
SUBJECT: Executive Committee Executive Session Notes for November 19, 2014

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Salem State University voted unanimously to go into Executive Session on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, in Room 210 of Marsh Hall, located on Central Campus of Salem State University.

Board Secretary Fleischman took the roll at 4:50 pm; voting in the affirmative to enter executive session were Trustees Davis, Scott and Segal. VP Keenan and CFO House were invited to participate in the session. Trustee Crawford, Vice President of Enrollment Management James and Dean of Student Affairs Stoll were also present.

The purpose of the session was to discuss the potential merger with and acquisition of property of Montserrat College of Art. The president gave a status update on the acquisition. The University is still in the process of gathering information (e.g.: Student Life, Academic Affairs, etc.). The matter has been discussed with DHE Commissioner Freeland; there will be two votes by the Board of Higher Education needed for the acquisition to go forward: 1) to allow for the acquisition of Montserrat; and 2) for Salem State to shift its offering from a BA to a BFA, a new degree.

CFO House reported on steady state and transition costs. We have translated Montserrat's rates and revenue streams to match ours. We have also examined their fundraising and what could be relied upon to continue post-acquisition.

Interim Provost Goodwin has looked at the academic effects while Professor Mary Mellili of the Art Department has examined the ability of the University to offer a BFA. Her review has determined there is a close fit between the academic programs of the two institutions, with little to no overlap. A concern has been raised that our general education requirements may be a hindrance for some Montserrat students who are focused primarily on their artistic pursuits.

The effect these requirements have on the market need to be examined. VP of Enrollment James stated that while we do not have hard numbers describing the market effect, the market perspective will need to be addressed.

Vice President Keenan described how IT and Public Safety have been brought in to examine the facilities. They saw the college's three main buildings and good studio space on Cabot Street in Beverly. The college's property includes 36,000 sf of unused leased space. Dean Stoll stated that the college currently houses 278 students in facilities that will require further examination. The college does not have a dining hall on its campus, nor are there student activity facilities.

President Meservey described the timeline for completing this acquisition, if it goes forward, would be to bring it before the MA Department of Higher Education in late January and then before the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) in late March/early April. Trustee Segal inquired into the level of detail the DHE would need to allow this to move forward. The president suggested circulating information related to the UMass Dartmouth acquisition of the Southern New England School of Law.

With no further business to be discussed in Executive Session, Chair Scott called for a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Segal, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn from Executive Session

Board Secretary Fleischman took the roll at 5:15 pm; voting in the affirmative to exit executive session were Trustees Davis, Scott and Segal.

The Board came out of Executive Session and the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by: J. Fleischman, Secretary to the Board of Trustees