



Board of Trustees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

September 29, 2015

President's Boardroom, The Horace Mann Center

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Trustees Connolly, Martin, Perez, and Slakey.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Trustee Hill.

Meeting called to order at 10:16 AM.

MOTION made by Trustee Slakey, seconded by Trustee Connolly to accept the minutes from the May 27, 2015 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting. Trustee Martin abstained from voting. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee members questioned why revised policies without substantial changes are presented for approval. It was explained past practice dictates all revisions must be presented for approval, no matter how minor. If the Academic and Student Affairs Committee wishes to change this, the university will need to receive direction from the full board in order to do so.

MOTION made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Slakey to authorize the Academic and Student Affairs Committee to forward motion to the full board: to accept proposed changes to the *University Bomb Threat* policy; and to authorize any cross-references to language in the newly revised *University Bomb Threat* policy to be made in all other Westfield State University publications. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION made by Trustee Connolly, seconded by Trustee Slakey to authorize the Academic and Student Affairs Committee to forward motion to the full board: to approve the granting of an honorary degree to the individuals listed below, subject to a final vetting before the degree is granted:

Ms. Joann Biskupic, Doctor of Laws
Mr. Sheridan "Bing" Carey, Doctor of Public Service
Ms. Lucille Gibbs, Doctor of Humane Letters
Mr. Robert "Bob" Goyette, Sr., Doctor of Public Service

Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Marsha Marotta, Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided the committee with detailed information regarding the proposed Physician Assistant (PA) Program. New academic programs must go through governance before it's presented to the board for approval. Academic Affairs would like to involve the committee in the discussion from the beginning because the process is long and complicated and they want to give the committee ample time to review information and ask questions.

The PA program would be the first public program in New England. It would be a self-sustaining program believed to have the ability to increase the number of applications to the university and for this number to remain strong. As the Board of Higher Education (BHE) moves towards performance funding, it would position the university for more state funding. Tuition would be competitive and students would be taught cultural competency in a diverse program. Community medical leaders are excited about the programs potential as one of the fastest growing fields in the United States and believe it could be an excellent way to educate community members and for that expertise to remain local in order to better serve surrounding communities who are in need of such expertise.

Trustee Connolly excused himself from the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Dr. Carlton Pickron, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Dr. Marotta presented on student recruitment, enrollment, and retention numbers. Committee members requested the creation of institutional dashboard indicators in order to help trustees better evaluate the health of the institution in regards to recruitment, enrollment, and retention.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.