



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

President's Boardroom, Horace Mann Center

April 24, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kevin Queenin, Vice Chair Linda Slakey, Secretary Madeline Landrau, Terrell Hill, Robert Magovern, Robert Martin, Lydia Martinez-Alvarez (joined the meeting at 3:11 PM), Edward Sullivan and Cameron Swan.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: James Hagan and Steven Marcus.

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM by Chair Queenin, who announced that some of the agenda items would be moved around to accommodate the Union members and students present.

MOTION made by Trustee Magovern, seconded by Trustee Landrau, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting. **Trustee Sullivan abstained from voting and the Motion passed unanimously.**

MOTION made by Trustee Swan, seconded by Trustee Sullivan, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 Special Board of Trustees meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

MOTION made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Magovern, to designate Board Chair Kevin Queenin to review and approve the executive session portion of the minutes of the Special Board of Trustees meeting on April 2, 2019. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Queenin recognized Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chair Martin who stated that the committee approved unanimously the recommendation for those candidates that were brought for tenure and promotion. He mentioned the rigorous evaluation process for tenure which lasts a whole year, and thanked the chairs of academic departments, the faculty serving on evaluation committees, and the deans and committees on the tenure on promotion process. Dr. Diane Prusank, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, brought forward candidates for tenure and tenure with automatic promotion, recognizing them and giving examples of their teaching and service to the University.

MOTION made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Hill, to approve the granting of tenure, effective September 1, 2019, to:

Dr. Andrew Hafner	Education
Dr. Jennifer Hixon	Health Sciences
Dr. Rebecca Morris	Economics and Management
Dr. Alice Perry	Criminal Justice
Dr. Jamie Rivera	Nursing

To approve the granting of tenure with automatic promotion, effective September 1, 2019, to:

Dr. Felicia Barber	Music
Dr. Steve Bou ghosn	Computer and Information Science
Ms. Rebecca Brody	Library
Dr. Brian Chen	English
Dr. Robin White	Biology

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Queenin asked that anyone planning to record the meeting to please acknowledge. Student Marcus DiBacco stated that the students' presentations would be recorded for the benefit of their parents.

Dr. Prusank continued by bringing forward candidates for promotion, recognizing them and giving examples of their teaching and service to the University. Trustee Martin recognized the serious work that is represented through the evaluations and portfolios, showing the commitment the faculty has to teaching. The candidates are consistently being teacher scholars and good institutional citizens, which is reflected in the classrooms.

MOTION made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Magovern, to approve the granting of promotion to the rank of Professor, effective September 1, 2019, to:

Dr. Joseph Camilleri	Psychology
Dr. Stephanie Grimaldi	Education
Dr. Sonya Lawson	Music
Dr. Jorge Reyes	Psychology
Dr. Sophia Sarigianides	English
Mr. David Shapleigh	Art
Dr. Tarin Weiss	Chemical and Physical Sciences

To approve the granting of promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, effective September 1, 2019, to:

Dr. Heather Brown	Political Science
Dr. Joan Kuhnly	Nursing
Dr. Hugo Viera	Language and Culture Studies

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Queenin also thanked the faculty members for making a difference in the students' lives. He acknowledged Professors Dr. C. Margot Hennessy, Dr. Claudia Ciano-Boyce, and Dr. Kimberly Tobin, as well as President Torrecilha and the Board of Trustees, especially Trustees Martin and Sullivan. Representatives from the Board of Trustees have had three meetings with representatives from the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA) Westfield chapter and have met numerous times with President Torrecilha to work on issues raised by the MSCA leadership. The Board of Trustees acknowledges its responsibility in improving communication with faculty, staff, students and administrators, and the next agenda item is a presentation by the MSCA leadership, which the Board hopes will improve communication.

Professor Rebecca Olander, a member of the Executive Council of MSCA, thanked students for coming and acknowledged colleagues being recognized for tenure and promotion. Professor Olander then read a statement from the local MSCA chapter, which asked six questions for consideration and response by the Board of Trustees at a later date. Chair Queenin stated that the Trustees will review the questions and

determine how to respond.

Trustee Martin stated that a significant part of the committee meeting was focused on a discussion of the Westfield State Experience and how to enhance student engagement. Ms. Susan LaMontagne, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, introduced the following students, who have taken part in the Westfield State Experience. Trustee Martinez-Alvarez joined the meeting at 3:11 PM.

It was announced that this portion of the meeting would be video recorded. Caitlyn Hurley, a senior Communications major, stated that she has created and owned her experience at Westfield State and has a passion for student conduct and working in higher education. Zuleyka Contreras-Joubert, a Business major, stated that business school is no longer her plan as she found passion for higher education here at Westfield State and is planning to work in that field. Giana Dean is a senior majoring in Criminal Justice, looking for employment in the cybersecurity field. She also received the 29 Who Shine award. Being a student ambassador made her reflect on what type of leader she wanted to become. All three students commented on how their Westfield State Experience included clubs, committees, activities, and mentors which helped them gain the knowledge and skills to succeed.

The meeting moved to agenda item Parenzo Hall Architect Presentation and the design team from Miller Dyer Spears (MDS) was introduced, as well as Ms. Mila Mendoza from the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM). Mr. James Loftus, principal in charge at MDS, gave the firm's background and showed the presentation given to the Design Selection Board (DSB) for the Parenzo project, highlighting certain threads and showing how they will communicate with the campus community.

The meeting moved to the President's Report. President Torrecilha stated that he enjoyed hearing the presentations from the students on their experiences. He shared postgraduate outcomes and the intentionality of our outcomes so students can transition into the labor force or graduate school. A survey of 2017 graduates showed a 30% return, which was compiled into the Class of 2017 Postgraduate Report, which will continue to be used to market Westfield State.

Trustee Magovern left the meeting at 3:56 and returned at 3:57 PM.

Chair Queenin recognized Finance and Capital Assets Committee Chair Sullivan, who recognized Trustees Queenin, Swan and Marcus, as well as Stephen Taksar, Vice President for Administration and Finance, for their work on the Investment subcommittee, and stated there was one item for action.

MOTION made by Trustee Sullivan, seconded by Trustee Swan, to engage the services of Vanguard in accordance with the Investment Management Services RFP (2019-004). **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Queenin recognized Advancement and Enrollment Management Committee Chair Landrau who highlighted the committee meeting conversations surrounding the funnel reports, financial aid consulting firm, five-year projections, Advancement Dashboard, Interfaith breakfast, fundraising counsel, and *Pathways to Excellence*.

Chair Queenin recognized Audit Committee Chair Martinez-Alvarez who said stated the committee discussed the Associate Director of Risk Management position and plans to schedule another meeting to spend more time focusing on that job description and the Whistleblower policy.

MOTION made by Trustee Martinez-Alvarez, seconded by Trustee Slakey, to engage the accounting firm of O'Connor and Drew, P.C. for FY19 audit services. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Queenin recognized Governance and Nominating Committee Vice Chair Hill who stated the committee had discussions about new Trustee orientation and suggestions on information to add to the orientation process.

Discussion turned to moving forward in discussions with the MSCA Union representatives and the need to narrow down specifics to work on. The Board's responsibility now is to respond to the questions posed by the MSCA, giving specificity with actions. Trustee representatives have met with the President and Cabinet to have a cohesive discussion of how to fix issues identified by the MSCA and move on. Fundamentally there is a misunderstanding about shared governance. The Board's next step is to answer the six questions posed by the Union.

There being no further business, **MOTION** made by Trustee Magovern, seconded by Trustee Martinez-Alvarez, to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.

Attachments presented at this meeting:

- a. Minutes of February 7, 2019
- b. Minutes of April 2, 2019
- c. Handout: MSCA Statement to the Westfield Board of Trustees 4/24/2019

Academic and Student Affairs Committee:

- d. Motion – Tenure
- e. Motion – Promotion

Finance and Capital Assets Committee:

- f. Motion – Investment Advisor

Audit Committee:

- g. Motion – Audit Firm Selection