



Board of Trustees

Special Meeting

3:00 PM

October 5, 2015

President's Boardroom, The Horace Mann Center

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Trustees Connolly, Hagan, Johnson, Martin, Perez, Queenin, Slakey, and Scheibel.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Trustees Hill, Landrau, and Marcus.

Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM.

Trustees Martin stated he had no role in the selection of the final 13 presidential candidates. He knows Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad well from his former position as Interim President of Framingham State University.

Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad provided her professional background and experience. Speaking to the process she used to cultivate donors for a speaker series at Framingham State, challenges facing public higher education in Massachusetts, budgeting in terms of sustaining initiatives and programs, shared governance, diversity in campus communities, student recruitment and retention, global education numbers, and student debt.

Dr. Vaden-Goad believes a significant portion of a president's responsibility is to raise much needed institutional funds, play a critical role in combating institutional inertia, and motivating faculty and administration. She describes her leadership style as careful and thoughtful while understanding differences and needs in order to make tough decisions under difficult circumstances with team work and consensus. She describes the most significant issue facing the new president of Westfield State is likely the institutions reputation, which can be strengthened both internally and externally.

Dr. Vaden-Goad addressed the civil suit in which she was named a defendant during her tenure at Western Connecticut State University. An anonymous blogger is making false allegations and grouping separate events into one in order to make something out of nothing. Dr. Vaden-Goad has nothing but respect for process and policies. The civil suit was presented to a jury who found her not liable, with no responsibility.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.