



Board of Trustees

Special Meeting

October 10, 2025

3:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing will also take place at the following link: <https://www.westfield.ma.edu/live>

Board Members Present: Board Chair Ali Salehi, Vice Chair Melissa Alvarado, Members: Barney Garcia, George Gilmer, Theresa Jasmin, Tessa Lucey, Chris Montemayor, and Michael O'Rourke.

Members Excused: Jay Queenin, William Reichelt and Gloria Williams.

Board Chair Salehi called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. He announced that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded. A roll call was conducted for attendance.

Board Chair Opening Remarks

- The Trustees are there for the students' wellness and to ensure they graduate with a degree that leads to a good job.
- Board Chair Salehi appreciates Dr. Thompson's work, noting that while there isn't always 100% agreement, discussions lead to progress.
- Dr. Thompson is working with Vice President Lisa McMahon on starting a capital campaign for the University.

Opening the Floor / Presidential Evaluation Discussion

- Board Chair Ali Salehi opens the floor for questions or concerns about the report or evaluation process and invites Dr. Thompson to comment.
- Dr. Thompson thanks the Board for their leadership, and commitment to Westfield State University and students, and their volunteer work.
- She appreciates the opportunity to lead the campus and help it thrive.
- The Board acknowledges the challenges, especially in people management and maintaining a positive campus environment.
- The Board is watching over the campus, the President, and the Cabinet, ensuring they fulfill the Board's requests.
- Dr. Thompson does a self-evaluation every year, providing a comprehensive overview of her work.

Salary and Compensation

- The Board of Higher Education (DHE) sets the President's salary, but the board makes recommendations.
- The Board typically requests the maximum allowable raises and adjustments, including adjustments based on length of service and equity.

- Adjustments made by DHE are in line with those of other State and University employees.

MOTION made by Trustee Montemayor and seconded by Trustee O'Rourke to approve the presidential evaluation for the 2024-2025 academic year as presented, and the submission of said evaluation to the Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education along with the submission for the maximum possible compensation. A roll call was taken and there being no discussion, **motion passed unanimously**.

- A typo exists in the report, referring to Dr. Thompson's third and fourth year instead of fourth and fifth year.

Roll Call Vote on the President's Evaluation

- Trustee Alvarado: Yes
- Trustee Gilmer: Yes
- Trustee Garcia: Yes
- Trustee Lucy: Yes
- Trustee Montemayor: Yes
- Trustee O'Rourke: Yes
- Chair Salehi Yes

There being no further business,

MOTION made by Trustee Alvarado and seconded by Trustee O'Rourke to adjourn the meeting. .
A roll call was taken and there being no discussion, **motion passed unanimously**.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Attachment(s):

- Trustees' Questionnaire
- Trustees' Anonymous Feedback
- Draft Presidential Evaluation for 2024-2025 Academic Year
- Motion - Presidential Evaluation

Secretary's Certificate

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Westfield State University Board of Trustees, Special meeting held on October 10, 2025.

Gloria Williams, Secretary

Date