
**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Friday, June 3, 2022

MINUTES

Executive Session: 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. (Suite 440A – Trustees' Boardroom)

Public/Full Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Russell Noles read the Trustees into Executive Session at 7:30 a.m. and asked for a motion. The motion was made and seconded, and unanimously approved.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Trustees business meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Russell Noles. Trustee Albus Brooks, Trustee Mario Carrera, Trustee Emily Renwick Garnett, Trustee Barb Grogan, Trustee Kristin Hultquist, Trustee Mike Johnston, Trustee Marissa Molina, Faculty Trustee Bethany Fleck, Faculty Senate President Katia Campbell, Student Trustee Savannah Martel, and Alumni Association Trustee Jim Qualteri, were also in attendance, along with President Janine Davidson, Board Secretary David Fine, Vice President/Chief Operating Officer Larry Sampler, Treasurer/CEO George Middlemist, Assistant Secretary Melinda Olivarez, various faculty, administrators, and staff.

III. CHAIR'S WELCOME & REPORT

Chairman Noles asked that a moment of silence be observed for the victims and survivors of the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Chair Noles recognized Trustees who are leaving the Board of Trustees:

- *Farewell Bethany, Faculty Trustee, Savannah, Student Trustee & Katia, Faculty Senate President*
- *Welcome Dr. Meredith Jeffers, new Faculty Trustee, Gabe Trujillo (not present), new Student Trustee & Liz Goodnick, new Faculty Senate President*
- *Todd Thurman, Athletics Director to introduce Roadrunner baseball team*
- *Dr. Davidson to introduce Teresa Kostenbauer, Senior Manager, University Recruitment and Relations, Arrow Electronics, and Commissioner, Colorado Commission of Higher Education*

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of March 18, 2022, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

B. Office of Human Resources report of personnel actions for the Board's information which have occurred since the last Board meeting on Friday, March 18, 2022

C. Approval of Recommendation for Faculty Emeritus Status Recommendations

D. Approval of Recommendations for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor (carry-in)

E. Approval of Recommendations for Tenure Upon Appointment (carry-in)

Trustee Carrera moved for approval of the Consent Agenda, with a second by Trustee Hultquist. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. STRATEGIC DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Strategic Plan Update - Kelly Brough, Chief Strategy Officer & Christopher Peña, Director of Strategy

Mr. Pena reviewed proposed strategic metrics that will align with the University's Strategic Plan. These will aid in understanding progress toward the University's defined goals.

Goals associated with Pillar I, which is focused on access and achievement, relate to how MSU Denver brings people into higher education, supports them in the academic enterprise, and prepares them for success following graduation. The University wants to partner with the state of Colorado in achieving its goal of closing the educational attainment gap between white students and students of color.

Enrollment is the University's key goal as an institution. The University's goal for enrollment is presently to hold steady with enrollment in Fall 2021. The University's enrollment has dropped about 7.3% year over year from last year, which was the third largest drop after CSU Global and University of Northern Colorado.

MSU Denver wants to provide the ideal transfer experience. About half of incoming undergraduate students are transfer students; two-thirds of them come from two-year institutions in Colorado.

Outputs to be measured include degrees awarded, the amount of debt students have accumulated when they finish their program and leave the University; how they reflect on their experience at MSU Denver; and how likely they are to recommend the University to others. Bachelor's degrees are the University's most important output.

Feedback and input on the strategic metrics is welcome. They will be operationalized following approval.

B. Free Expression Statement Resolution – *David Fine, General Counsel*

Mr. Fine quoted from Dr. Davidson's final report of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service in 2020: "The United States continues to be a radical experiment in inclusive representative democracy, unique in the history of the world. What makes it so radical and so exceptional is the combination of its ever-evolving and expanding civil society together with the open and free discourse that fuels its political system at its best. These characteristics enable the United States to confront or prevent crises and to seize opportunities by harnessing the power of diversity of thought, respectful debate, and collaboration focused on a common purpose."

