

3-18-2020

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes 2020-03-18

Bowling Green State University

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MINUTES
Board of Trustees
Bowling Green State University
March 18, 2020

Notice having been given in accordance with the Board of Trustees Bylaws, and per a March 13, 2020, statement issued by Ohio Attorney General, Dave Yost, the following members of The Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees met electronically for a special meeting on March 18, 2020: Daniel Keller, Chair; Marilyn Eisele, Leah Fishman, Drew Forhan, Linda Forte, Ava Harter, Betty Montgomery, Bruce Nyberg, David O'Brien, Geoff Radbill, Dr. Richard Ross, Remington Schneider, Amy Shore, and Howard Traul.

Also present (electronically): Rodney Rogers, President; Patrick Pauken, Secretary to the Board; Joe Whitehead, Provost and Senior Vice President; Sherideen Stoll, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Thomas Gibson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost; Mike Ogawa, Vice President for Research and Economic Engagement; William Balzer, Vice President for Faculty Affairs and Strategic Initiatives; Pam Conlin, Vice President for University Advancement; Dave Kielmeyer, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer; Cecilia Castellano, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Sue Houston, Vice President of Partnerships and Chief of Staff; Viva McCarver, Chief Human Resources Officer; Bruce Meyer, Associate Vice President for Capital Planning and Campus Operations; John Ellinger, Chief Information Officer; Jennifer McCary, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator; Michael Stokes, Interim General Counsel; media representatives; and a number of observers online.

Mr. Keller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Board Secretary called the roll and announced that a quorum was present (nine trustees).

Mr. Keller noted that, pursuant to a statement issued by Ohio Attorney General, Dave Yost, public university boards of trustees are permitted to meet electronically in order to practice appropriate physical distancing in this time of a COVID-19 declared emergency in Ohio. Trustees, President Rogers, members of the President's Cabinet, and members of the BGSU community are able to participate in the meeting via telephone. Mr. Keller thanked those who joined the meeting. He then introduced President Rogers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Rodney Rogers provided an update on BGSU's response to COVID-19 as of March 18, 2020. BGSU is following all of the recommendations issued by Governor DeWine and his staff. To that end, the President has appointed a task force led by Vice President and Chief of Staff, Dr. Sue Houston. Several overriding principles guide the University's response: (1) health, safety, and welfare of students, staff, and faculty on both campuses; (2) guidance from federal, state, and local officials; (3) degree completion, especially for our spring 2020 candidates for graduation; (4) virtual, online teaching and learning beginning Monday, March 23, 2020; (5) the provision of support services for students, staff, and faculty; and (6) maintenance of the physical and information technology infrastructure.

Spring semester is scheduled to end May 15. BGSU will maintain residence for the small number who need to stay in Bowling Green. Most students will relocate. Staff and faculty, for the most part, will work remotely. There will be some staff members who must work on campus and will practice appropriate physical distancing. There will be some activities that cannot happen remotely. Affected staff will take leave as needed.

President Rogers then introduced several cabinet members who offered brief reports.

Provost Joe Whitehead reported on the work of faculty who are busy converting their spring courses for online delivery. The Center for Faculty Excellence and many other faculty across the campuses have provided great assistance to faculty and graduate teaching instructors. We have a web site with continuing updates and resources. We also are engaging in remote advising for students.

Vice President Tom Gibson reported on remote student engagement, including tele-counseling and other accommodations provided by the Office of Accessibility Services. Student organizations are able to continue their work online.

Vice President Cecilia Castellano reported that the Enrollment Management Division has gone entirely remote. Recruitment activities continue, however. There will be virtual events via telephone and video to meet our yield goals. We are opening up the scholarship application system again so that students may update their information to be reflective of their current situation.

President Rogers thanked his leadership team for their work. Every individual at BGSU is focused on supporting our students in these challenging times.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Keller made a motion – pursuant to the provisions of the Ohio Open Meetings Act, Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 to enter into executive session to discuss (1) security arrangements and emergency response protocols; and (2) matters concerning employment and evaluation of public employees. Mr. Traul seconded. Roll call was taken and the motion was approved. The Board took a brief recess at 8:55 a.m., in advance of the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:06 a.m., at the conclusion of the executive session, Mr. Keller reconvened the meeting and announced that the Board met in executive session, at which no action was taken. Roll call was taken. Mr. Keller made a motion to come out of executive session. Dr. Ross seconded. Roll call was taken and the motion was approved.

Mr. Keller turned to President Rogers, who made some concluding remarks regarding spring commencement. Degrees will be conferred in May, but the University has decided to postpone and not cancel the event.

Mr. Keller asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Traul so moved. Mr. Forhan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.