

Board of Governors

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Boyd Conference Room

Members Present: Mr. Charlie Cole, Chair; Mr. Shannon Remines, Mr. Anthony Tolley; Mr. Tim McKenzie; Mr. Jack Sheffler; Ms. Cathy Deeb, Mr. Bill Cole, Mrs. Rebecca Peterson – via phone; Mr. Mike Hastings, Mr. Luke Roberts, Mr. Randy Price

Guests: Interim President Darrin Martin; Mr. Brent Benjamin, EVP; Mr. Ronnie Hypes, CFO; Sarita Rhonemus, Interim Provost; Chancellor Garry Moore; Mrs. Marviene Johnson; Mrs. Angie Lambert; Mrs. Julie Orr, Faculty President; Mrs. Vanessa Godfrey; Mrs. Sherri Williams; Mrs. Angie Wassum; Ms. Amanda Matoushek; Ms. Jane Charnock; Ms. Betty Nash; Mrs. Rita LaBarre; Mr. Bill Bennett; Mr. Sudhakar Jamkhani; Mr. Ron Shidemantle; Ms. Christina Sammarco; Mr. Rodney Montague

Welcome, Chair's Remarks, and Call to Order: Mr. Charlie Cole:

Chair Cole welcomed all in attendance. Welcome Mr. Roberts, new student representative and announced BOG HLC Training on Friday, May 10 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Chair Cole determined that a quorum was established, then he called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Boyd Conference Room. Chair Cole also expressed his thanks to all that were involved in the HLC Hearing and that the hearing resulted with a recommendation that BSU accreditation be continued with no probation. Their recommendation will now be put forth to the HLC Board in June. Chair Cole announced two agenda changes: 1) Item 8.3.1 Immunization – this policy update received a lot of comments during the comment period. Item 8.3.1 was removed from the agenda and will be reviewed in more detailed. 2) Item 8.1 Board Terms was also pulled from the agenda and will be addressed during the Annual June meeting of the BOG.

New Board Member:

Chair Cole presented Timothy Luke Roberts with the Oath of Office. Mr. Roberts is the new Board of Governors Student Representative.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Chair Cole received confirmation that Board members had reviewed minutes of the Board's meeting held on Regular Meeting held on March 7th. Hearing no other requests to correct or revise the minutes, the minutes of the March meeting minutes meeting were accepted by assent of the Board.

Board Committee Reports: Chair Cole confirmed that Board members had reviewed reports of the most recent Athletics, Development and Executive Committee report. The Housing, Student Life and Academic Affairs committees didn't meet in April. Hearing no other requests to correct or revise the committee reports, the committee reports listed above were accepted by assent of the Board.

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Interim President's Report:

Interim President Martin thanked all that were present for the Board for the opportunity to be representing BSU. And the Faculty for welcoming him.

- **HLC Update:**
 - Hearing resulted in our accreditation to continue with no probation
 - Recommendation to be reviewed by HLC Board on June 27th
 - HLC Training has been scheduled for BOG on Friday, May 10th
- **Graduation:**
 - 269 graduates – receiving 283 degrees
 - 1st class with 26 Summa Cum Laudes
 - 1st class with Masters
- **Housing:**
 - MEC will be adding 50 to 70 more beds – total of 283 beds
 - New beds will be added to singles and doubles
 - New furniture will be purchased
- **Enrollment**
 - Up 8.53%
 - FTE 505 to 548

Standing Reports:

- **Academic Affairs:** Dr. Sarita Rhonemus, Interim Provost
 - Faculty By Laws
 - Three revisions:
 - Article 2, Section 2.1 – remove associate deans and chairs and this revision would allow all associate deans and chairs full voting privileges
 - Article 4, section 4.4, subsection 4.4.3 – the chair shall establish the agenda for each meeting. Previously, the chair needed the President to approve the agenda.
 - Article 6, Section 6.1 removed subject to the approval of the university's board of governors in consultation with the president. This would all the assembly to amend their bylaws without the BOG and president's approval.
 - Chair Cole asked General Counselor Benjamin to speak to the revisions.
 - 1st revision expands the voting within the faculty assembly.
 - 2nd revision removes consultation with the president on the preparation of their agenda. The president attends the meetings so the president is able to add his comments during the meeting.

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- 3rd revision – shared governance and steps back from what we have learned over the past six months
- General Counselor recommends that 1st two be accepted and the third to be rejected
- Chair Cole brought forth the matter to accept the change on Article 2, Section 2.1 of the Faculty By-Laws. The change will read as: Article 2, Section 2.1 Article 2, Section 2.1: “.....Faculty members serving in primarily administrative positions (including Deans, ~~Associate Deans, and Chairs~~), are not members of the Faculty Assembly.....” **This revision would allow associate deans and chairs full voting privileges.** Mr. Bill Cole made the motion, Mr. Hasting seconded the motion. A majority of the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative. All were in favor. The motion carried.
- Chair Cole brought forth the matter to accept the change on Article 4, section 4.4, subsection 4.4.3: “~~In consultation with the President,~~ the Chair shall establish the agenda for each meeting.” **This would allow the Faculty Assembly Chair to create the agenda without Presidential consultation.**
- Chair Cole brought forth the matter to reject the change on Article 6, Section 6.1 : “~~Subject to the approval of the University’s Board of Governors, in consultation with the President,~~ the Faculty Assembly may propose amendments to these By-Laws by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting or at a special meeting called for such a purpose..... **This would allow the Faculty Assembly to amend the Bylaws without BOG and Presidential consultation/approval.** Mr. Bill Cole made the motion, Mr. Remines seconded the motion. A majority of the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative. All were in favor with the exception of a no vote cast by Mr. Sheffler, Faculty Representative. The motion carried.