This also lies at the heart of an outstanding liberal arts and sciences education, which MSU Denver provides. At the same time, this country's history is not pure, and Americans have not been at their best lately when it comes to discourse, with tragic consequences. The country was founded on the backs of slaves, and only recently has there been an attempt to rectify the legacy of Jim Crow. Those gains were short-lived, and inclusive democracy is under attack again. The bonds that hold Americans together are fraying. It is tempting to seek to regulate speech and thought in this environment, but the question is who should regulate speech and ideas. The danger of censorship through the banning of books in this country and the prohibition against teaching critical race theory at the time it most desperately needs to be taught is approaching censorship.

In this spirit, President Davidson directed Mr. Fine to convene a taskforce to create a Free Expression Statement. The taskforce is made up of stakeholders from across the institution and devoted considerable time to developing the statement which points out the importance of free expression and inquiry to the University's mission and to the University community. Mr. Fine stated that the Free Expression Statement is not a policy or a legal document; rather, it is a cultural statement with two supporting ideas: 1) that the health of a diverse democracy depends on renewing and rebuilding institutions that connect citizens to one another and foster empathy; and 2) that free speech and inquiry protect against dogmatism and groupthink, both on the left and on the right, and allow for a robust collision of ideas among a diverse population.

Mr. Fine said that free expression and DEI can coexist. In fact, expression is even more robust in a diverse community such as MSU Denver's. The statement makes clear that members of the MSU Denver community owe one another the basic respect of human beings engaged in a common and mutual endeavor; it encourages members of the MSU Denver community to respond and to speak out clearly against speech that violates our principles and commitment to nurture a diverse, inclusive, and safe learning community where all members are empowered to express themselves. These two aspects of the statement distinguish it from other statements around the country reviewed by the taskforce and make it a distinctly MSU Denver statement in that respect.

The various stakeholder groups at the University, including Faculty Senate, Community Cabinet, TSAC, and Staff Senate were consulted for input and feedback on this document. Following the Board's approval of the resolution to approve this statement, the University will host a panel in the Fall. Attorney General Phil Weiser will join President Davidson and Councilman Wayne Williams of Colorado Springs on the panel. Mr. Weiser was one of the drafters of the Ginsburg/Scalia Initiative along with several other attorneys general around the country. The idea of the Ginsburg/Scalia Initiative being that if people with such diametrically opposed legal/philosophical views as Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg could work together and develop a friendship, then anyone can. Mr. Weiser, a Democrat, and Mr. Williams, a Republican, are continuing this work together.

President Davidson thanked Mr. Fine and said that it is an act of courage for the Board to reaffirm the practice of free speech by not simply putting a document on the shelf, but by continuing to practice free speech with ongoing programming.

C. Statewide Sentiment Survey Results – Whei Wong, AVP University Communications and Marketing

Ms. Wong was joined by Rob Segal, consultant with Trajectory Insights. She reported that the Statewide Sentiment Survey went live in February. Its results dovetail nicely with the data presented by Mr. Pena regarding what people know about MSU Denver and what they think about the University, to better tell the story of MSU Denver. The goal of the survey was to make sure that awareness of the University could be assessed across regions in the state. In determining awareness, the first consideration was whether people have heard of the University; otherwise it would be useless to enter an area and begin talking about programming without awareness of the University.

Through the survey, comparisons were drawn to competitors within the state. One of the goals of the survey was to determine the factors that parents, prospects, and school counselors use to make their decisions about colleges and universities. These three groups serve as gatekeepers to many prospective students, whether they are 18 years of age, or "traditional" age, or non-traditional age. MSU Denver's average student age is 26. Finally, perceptions of the MSU Denver brand were investigated.

The University has been very focused on the seven-county metro area for over ten years. The Marketing Team wanted to find out what that has done to the knowledge of the University, and whether it has trickled out.

The online survey enabled adult Colorado residents with a high school teenager in their home to offer the survey to the teen too. Nearly 100 parents did give the survey to their high schoolers. The size of that survey is not large but it gives some insight into what 17- and 18-year-olds are thinking.

A certain generational population in Colorado know the University as "Metro." Some respondents referred to the University as "MSU Denver" and others referred to it as "Metro." The University's full name should be reinforced for name recognition. Awareness of the University falls dramatically outside of the metro area, particularly in the southern and western parts of the state.

