

# News from the Board of Trustees

March 26, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting



*This is a news bulletin from the Board of Trustees of the Stevens Institute of Technology. While all Board and Board Committee deliberations are confidential, in the spirit of increased transparency and shared governance, the Board will issue bulletins from time to time in order to provide non-confidential information to the Stevens community.*

The Board held a meeting by conference call on March 26, 2020. Following is a summary of matters discussed at the meeting:

## **COVID-19 Impact and Updates**

- The President provided an update on the short and potential long-term impacts of COVID-19 on Stevens and higher education generally. Stevens is working on a day-to-day basis through its divisions and offices, as well as its Emergency Operations Team, to maintain and optimize operations and safeguard the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Moving forward, Stevens' leadership will continue to make informed decisions while addressing the impact of the health crisis on campus operations to ensure that the Stevens community continues to thrive.
- The Board discussed student mental health and the resources available while Stevens operates remotely during the COVID-19 health crisis. (See [Stevens COVID-19 website](#) for more information on these and other COVID-19 related efforts.)
- The Finance and Investment Committees are monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on Stevens' finances and endowment using sensitivity analyses as applied to both the FY20 and FY21 budgets. The Board will be asked to approve the FY21 Budget at a meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board approved a refund of the pro rata share of charges for spring semester housing and meal plans, which is in line with the approach of other universities across the country.

## **Other Reports and Updates**

- The Board and its Academic Affairs Committee continued to focus on improving student-faculty interactions. A working group made up of students, faculty and staff was charged in January with investigating this area and developing an action plan for improvement. The working group conducted focus groups which included students, faculty, staff, the Faculty Senate and Stevens' leadership.
- The Board heard from the Alumni Trustees who are recent graduates of Stevens and serve as a channel between the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Board. These Trustees participate in meetings with the SGA cabinet before each Board meeting. Recent discussions covered topics such as student mental health and coping with stress as a result of the current health crisis, construction on campus, student faculty relations and student research.

- The Board reviewed and approved Stevens' IRS Forms 990 and 990T for fiscal year 2019, which will be filed with the IRS and, once filed, available on the website of the [Division of Finance](#).
- After considering three nominations for the position of Faculty Trustee resulting from faculty voting, the Board elected Professor Yi Guo of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering as a Faculty Trustee.
- Following the successful conclusion of the faculty promotion and tenure review process required by Stevens' Faculty Handbook, the Board approved nominations for the promotion and tenure of faculty. Warm congratulations are extended to:

Professor Brendan Englot	Promotion to Associate Professor and Award of Tenure
Professor Theodoros Lappas	Promotion to Associate Professor and Award of Tenure
Professor Chihoon Lee	Award of Tenure
Professor Stephanie Lee	Promotion to Associate Professor and Award of Tenure
Professor Philippos Mordohai	Promotion to Professor
Professor Nicholas Parziale	Promotion to Associate Professor and Award of Tenure
Professor Xiaojun Yu	Promotion to Professor
Professor Jeffrey Thompson	Promotion to Associate Professor and Award of Tenure

- Following approval by the Faculty, the Board approved the issuance of degrees to students who completed their relevant course of study as of January 31, 2020.

*Questions regarding Board matters should be directed to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees at [Kathy.Schulz@stevens.edu](mailto:Kathy.Schulz@stevens.edu).*