



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Minutes

President's Boardroom, Horace Mann Center
December 7, 2017

Board of Trustees committee members in attendance: Committee Chair Slakey, Vice Chair Martin, Secretary Magovern, Trustees Hill, Martinez-Alvarez (entered at 8:52 AM) and Swan.

Excused absence: Trustee Sullivan

Trustee guests present: Trustees Landrau, Marcus, and Queenin.

Dr. Ramon S. Torrecilha, President of Westfield State University, was also present.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Slakey at 8:31 AM.

Trustee Slakey moved forward to agenda item Approval of Minutes and asked for a Motion.

MOTION was made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Magovern, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2017 meeting.

Trustee Martin questioned what a leaver rate was in the first page of the minutes where it states "Our leaver rate is 2% points lower than the other comprehensive institutions." Trustee Slakey suggested that it probably refers to first year leaving rate but will investigate and make clearer at the next meeting. There being no further discussion, **the Motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes.**

Committee Chair Slakey welcomed Dr. Parviz Ansari, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, & Dr. Carlton Pickron, Vice President for Student Affairs, to present the candidates for faculty and staff emeriti.

Dr. Ansari recommended Dr. Victor Ascolillo to Professor Emeritus, posthumously. Dr. Ascolillo served the University for 43 years and was a binding force in the Criminal Justice department, positively impacting more than 6,500 Criminal Justice alumni. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award by the University's Criminal Justice Hall of Fame on April 8, 2017. Dr. Ascolillo was extremely active in the community as a tax attorney, providing many hours of pro bono service. He passed away on August 21, 2017.

Trustee Queenin entered the meeting at 8:35 AM.

Dr. Marijoan Bull is being recommended to Associate Professor Emerita. Dr. Bull joined the Geography and Regional Planning department in 2007 and served for 10 ½ years. She was an outstanding educator, advisor and scholar during her time at Westfield State. Her service uniquely spoke of her dedication to students and the University by integrating students and teaching in civic engagement, being an ambassador for Westfield State in the surrounding communities. Dr. Bull was also a leader in the development of the Columbus Greenway Rail Trail organization.

Dr. Donald “Buzz” Hoagland is being recommended to Professor Emeritus, posthumously. Dr. Hoagland joined the department of Biology in 1994 and served for 23 years. He was an outstanding classroom teacher and an inspiring field scientist who inspired our students. He was also a master educator, sharing his passion for scholarship and technology with both students and faculty by challenging and inspiring them. Dr. Hoagland passed away on July 18, 2017.

Mr. Gerald Wise is being recommended to Professor Emeritus. Mr. Wise joined the department of Art in the fall of 2002 with 13 ½ years of full-time service, but over 34 years in part- and full-time teaching prior to 2002. Mr. Wise was dedicated to Westfield State as an engaged educator and his art is included in local permanent collections as well as public exhibitions and private homes. He continues to be an active professional artist.

Trustee Slakey mentioned that the University suffered a big loss in losing Drs. Ascolillo and Hoagland this year.

Trustees Landrau and Marcus joined the meeting at 8:38 AM.

MOTION made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Magovern, to approve the granting of Faculty Emeritus/a status, effective December 7, 2017 to the following individuals:

Dr. Victor Ascolillo, Professor Emeritus, Criminal Justice (posthumously)
Dr. Marijoan Bull, Associate Professor Emerita, Geography and Regional Planning
Dr. Donald “Buzz” Hoagland, Professor Emeritus, Biology (posthumously)
Mr. Gerald Wise, Professor Emeritus, Art Department

Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Pickron said it was an honor and pleasure to present over 70 years of dedication and commitment to our beloved University from the following candidates for staff emerita status.

Ms. Anne Briggs began her career in 2003 as a staff assistant in the IT area, becoming the office manager as the department grew. Ms. Briggs was always available for student concerns, and assisted faculty and staff with technology issues. Her civic engagement included organizing and participating in many community events, including fundraising for Hospice and the Visiting Nurses Association, which mirrored her commitment to her IT department and the University.

Ms. Jo Ann Churchill, who served the University for nearly 30 years, started out as senior clerk/typist in 1985 and retired in June 2016 as the Assistant Director of the Counseling Center. Ms. Churchill was a phenomenal colleague during her time at the University; always ever-present and working with students. While at Westfield State, she continued her education, earning a graduate degree in Psychology and becoming a licensed mental health counselor. She took a leave of absence to work in the Peace Corps in Uganda and she and her late husband founded the “Hope for Limpopo” organization to support impoverished women, children and families in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Ms.

Churchill has and is demonstrating a remarkable commitment to humanity worldwide, and we are grateful to call her our own.

Ms. Joan Fuller completed 38 years as a professional at Westfield State after first setting foot on campus as a freshman in 1973. Ms. Fuller is the one who encouraged Dr. Pickron to come to our University to work with students here. She was the founder of a number of organizations on campus, including co-founder of the Latino Association for Empowerment, co-founder of the Teachers of Color Organization, and founder of the Urban Education Program Gospel Choir. As a testament to her influence, students started the Joan E. Fuller scholarship to help purchase their books and supplies. Ms. Fuller is another outstanding woman of Westfield State.

MOTION made by Trustee Slakey, seconded by Trustee Swan, to approve the granting of Staff Emerita status, effective December 7, 2017, to the following individuals:

Ms. Anne Briggs	Staff Emerita
Ms. Jo Ann Churchill	Staff Emerita
Ms. Joan Fuller	Staff Emerita

Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Pickron continued with the next Agenda Item, proposed changed to the Demonstration/Picketing Policy. He stated that the policy strongly encourages and supports the educational mission and the exchange of various ideas and thoughts where all sides of a story can be heard in a safe way to our students and guests and the protection of the campus. The policy refines the University's support of freedom of speech and protest in a way that is respectful of all views.

MOTION made by Trustee Slakey, seconded by Trustee Hill, to accept proposed changes to *Demonstration / Picketing* policy as outlined in Exhibit A; and to authorize any cross-references to language in the newly revised *Demonstration / Picketing* policy to be made in all other Westfield State University publications.

In response to a question of the review process, Dean of Students Susan LaMontagne stated that the responsible party for reviewing the policies and the timeframe for review is stated at the bottom of each policy. For this policy, public safety drafted suggested changes a year ago, which were reviewed and edited by Dean LaMontagne and aligned with Framingham State's policy, getting final approval of University counsel, Rubin and Rudman. A sub-group of faculty, staff and students also reviewed the policy and made suggestions. Dr. Diane Prusank, Chief of Staff, stated that a policy on policies is being created and that the typical review period would be three years.

There was discussion about a dissemination plan to get this and other policies to the campus community in addition to being listed on the policy website and it was stated that the Demonstration / Picketing Policy has not historically been included in the student handbook. The meeting continued with lively dialogue and concern about ways to implement this policy.

Trustee Martinez-Alvarez entered the meeting at 8:52 AM.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken and the **Motion passed unanimously.**

The next agenda item, Review of the Draft Committee Charter, was presented by Trustee Martin, who had made additional changes to the charter by incorporating wording to be more inclusive and descriptive in the actions and performance of the Academic and Student Affairs department. There will be a motion presented at the next meeting to adopt this document as the committee charter.

The implementation of the college structure was discussed and Dr. Ansari stated that the firm of Isaacson, Miller has been retained to help with the process of three separate searches being conducted at the same time. Committees have been formed with chairs for each, and are meeting regularly. Open forums have been held for faculty, staff and students to participate. It is hoped to have candidates for off-campus interviews early next year. Dr. Ansari stated that some concerns that faculty and staff had were adding another level of bureaucracy and the source of funding for these new offices. The idea of assistant or associate deans was welcomed. Dr. Ansari continued that the deans will bring a level of synergy and accountability and support for faculty and staff. Trustee Slakey suggested that the new deans be perceived as advocates, not bosses, to the faculty and staff and to work with them closely, which was fully supported by Dr. Ansari. It was requested to add an update on the college structure progress to the agenda for each committee meeting.

Progress on the collective bargaining negotiations was discussed, together with the complication that there are three unions in bargaining at the same time. The University is being affected by the work to rule taking place where faculty are doing the minimum.

There being no further business, Committee Chair Slakey asked for a Motion to adjourn.

MOTION was made by Trustee Magovern, seconded by Trustee Swan, to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 AM.

Attachments presented at this meeting:

- a. Minutes of October 12, 2017 Meeting
- b. Motion – Faculty Emeritus/a Status
- c. Faculty Emeritus/a Justifications
- d. Motion – Staff Emerita Status
- e. Staff Emerita Justifications
- f. Motion – Demonstration/Picketing Policy
- g. Demonstration/Picketing Policy with Changes
- h. Demonstration/Picketing Policy with Tracked Changes
- i. Academic and Student Affairs Draft Charter