Survey participants were given a list of all the institutions, including ones named as competitors, and asked to rank-order the ones they knew best. Results indicate that MSU Denver is trailing its competitors. In the Denver Metro area, 57% of respondents are aware of MSU Denver; 36% are not. No other competitor in the list had that big of a drop. For those respondents with bachelor's degrees, two-thirds are aware of the University, but for those with only some credit and no bachelor's degree, awareness is low.

32% of adults in the state are aware of the University's HSI designation. Outside of the metro area, HSI awareness is strongest with school counselors. In the public there is far less understanding of what HSI is or that MSU Denver is an HSI institution. Hispanic/Latinx adults are more aware, and 24% of non-enrollees were aware of this designation. School counselors are very aware of the designation and so can help to get the word out and begin to explain what it means.

Survey administrators wanted to test whether MSU Denver's urban location is of concern to people from rural parts of the state. The responses were neutral, and in some cases, respondents from rural communities could foresee a boon in their social prospects.

Words such as “urban” and “downtown” were tested and reactions were neutral.

Survey participants were asked the key things they need to know to decide about attending a college or university. Responses across all subgroups were consistent. The top four are affordable tuition; availability of the programs respondents desired; assurance that the campus is safe; and availability of scholarships and financial aid. Reinforcing how and why MSU Denver excels in these areas is important.

A large portion of survey respondents rated MSU Denver's reputation as excellent or very good. School counselors mentioned that they have seen great improvement over the past few years. This survey is a baseline Statewide Sentiment Survey that can be built on to track and measure the institution's success. One-third of adult respondents said that MSU Denver provides high academic quality and 55% said it is average. Through an open-ended question adult respondents statewide described MSU Denver as “affordable,” “local,” “convenient,” and “downtown.” Additional descriptors were “diverse,” “quality,” “inclusive,” and “welcoming.”

School counselors gave specific feedback that they appreciate being able to connect directly with MSU Denver's staff as well as staff visiting their schools. Mr. Simpkins' team will continue delivering the materials counselors need and showing up to answer their questions.

A vast majority of respondents agreed that MSU Denver is inclusive and represents diversity; that it offers a wide range of degrees in flexible learning formats; and that it provides an excellent education at an affordable price. The strongest words and phrases were “convenience,” that “diversity is valued,” and that “the institution is open enrollment.”

Those who don't have a degree or who are high school students were asked if they would consider MSU Denver as their university. Two-thirds said they will either definitely or probably consider MSU Denver when going back to school. Six out of ten would definitely or probably recommend the University. Their reasons included that they had a positive personal experience and, in their words, they see the value and understand that MSU Denver welcomes all walks of life.

Fifty-one percent of school counselors said that MSU Denver does an excellent or very good job of keeping them updated. Counselors would like more in-person visits and opportunities to come to campus. Bringing students to campus is a key practice. Counselors want more consistent updates and other interactions, such as being able to speak directly with Financial Aid around some of their more nuanced questions and program specifics.

Overall recommendations coming out of the survey are to continue to promote affordability, scholarships and aid, the downtown location; continue to spotlight a wide breadth of offerings; add programming keeping in mind what the consumer is looking for. Because the campus is downtown, improve perceptions that the campus is safe, although overall, survey respondents did not express that as a concern. Those who did were women or mothers of students who would be attending. The media placements that resonate most are those with personal testimonials. Leveraging flexibility, meeting students where they are, and reinforcing the commitment to inclusivity and open enrollment are key. Mr. Segal added that in reaching out statewide, the intent was to let the data fall as it would other than to ensure that the respondents from across the state represented the population and was a good mix. At a quick glance, 55% were married and 30% were single. From an ethnicity standpoint, 20% were Hispanic and 80% were white. Income was widely spread as well. The data was allowed to fall where it would rather than trying to guide it to match every demographic across the state. Rather, the team focused on getting a representation of population density. The University has data from another consultant who targeted and surveyed people with some credit and no degree, so there is a list of those respondents from which the University can refine its messaging.

