



Board of Trustees

October 28, 2015
President's Boardroom, The Horace Mann Center

PRESENT: Trustees Hagan, Hill, Johnson, Landrau, Marcus, Martin, Perez, Queenin, Scheibel (Chair)

ABSENT: Trustee Slakey participated remotely due to geographic distance.

Chair Scheibel called the meeting to order at 10:41 AM.

Adele Gamelli had a baby boy on Monday. Therefore, the minutes from the August and October special meetings are not completed. They will move to December. There were no objections.

Trustee Scheibel hoped to have a draft of President Preston's evaluation for the board to review and vote today. It is not complete. She will draft with Trustee Martin, review to President Preston, and sent to the Trustees for review and comments. The Executive Committee will meet in December to ratify.

Trustee Queenin discussed funding for Juniper Park. \$1.6M was budgeted. Vice President Kim Tobin will provide information relative to monies needed and will outline a conservative approach for next steps. The net cost is \$3.8M, and \$1.8M sits as prior approved capital expenditures, including \$1.64M from 2013.

A discussion of the timeline for the budget process will take place at the subcommittee meeting in December and then with the full board.

Vice President Tobin requested the Board to approve \$2M to be dedicated through trust funds for use of the space.

MOTION made by Trustee Hagan, seconded by Trustee Martin to approve the expenditure of University trust funds up to \$2M to complete the Juniper Park Renovation project. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Connolly (Yes)

Hagan (Yes)

Hill (Yes)

Johnson	(Yes)
Landrau	(Yes)
Marcus	(Yes)
Martin	(Yes)
Perez	(Yes)
Queenin	(Yes)
Scheibel, Chair	(Yes)
Slakey	(Yes)

Damian Hernandez, a finalist for the presidential search, withdrew his application leaving Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad from Framingham State, and Dr. Ramon Torrecilha from Cal State Dominguez Hills, as finalists.

BHE guidelines and procedures state that discussion of the finalists must be held in public. The guidelines specifically state that the Board of Trustees shall appoint the president in open session with a quorum. A roll call will be taken with the Chair voting last with the majority vote.

Chair Scheibel thanked Trustee Marcus, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, and members of the committee.

Chair Scheibel thanked President Preston who came at a time when the University desperately needed leadership, stability, strength and character. The institution is in a better place. Clarified that President Preston was not able to apply for the permanent position because of BHE guidelines.

Trustee Marcus, Chair of the presidential search committee, thanked committee members for their hard work and dedication over the past 40 weeks. Trustee Marcus also thanked everyone for their feedback.

The trustees discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the finalists.

Kim Morrison from Executive Search phoned in at 11:05 AM.

Trustee Slakey raised a question about what happens if negotiations fall short. How is a judgment made about whether the second candidate can be considered?

Chair Scheibel referred to BHE guidelines that require one name be brought forward and assume that once the motion is read, the Chair is authorized to begin negotiations.

MOTION made by Trustee Marcus seconded by Hill to approve Ramon Torrecilha, Ph.D. as the 20th President of Westfield State University. The Board shall authorize the Chair of the Board of Trustees to negotiate with Dr. Ramon Torrecilha the terms of the appointment. Dr. Torrecilha will be forwarded to

Commissioner Carlos Santiago and the Board of Higher Education for final approval on December 1, 2015. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Connolly	(Yes)
Hagan	(Yes)
Hill	(Yes)
Johnson	(Yes)
Landrau	(Yes)
Marcus	(Yes)
Martin	(Yes)
Perez	(Yes)
Queenin	(Yes)
Slakey	(Yes)
Scheibel, Chair	(Yes)

Chair Scheibel thanked Kim Morrison, the trustees, the search committee and everyone in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.