

News from the Board of Trustees

December 10, 2020 Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees

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 its annual meeting by videoconference on December 10, 2020. Following is a summary of matters discussed at the meeting:

University Updates

- The President reported that planning and execution of the University's return to campus plan for the Fall 2020 semester had been successful. The safety and health of the campus environment was supported with weekly testing on all members of the community and a well-executed contact tracing and quarantining protocol. Academic and student service programs were provided according to plan.
- The President summarized preliminary plans for the Spring 2021 semester, including:
 - the first day of classes will begin February 1, 2021;
 - Spring break will be eliminated and replaced by three instructional days off;
 - the final examination period will be shortened from 14 to 10 days;
 - an expectation of having a larger number of students, faculty, and staff, as well as more instructional activities, on campus;
 - continuing to offer online instruction as an option for all students; and
 - increasing the number of students residing in Stevens' housing.
- The President presented updates on the state of the University and various projects and initiatives. For highlights, please view the President's [Fall 2020 End of Semester video address](#).

Board Nominations, Elections and Structure

- The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee presented, and the Board approved, a slate of candidates for Charter and Faculty Trustee positions, re-election of officers, election of certain trustees to Board Committees, and election of Emeritus Trustees. Highlights included:
 - Re-election of five Charter Trustees for three-year terms: Saleel Awsare, Stephen Boswell, Joseph Del Guercio, William Destler and John Schepisi;
 - Election of Robin Hammerman, Teaching Associate Professor in the College of Arts and Letters, to fill the vacant Faculty Trustee position on the Board for the remainder of the term expiring in May 2021;
 - Restructuring of the Executive Committee to include the Chairs of all Board Committees; and

- Election of Ronald Salluzzo and Thomas Scholl as Emeritus Trustees in acknowledgment of their significant contributions to Stevens and valued service over the years. Mr. Salluzzo previously served as a Professional Trustee and Chair of the Audit Committee. Mr. Scholl previously served on the Audit, Executive and Investment Committees, and as a member and Chair of the Research Enterprise and Technology Commercialization Committee. For more information on these Emeritus Trustees, please refer to their [biographies on Stevens website/Board of Trustees page](#).
- The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee led a discussion of the role of the position of Vice Chair of the Board. This process will continue until the Board assesses the results of further work by the Committee and a proposal for modifications, if any.

Other Reports and Updates

- The Board reviewed results of the 2020 Board and Committee assessment process and considered suggestions for enhancing discussion during meetings to ensure additional focus on strategic matters.
- The Board approved revised Board recruitment guidelines which include a renewed focus on diversity and an updated approach to trustee philanthropy.
- The President reported that a new Division of University Relations had been created and would be led by Vice President Elisabeth M. McGrath. This Division will include substantive areas of focus from the former Divisions of Communications and Marketing and Government and Community Relations. For more information on the new Division, please see the President's [November 3, 2020 announcement](#).
- The Board was introduced to new faculty members who discussed their respective areas of research. [Dr. Jason Corso](#), Viola Ward Brinning and Elbert Calhoun Brinning Endowed Chair Professor, Computer Science and Director of Stevens Institute for Artificial Intelligence, will be joining Stevens in Spring 2021. [Dr. Ye \(Emma\) Wang](#), who joined Stevens in Fall 2020, is Assistant Professor of Finance in the School of Business.

Questions regarding Board matters should be directed to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees at Kathy.Schulz@stevens.edu.