President Davidson noted that University Advancement had an initiative a few years ago where alumni went into the high schools and talked to students. It worked as a kind of a force multiplier. Ms. Marquez-Hudson said that initiative will get underway again now that COVID is managed, and Paint The City Red will begin again as well.

Trustee Molina suggested differentiating MSU Denver from community colleges, and said that highlighting the trajectory of alumni could be helpful for students in order to see themselves as college students.

Trustee Grogan asked a group of DACA students who have all graduated what the most important things to them were while they were on campus, and they said the relationships with their professors, the quality of teaching, classroom size, and availability of their professors. Each of those are important differentiators for MSU Denver.

Trustee Johnston suggested bringing junior or high school students onto campus to attend an athletic event or game so that they can experience the college campus and begin to think about MSU Denver as the place they might attend someday. Ms. Wong agreed and said that a counselor recently brought a group of students to campus. They had very positive things to say about the student-led tours. Dr. Benitez worked with DPS to bring a group to campus for a STEM-related experience that was very well received. Todd Thurman in the Athletics Department said that the Stars of Honor program has been very successful and is a great outreach to future Roadrunners. A leading metric should be how many high school students are being brought onto campus every year. At least one of the classes in concurrent enrollment could include a visit to campus. Chairman Noles said counselor outreach would be another metric.

Dr. Simpkins said that two data points indicate the progress being made through the Pathways to Possible program, the Governor's RISE-funded project. The University has invested in two recruiters to focus on specific high schools to increase student applications: Denver Public Schools' turnaround high schools, and rural Northeast Colorado have been the two catchment areas. A 5% increase has been seen in rural applications in the last year, and a 27% increase in admissions acceptances from the Denver metro area schools where Pathways to Possible counselors are focusing.

VI. REPORTS

A. Government Affairs & State Legislative Update - Kaycee Gerhart, Director of Government Affairs

Ms. Gerhart reported that MSU Denver saw the highest percentage increase of any Colorado higher-education institution, receiving a \$12.3 million increase to base funding. This is the largest proportional increase of any of the public institutions in Colorado. Last year, the University received an \$8.5 million increase. This is a direct result of MSU Denver's leadership and advocacy to ensure that \$50 million of the total funding for higher education was distributed through Step 1 of the funding formula.

MSU Denver also received \$10 million to build updated and expanded simulation labs for Nursing; a little over \$4 million to continue the two IT projects begun last year.

The state invested an additional \$26 million towards capital deferred maintenance across campus.

The University took formal positions on 14 bills; all 14 passed. Four of those 14 bills created direct funding opportunities for the university; six related to increasing student access to higher education through scholarships and stipends and areas in which MSU Denver excels, such as building a strong healthcare workforce, investing in behavioral health needs, and increasing the workforce pipeline in that arena, and amplifying work-based learning, all places in which MSU Denver was a strong and vocal advocate. The University is partnering with policymakers on building out legislation which will ultimately drive new policy and improve students' learning experiences.

HB1393 was designed to drive \$2 million in funding so that the state can invest in Auraria's commitment to provide free tuition and fees to descendants of the displaced Aurarians. In the fall of last year, all three institutions on campus made a joint commitment to extend that scholarship in perpetuity. It was previously administered generation by generation.

SB139 relates to acknowledging Juneteenth as a state holiday. This bill and the opportunity to endorse it came because it was brought to the University's awareness by a student advocacy group, Black Era, combined Black and African American students across all three campuses that were already taking an advocacy role and a position of support on this bill. Their leader, X, called Ms. Gerhart and asked if the University would like to stand with them at the legislature to support the bill. This makes clear the importance of listening on the ground to the

issues that are important to students, elevating the University as an advocate for those issues that matter to those who the University serves.

SB8 focused specifically on providing higher education to foster youth and eliminating tuition and fees for that student population. It is a passion project for the University because it serves those students and there is a specific program dedicated to supporting independent youth. The issue was perhaps less important to other universities but they were not in opposition to the bill.

