

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Operating Reserves-Emergency Student Credit

President Clark spoke to the emergency student credit. The approximate refund to students is \$9.3M. In moving to an online format and with employees telecommuting, there will be cost savings.

He explained how almost immediately they began looking at expenditures to determine where there could be savings.

Committee Chair Murphy noted there are many layers in reviewing the impact. The difficult issue for the university is where the source of the refund will come from. It is hopeful that the state or federal government will provide financial resources but this is not clear. All universities are moving in the same direction and are on the same path. The larger/longer term issue is the \$9M.

President Clark confirmed all nine state universities are following an identical refund policy except for MMA as they are on a different schedule. UMass is moving in the same direction as well. The community colleges do not have a reimbursement issue. Students were directed to file under consumer protection if they do not receive a reimbursement. The presidents are talking to the Governor, Secretary, Lt. Governor and others to advocate for reimbursement. With the stimulus money from the Federal government, dollars have been set aside for higher education but this is yet to be determined.

Vice President Shropshire noted the \$9.2M in refunds are for housing, meal plans and parking. The other two big pieces for revenue loss is the inability to collect receivables given the economic pressure our students are faced with. This amount may represent \$2.3M in terms of uncollectible receivables. Tuition and fees for summer revenue loss may be \$1.3M. Currently, summer enrollment is 30% behind last year's enrollment. Regarding the aviation program, the students are not flying and they have prepaid for flight time (students may ask to be reimbursed). Money is not coming in for external events. Conversion costs for remote delivery to support programs and telecommuting for our employees is approximately \$300,000. Lastly, the smallest piece is travel plans that were cancelled; not all monies have been recaptured.

Trustee Denterlein inquired about staffing and the possibility of furloughs. President Clark responded a hiring pause was implemented. Student employees will only be paid four weeks.

They are looking to reduce or eliminate hourly employees. There are no plans to move in the direction of furloughs at this point.

Trustee Oliari inquired about courses that cannot be implemented online. President Clark responded 100% of our courses have been converted to online, to include theatre, art, labs, etc.

by the Building Authority and the BHE. A m

moving. Three organizations submitted proposals with Sodexo coming out on top. She is hopeful negotiations will be complete by April 16 or shortly thereafter so the contract can be brought to the Board for a vote.

Operations Division Update

Vice President Jason spoke about how her division has been responding to capital projects. The current projects will be completed. A medical tent will be set up for subcontractors on campus. FY21 capital projects are on hold. Central Receiving has been working with the state comptroller for year-end report discrepancies. Environmental Health is working with employees. Maintainers are unseen heroes working diligently with Res Life housing. Students who have remained on campus due to hardship are now in Crimson Hall. Dining is available in ECC and is open 7 days a week. The Mailroom has reduced staffing.

President Clark noted the Governor has exempted many construction projects so we are able to move forward. The Mayor had a separate construction ban which doesn't affect the Town of Bridgewater. Safety guidelines have been established and these are being followed.

UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY

COVID-19 Update

Committee Chair Caulfield noted, as Trustees, they have been in constant contact with President Clark. The consensus is that they appreciate his transparency and kindness.

President Clark noted the Board meet on March 17 and updates have been provided since that point in time. They continue to work on a daily basis with many colleagues in higher education and they are in sync with the rest of the state. As of today, there are 6 reported cases amongst our students. All are at home in isolation. They have reached out to those students and offered assistance in any way possible. The Pandemic Response Committee meets every morning. There are 7 subgroups that were established to address various issues and to keep the university moving forward.

Provost Ismaili noted the faculty have put in an incredible effort to bring courses online. He appreciates how they are supporting each other and our students. Students are talking about the heroic efforts of our faculty. General issues they have dealt with are: continuing studies and the teaching and technology center. They

have provided all the tools, training and guidance to make this quick transition. As they have gone through this period, they have addressed policy questions and operational questions. Provost Ismaili acknowledged the hard work of Registrar Joe Wolk and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Rita Miller. Dr. Miller oversees the A

Dr. Irina Seceleanu participated in the call on behalf of the MSCA and commented on the tremendous efforts by faculty to move classes online. They appreciate the tremendous support to make this happen.

Chairman Durgin noted the Board will meet again virtually on April 16 for a Board meeting. He thanked President Clark and Vice President Shropshire for the detailed information provided. He is confident the university is moving in the right direction.

On motion duly made and seconded (Denterlein, MacCormack) it was that the meeting be adjourned (5:40pm).

VOTED

FOR: Unanimous

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Davede Alexander

Davede Alexander
Secretary

Minutes prepared by:
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