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Meeting Minutes Continued:

- **Financial & Administrative Affair:** Ronnie Hypes, CFO
 - Cash Flow and Expenses EOY - 1.5M short
 - Foundation request for Title III for 1.5 to cover shortfall from July – August
 - Budget talks with Cabinet members to begin
 - Cutting budget across all sectors by 15%
 - Waivers being adjusted
 - Recruiting the ‘right’ student
 - State appropriations cut due to formula changes
 - Money was given for raises for employees – money available once new allocations are received and this pool will be distributed among BSU employees
 - Build out of MEC on time and the contractors are moving fast
 - Differed maintenance projects are moving along.
 - Smaller projects being completed by in house personnel
 - Chiller in Dickason being addressed and fixed
 - Tuition and Fees
 - Removing the Academic Support Fee
 - 5% increase across the board on Tuition
 - Chair Cole brought forth the matter to vote on the Tuition and Fee changes. (see attached tuition/fee schedule) Mr. Price motioned the acceptance, Mr. Cole seconded. A majority of the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative. All were in favor. The motion carried.
 - Honor Cottages will be offline and all students will be housed at the MEC. Cottages are in need of major updates and repairs
- **Safety and Security:** Brent Benjamin, EVP
 - **Security**
 - First fire drill at Mahood
 - All went well and other buildings will follow and to begin in August
 - MEC will happen a few days after move in is complete
 - Cameras are being expanded around the MEC
 - Electronic door locks at MEC and on campus
 - Security bid is being placed
 - Capital police will assist us with active shooting plans and to begin in the Fall
 - Campus Carry – July 1, 2024
 - Legislative act and must be followed
 - Lockers at MEC for students to secure their guns

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Meeting Minutes Continued:

Chancellor's Update – Garry Moore, Chancellor

- CIAA tournament and how complementary all were to our students
- Emerging Scholars – 2nd year
 - 13 returning for 2nd year
 - This year up to 50 joining us

Faculty Representative Update: Jack Sheffler, Faculty Representative

- Chancellor Tucker to serve another term

Staff Representative Update: Tim McKenzie, Staff Representative

- Staff Council Meeting scheduled for Friday, April 26
 - Constitution/By-Laws to be reviewed
 - Committee members to be selected

Student Representative Update: Luke Roberts, Student Representative

- SGA provided money for BSL to have celebration dinner for Men's/Women's basketball players for the CIAA tournament showing

Special Orders: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Faculty Credentials:
 - Chair Cole brought forth the matter to vote on the Faculty Credentials. Mr. Bill Cole motioned the acceptance, Mr. Sheffler seconded. A majority of the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative. All were in favor. The motion carried
- Hiring Policy Update: Brent Benjamin, EVP
 - Policy updated to reflect old policy that was amended in May
 - Chair Cole brought forth the matter to vote on the Hiring Policy Updates. Mr. Sheffler motioned the acceptance, Mr. Tolley seconded. A majority of the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative. All were in favor. The motion carried.
- Honorary Degree Discussion – Dr. Darrin Martin, Interim President
 - Honorary Degree to be presented to Fawn Weaver, our commencement speaker.
 - Chair Cole brought forth the matter to vote on Honorary Degree to be presented to Fawn Weaver. Mr. Bill Cole motioned the acceptance, Mr. Charlie Cole seconded. A majority of the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative. All were in favor. The motion carried.

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Meeting Minutes Continued:

- Presidential Search Process – Cathy Deeb
 - Dr. Martin excused himself while this topic was discussed
 - Ms. Deeb reviewed the process to the board and asked for their approval to begin the presidential search.
 - Chair Cole brought forth the matter approve the Presidential Search Process. Mr. Bill Cole motioned; Mr. Remines seconded. A majority of the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Announcements:

- Nursing Associate Pinning Ceremony – April 26th at 6 Pm
- BSU Commencement – Saturday, April 27th at 10AM – Brushfork Amory

Comments:

Board Members: None

Public Comments:

- Betty Nash expressed her concerns on the immunization's changes.
- Rita LaBarre expressed her concerns with changes being made at Saunders and she wanted become a BSU full time employee.

Executive Session:

- Mr. Hastings made a motion to move into executive session – Mr. Tolley seconded the motion, board of governors meeting moved into executive session at 5:41 PM.
 - i. Mr. Hypes and Mr. Benjamin were asked to remain
- Chair Cole made a motion to exit executive session at 6:02 PM – Mr. Bill Cole made the motion, Mr. Tolley second.

Adjournment:

Chair Cole made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Remines. The motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM

The next regularly scheduled BSU Board of Governors meeting will take place on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

Minutes submitted by: Jeanne Moricle, Board Liaison

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