President Davidson and senior leaders led 38 direct touch points with JBC members. 29 students, faculty, and staff engaged in formal testimony and communication at the Capitol, about twice the number as last year. More than 50 Champions participated in grassroots advocacy, with over 200 of them participating in a learning opportunity over the semester.

Ms. Gerhart said that President Davidson had the courage to quantify the actual cost of operating the University and clearly laid out its true financial needs to the legislature. This reframed the conversation that the JBC had around its investment in higher education.

MSU Denver has held positions on bills that not every institution buys into. In addition to bills relating to higher ed, civic bills impact the lives of our students.

This allows the University to be clear around what its values are so that they include access and opportunity. That plays into students' lives in many ways and is distinctive in terms of how the University advocates at the Capitol in a way that gets noticed.

MSU Denver's influence is growing. There is a shift in terms of the people who are calling and asking for insight and feedback on bills, on ideas, and asking to partner. This is due to the intentional investment the University has made in building relationships and in being available. The 120 days of the legislative session are intense and require a lot of action and activity, Ms. Gerhart said, but the positive results the institution has seen are due to the work done outside of the legislative session.

The state continues moving towards an increasingly challenged fiscal position. The stimulus bought it a little bit of time. It is projecting an \$800 million decline against its most recent projection from last year to today. This signals a shift to come in opportunities.

The state is interested in seeing more collaborative, less duplicative efforts. base funding and capital funding opportunities are going to be limited next year. The University has begun to build intentional partnerships around its own capital priorities. Two priorities have been submitted to the state for capital and infrastructure, the C2Hub and the Health Institute. The University is working with CCD to find ways to resource-share, specifically around the C2Hub. Industry partnerships work with both institutions. This positions the University to be competitive for funds that are expected to be quite limited from the state next year.

The state is considering the value of certificates, stackable credentials, and more flexibility than the traditional higher education environment offers. It is looking for opportunities for people to enter higher education, get a certificate, go back into the workforce, and eventually return to higher ed. The University's willingness to be at the forefront of these conversations will reap reward.

There is continued pressure around the price of higher education as well as the ROI. This component will be important to consider in framing the needs of the University. Legislators are concerned about the cost of an education and what it translates to in terms of a student's ability to get a job immediately upon graduation. Incorporating that into messaging will be key to success in this next year.

Trustee Carrera said that the question relating to ROI targets communities of color. These communities are beginning to accept that the cost of higher education is not worth it. As an institution that serves a majority of undergraduates who are people of color, the issue is one that the University should champion and argue against.

Ms. Gerhart agreed and added that a personal narrative in combination with a much more holistic set of counter facts is an effective argument. President Davidson agreed that the message is disproportionately targeted towards low-income students of color. It is a recipe for disaster for the entire nation, she said. The data are clear about higher education; the narratives about affordability are wrong and misleading. The University's Marketing Team has a concerted strategy to address this. Trustee Johnston said he would be most interested in tracking enrollment, retention, graduation, job placement, salary, and the equity gaps across all those data sets. With that data, the case is overwhelmingly compelling that every student is going to do the math and conclude that MSU Denver is the right place for them. President Davidson added that getting the data right is important too, e.g., just because a student left does not necessarily mean they left higher education. They may have transferred to another institution.

B. Finance Committee Report – Mike Kopp, Trustee

1. Approval of FY 2022-23 Tuition Lock Proposal

The tuition lock program would lock the base tuition rate for new undergrad freshmen for four academic years and would lock the base tuition rate for new transfer students for two years. The tuition lock may be correlated with improved retention, but it is also a tool that the University can use to speak to predictability and price control. Trustee Grogan added that the progress made by transfer students who take advantage of the tuition lock will be watched because some may need three years. Trustee Kopp said that Mr. Middlemist had noted that it takes several years to determine if a program like this is working. Year-by-year data will be helpful.

Trustee Carrera **moved for approval** of the tuition lock program, **with a second** by Trustee Brooks. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of New HLC Board Member

Finance Committee recommends approval of Charlie Kercheval, president of Alpine Bank, as a member of the HLC board. Mr. Kercheval serves on the Foundation board.

