



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

### MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2024

**Trustees Attending:** Israul Marrero, Vice Chair, Omari Aarons, Portsha Franklin-Gordon, Betty Francisco, Richard O’Bryant, Miriam Ortiz, Anthony Samuels, Sheriece Perry, Kiara Rosario, Tameka Simmons

**Also Attending:** Interim President Jackie Jenkins-Scott, EVP Joyce Taylor Gibson, AVP Alison Handy, CFO Biren Puri, EVP and Special Assistant Marta Rosa, Valerie Thornhill-Hudson, Sr. Executive Assistant to the Interim President, Dr. Jeff Van Dreason, Dean of Institutional Assessment, Withum Auditors Zach Laflash and Angela Lagomarsimo

**Absent:** Steve Tompkins, Chair

#### Call to Order

In the absence of Chair Tompkins, Vice Chair Marrero called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

#### I. Welcome

Vice Chair Marrero welcomed and thanked the Trustees and RCC staff for attending the meeting.

#### II. Chair’s Report/Update

Vice Chair Marrero introduced Interim President Jenkins-Scott who gave a brief update on the upcoming Board of Trustees Retreat on January 25, and 26, 2024.

Interim President Jenkins-Scott shared that Dr. Helen Benjamin will facilitate the Retreat again this year. The Retreat will be held in the new Alumni Room in the Media Arts Center. A joint meeting/dinner of the Trustees and Foundation Board members is on the schedule as well. Nate Mackinnon, Executive Director for the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges, will present at the meeting. Trustee Perry and Ms. Rosa will provide an update on the Presidential Search.

#### III. Finance Update

Interim President Jenkins-Scott introduced Biren Puri who will serve as the Interim CFO. This transition will be discussed at the Retreat. The Interim President thanked Mr. Puri for agreeing to serve in this role.

FY24 Update: Mr. Puri referred the Trustees to the FY24 update in the briefing materials. He reported that the College’s financial situation looks positive. A positive Spring ’24 is expected. Mr. Puri reported that we are exceeding our goals. An updated budget will be presented at the March Trustee meeting.

Audit Update: Mr. Puri indicated that draft copies of the Audit were emailed to the Trustees prior to the Board meeting. He introduced Mr. Zach Laflash and Ms. Angela Lagomarsimo, auditors from Withum. The auditors presented a summary of the FY23 audit. Mr. Puri indicated that the State Comptroller's office will accept the audit in draft form, even though the audit has not been approved by the Board of Trustees. A Special meeting of the Board will be scheduled to approve the FY23 audit.

Mr. Puri provided a brief update on Facilities, the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center, the Dudley House and Information Technology. He indicated that detailed information is included in his report to the Trustees.

#### **IV. Enrollment Update**

Dr. Handy provided a brief Enrollment Update. She indicated that the numbers had not changed much since our last meeting in November 2023. The College finished strong. Dr. Handy reported on the undergraduate credits, and headcount. She also reported on Mass Reconnect for fall 2022 and 2023. Dr. Handy was pleased to report that we now have a fully staffed Admissions Office.

#### **V. Restorative Justice**

Dr. Gibson provided a brief overview on the Restorative Justice Projects Administrator position. Trustees were encouraged to read the materials, including the job description in the briefing materials. Dr. Gibson shared that Ms. Rachel Rollins had been hired to serve in the role of part-time Restorative Justice Projects Administrator, and will report to the Interim EVP for Academic and Student Affairs.

#### **VI. Presidential Search Update**

Trustee Perry gave an update on the Search Committee schedule. The consultant, Isaacson Miller (IM), presented a slate of candidates to the Committee. IM is on track to do interviews in late March and early April. Trustee was pleased to report that IM has been successful in identifying candidates for the position inside and outside of Massachusetts.

#### **VII. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update**

Ms. McDonald-Brown gave a financial update on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events for the past two years. She shared that Anita Hill will be the first recipient of the RCC Drum Major for Justice Award at the Gala. The Center for Economic and Social Justice will be announced at the Gala as well.

#### **VIII. Interim President's Update**

Interim President Jenkins-Scott reported that Biren Puri has accepted the position of Interim CFO. We are still looking to fill the Director of Financial Aid, and the Registrar positions.

Interim President Jenkins-Scott updated the Trustees on the incident at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center. This situation stemmed from a parent complaining of the lack of access to the Reggie for schools in the City of Boston. Ms. Rosa reported that Councilors Flynn and Anderson met with the Interim President. The College is waiting for a hearing date from the City. Ms. Rosa stated that the College has reached out to BPS Superintendent Skipper regarding representation from her office at the hearing once confirmed.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

1. The Board Minutes for September 19, 2023.
2. The Board Minutes for November 14, 2023

**X. Public Comment**

There were no public comment requests for this meeting.

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Board is March 19, 2024, at 6 p.m. Please note that the meeting will be held via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Thornhill-Hudson  
Senior Executive Assistant to  
Interim President Jackie Jenkins-Scott  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees