



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Affairs Committee

October 23, 2024

Minutes

Presidents Boardroom, Horace Mann Building

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing also took place on YouTube.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chair Chris Montemayor, Secretary Daniel Currier, Trustee Michael O'Rourke, Trustee George Gilmer, Trustee William Reichelt and Board Chair Ali Salehi, ex-officio member.

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Committee Vice Chair Boudreau

Also, present were Westfield State University President Dr. Linda Thompson and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Salka.

Committee Chair Montemayor called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and a roll call was taken of the committee members participating as listed above. It was announced that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded.

MOTION made by Trustee Gilmer seconded by Trustee Currier to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024, meeting. There being no discussion, **ROLL CALL VOTE** with Trustee O'Rourke abstaining, motion passed by majority.

Provost Dr. William Salka informed the Board of Trustees of the graduation rates from 2015-present. According to these rates, Westfield State University has a loses 1/3 of an incoming class before they reach junior year. Comparatively, Westfield State University is slightly below the other sister universities. Students leave for three reasons; low grades, not challenged enough early on, or financial reasons. Also discussed, four- and six-year graduation rates.

Initiatives to Improve Retention

Dr. Salka went through the following ideas to improve retention;

- Dual Advising Program
- WSU 360 – an early alert system to track academically struggling students and assist them in getting help.
- This contract has predicative analytics of the likelihood a student will be retained and students that won't.
- Westfield in Four- New students have a conversation with their advisor and make a list of which classes are needed to graduate.
- Train all the administrative assistants with student support systems WSU offers.

Discussion around first year student complaints of not having program specific classes until later on in school career. The Wise program was designed to assure students get their major courses early on.

MOTION made by Trustee Reichelt seconded by Trustee O'Rourke adjourn the meeting. There being no discussion, **ROLL CALL VOTE**, motion passed by majority.

Meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM.

Attachments presented at this meeting:

- a. Draft Minutes of June 20, 2024
- b. Retention Presentation

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 Academic Affairs Committee meeting held on October 23, 2024.

Daniel Currier, Secretary

Date