Trustee Grogan **moved for approval** the appointment of Charlie Kercheval to the HLC board, **with a second** by Trustee Carrera. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Governance Committee Report – Kristin Hultquist, Trustee

Trustee Hultquist reported that Governance Committee met and committed to meeting in person and availing themselves of the technology available to them. Reports are going to be short and action oriented. The committee will use its retreats for strategic work.

Onboard should be installed on Trustees' phones or iPads, and portals should be checked at least once a week. Events and information will be aggregated on that portal. Everyone will be opted into only two communications: the President's communication and a monthly communication from the Communications Team, curated especially for trustees. Other email and university communications can be opted into.

The committee agreed that the University can manage itself and communicates its success externally through data. Data can be used to improve effectiveness. A survey will be distributed at the end of this meeting.

Governance Committee agreed that one of its primary responsibilities is to identify the skills needed as a board collectively, to serve MSU Denver's students. A slate of skills will be compiled for the Governor and an institutional relationship with the Governor will be cultivated so that he can consider those skills in the context of what he knows the University is trying to accomplish.

Governance Committee will conduct an annual evaluation of Board effectiveness.

Chairman Noles noted that Trustees do not need to attend all the committee meetings, although they are welcome to.

D. Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee Report – Marissa Molina, Trustee

1. Approval of Faculty Emeritus Recommendations

ASA Committee heard an excellent presentation from Dr. Tatum on what it means to serve our students academically and not just have them come to the institution.

Faculty Trustee Fleck Dillen spoke about the importance of MSU Denver being a teaching institution and what it means for faculty, for consideration of their time, how they allocate their time to both scholarly research and their teaching course load. It was a good reminder that the University must first and foremost be an excellent educational institution through hiring and retaining great faculty.

E. Sustained Racial Justice (SRJ) Committee Report – Mario M. Carrera, Trustee

Trustee Carrera reported that the SRJ Committee heard the results of the diligent efforts and rigorous analysis conducted by Kelly Brough, Chief Strategy Officer, and Christopher Peña, Director of Strategy.

There was significant value in the information, revealing challenges and needs, from both quantitative and qualitative information.

The committee session concluded with three specific questions that Trustee Carrera encouraged spending time considering and then giving feedback to the staff members. They are:

- What stands out for you, and how can it inform our goals and objectives?
- What strategies come to mind to achieve our goals and objectives?
- What additional data would you like to see that can inform this work?

Trustee Carrera said that an overall question could be asked inquiring into the value of this information. He posited that it is creating an environment that eliminates threat and that focuses on creating abundance, a space for learning and celebrating each other because the richness and diversity that we all bring, makes us that much better overall.

One area of concern is that some individuals have not given their racial/ethnic identity. The challenge may be that they don't believe they fit into the slots that have been created, or they may be reluctant to reveal those in this climate, so that will be reviewed and addressed as necessary.

The other challenge was, in ranking of the institution compared to its peers, defining exactly who a "peer" is. CSU Global was one example. Trustee Carrera feels it is not actually a peer, but its areas of success are worth analyzing.

The University has high volume but the percentages don't necessarily reflect its competitiveness in the marketplace because MSU Denver delivers much more than some of its comparators, which are much lower in numbers, in terms of total outcomes.

Trustee Carrera congratulated Dr. Chalane Lechuga, Jeremy VanHooser, Christopher Peña, and Kelly Brough on the fantastic job they've done focusing on the students served by this institution, defining the institution, and delving into the details of improving how it serves.

F. Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) Board Report – Albus Brooks, Trustee

Trustee Brooks reported that the AHEC Board is working through master planning for the Auraria campus. The RFQ of the Master Plan is going to be focused on neighborhood activation and housing. The River Mile is approximately 40 acres on the other side of the Pepsi Center. The Kroehnke team recently initiated a land use plan for the other 50 acres, which is Ball Arena to Auraria.

There are four Wi-Fi systems on campus, and students and faculty agree that they don't work together well. The AHEC Board had a robust discussion regarding a grant it is pursuing to maintain the Auraria Wi-Fi system and hardware and technology until a better system is identified to interweave all the universities' systems. Conversation and planning will follow for how to bring this into the 21st century to better serve students and

faculty. President Davidson said that the vision, from a user's perspective, is that Wi-Fi through the Auraria campus will be seamless. At present it is not.

Budgeting for the second round of funding for the HVAC in the West classroom, Library, Science, and Central Classroom has been submitted. The cost is \$33 million. The Public Safety Building is also being submitted for funding. There is robust discussion around negotiating with RTD to reduce the cost of passes for students. Mr. Middlemist said that prior to the pandemic, students voted every year to have an RTD pass that was more affordable. Not all students used it but because all students were charged for it, it was an affordable rate. Just before the pandemic the cost was \$135 for the semester. The challenge for RTD is they must do a fare study and calculate what they can afford going forward.

G. Alumni Representative Report – Jim Qualteri, Alumni Trustee

Trustee Qualteri reported that one of Alumni Association's key board members resigned. She is a 2014 graduate of the University's Aerospace Engineering Program and has been a guest speaker in classrooms and in career programs, as well as being instrumental in her service on the executive committee.

Two new board members have joined the Alumni Association board, both graduates of MSU Denver.

The Alumni Association has set a goal of selling 300 tickets to the Colorado Rockies Baseball game on June 17, which is Alumni Night. It has currently sold 250 tickets. Trustee Qualteri encouraged everyone to purchase a ticket.

7,400 alumni are engaged for the fiscal year, which is 92% of the goal of 8,000. 2,200 have made financial donations.

H. Faculty Trustee Report – Bethany Fleck-Dillen, Outgoing Faculty Trustee

Faculty Trustee Fleck-Dillen thanked the Trustees for always listening to her updates and caring about the faculty. She has relayed this unwavering support to her colleagues.

The faculty welfare committee from Faculty Senate is proposing a reduced workload. The proposal has been worked on for over two years. It is intended to address burnout and the volume of work that faculty are doing because faculty believe it impacts their ability to be excellent teachers. Most notable in the proposal is a reduction in the teaching load from four classes per semester to three classes, and the various constituent groups on campus including the Council of Chairs and Directors, the Faculty Union and the Faculty Senate all considered the proposal and voted to either support it or not. Among faculty, the vast majority were in support of the proposal. There are concerns about how it will be implemented and its effects, including potential class size increases, tightening the course schedule, and any significant scholarship expectations that may increase alongside those.

The proposal is now under consideration by Dr. Tatum and other academic leaders. No decisions have been made. Faculty Trustee Fleck-Dillen asked that the concerns of faculty be kept in mind. The goal of any workload adjustment would be to provide faculty with more realistic workloads so that they can have those important impacts on students and have the time that students need and deserve.

I. Faculty Senate Report – Katia Campbell, Outgoing Faculty Senate President

Dr. Campbell said that in addition to the workload proposal that Trustee Dillen detailed, Faculty Senate was busy this year in the ongoing process of updating and changing policies to help streamline academic processes for students in areas such as General Studies, credentialing, badging, and curriculum. She thanked the Board for their continued support and fearless leadership during these last few years, especially regarding racial justice, and especially given the cultural shifts that resulted from the pandemic and economic crises.

J. Student Trustee & Student Governance Report – Savannah Martel, Outgoing Student Trustee

Trustee Martel reported that one of the most recent action items voted on by Council was a green purchasing agreement. This is a commitment to sustainable, environmentally conscious consumption for Student Organization investment.

New members were inaugurated on May 20.

K. President's Report – *President Janine Davidson*

President Davidson thanked staff for all their hard work, stating that this had been a great meeting. After two years of COVID, and Zoom calls, it might be easy to think that the reports heard today are all that's happening at MSU Denver. In the last couple of weeks, she said, she has been completely reinvigorated, and the reason was commencement. Although there are many celebratory events in the weeks leading up to commencement, hearing the students tell their stories at commencement makes all the hard work worthwhile. President Davidson said she was also reminded of what an important role this university plays in the community, and what should be doubled down on. While there is a lot of conversation around industry partnerships and certificates and the like, the importance of the arts and theatre and Chicano studies, for example, cannot be overlooked. Those programs, academic and otherwise, engage the community and they mean a lot to the community. The University will be doubling down on both sides of that coin.

