfacon, and Williams

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.

Attachments presented at this meeting:

- a. Minutes, 10/12/22 (Draft)
- b. Campus Academic Master Plan presentation
- c. Special Committee on Reforming General Education SCORE presentation
- d. SCORE Progress Report
- e. Mission Statement Report presentation
- f. Mission Statement Addendum report
- g. Motion: Mission Statement Report
- h. Faculty/Librarian Emeritus(a) Status Policy (1220)
- i. Faculty Emeritus/a Justifications
- j. Motion: Faculty Emeritus/a Status
- k. Honorary Degree Justification

- I. Motion: Honorary Degree
- m. Academic Affairs 10-year Program Analysis