This is the last meeting of the fiscal year.

- The College of Letters, Arts and Sciences brought in a new dean, Dr. John Masserini.
- The College of Business earned reaccreditation from AACSB which is a designation that fewer than 5% of the world's business programs have.
- The College of Health and Applied Sciences received the Board's approval to establish two new colleges. Dean searches are underway; let President Davidson know if you are interested in participating in open forums when the time comes.
- The School of Education ramped up its Office of Education Solutions in an innovative community-facing initiative and revenue source.
- The School of Hospitality continued to offer the only program in the U.S. that has a LEED-Gold-certified hotel, a commercial conference space, a state-of-the-art commercial restaurant, and a working brewery on campus. This hotel has the second highest rating on the TripAdvisor app for metro Denver.

Several access initiatives were established and enhanced:

- The reverse-transfer program makes any stopped-out MSU Denver student eligible to apply for an associate degree from the community-college system, provided they meet certain criteria;
- The Finish What You Started program provides scholarships and resources for adult learners;
- The education benefit with Amazon employees;
- the Grow with Google Career Readiness program helps students transition to careers and grow digital skills;
- the Roadrunner Promise pays the tuition of 30% of the University's students, and the University is going to expand the criteria to get closer to 40% of students who are getting their tuition paid for;
- the Displaced Aurarians Scholarship was extended to all direct descendants in perpetuity. This was originally limited to three generations. Over 300 students have been covered over the years and MSU Denver will continue to honor that legacy with its sister institutions on this campus.
- The Indigenous and Native Peoples Grant was created with the Board's support to honor the descendants of the original inhabitants of this campus and other Native students living in Colorado.

Three Roadrunner Athletic teams made the NCAA Tournaments this year: Volleyball was ranked No. 1 for awhile and won 24 matches in a row; Women's Basketball went on to the NCAA for the fifth time; and the Baseball Team played its first-ever NCAA Tournament games. A record 118 student-athletes were on the Athletics Director's Honor Roll. All had GPAs over 3.5.

Advancement surpassed its fiscal goal of \$7 million early in May and expects to surpass its annual goal, reaching \$12 million by the end of June. Trustees and senior leaders and deans have all participated in this success.

The Communication and Marketing Team has been reinvigorated and launched a new University website, and redesigned the *Early Bird* and *RED*.

Chief Strategy Officer Kelly Brough was added to the University's leadership team, helping with campus planning alongside Christopher Pena, Director of Strategy. Their work is going to help get MSU Denver to the next level.

The Board of Trustees selected Russell Noles as its chair, the first MSU Denver alum and first African American to hold this seat. President Davidson congratulated Chairman Noles.

The strategy that was set in place by University's Government Affairs is working. The University is \$50 million behind in average funding compared to all other public institutions in Colorado. At the time it was considered appalling to request \$50 million from the legislature. The University negotiated for \$10 million a year for five years and has so far received \$20.5 million in two years. The strategy was set, the message was kept simple, and the University will stay on course.

Between December and May, 3,132 degrees and certificates were awarded. 55% of MSU Denver's students are first-generation and about 45% are students of color.

Former Governor Roy Romer and former Board of Trustees Chairman Rob Cohen were awarded the Marathon Award.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Human Resources report of personnel actions for the Board's information, which have occurred since the last Board Meeting on Friday, March 18, 2022

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

X spoke and stated that students in Black Era had lobbied on the Juneteenth bill; however, they were not mentioned around the endorsement of the Juneteenth bill, nor in the Board resolution. MSU Denver was unaware of that bill until Black students brought it to the attention of the University, he said. Chair Noles said that X's comments resonate with him, and that the University is on a journey to creating a safe and welcoming space for all students. President Davidson thanked X and asked for students' guidance on the specific actions that can be taken to move the needle in this regard.

IX. ADJOURNMENT