

News from the Board of Trustees

June 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 videoconference on June 26, 2020. Following is a summary of matters discussed at the meeting:

COVID-19 Update

- The President reported on the comprehensive plan for a phased return to campus, starting in mid-July, 2020. The plan will follow all guidance from the State of New Jersey.
- The Finance Committee provided an update on COVID-19's impact on Stevens' finances. The Board approved a preliminary budget for FY21, with a final FY21 budget to be presented to the Board in Fall, 2020.

Social Issues

- The President discussed the current social unrest in the country and affirmed the University's strong values of diversity, inclusion and support for all members of the Stevens' community. He spoke about the June 8th facilitated conversation - *Starting a Conversation: Standing Together and Standing Against Racism* – attended by Stevens faculty and staff. During the conversation, colleagues shared experiences, perspectives and support. Stevens' Human Resources and Diversity and Inclusion teams are exploring further actions to strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion at Stevens.
- The Board vigorously supported the President's request to expand Stevens ACES (Accessing Careers in Engineering and Science), a program launched in 2017 to identify and recruit talented students from underserved communities and underrepresented minorities. The Board agreed with the proposal to strengthen the program, which includes increasing the number of ACES students in the pre-college summer program and in the freshman cohort.

Board of Trustees – Nominations and Elections

- The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considered three recent graduates for the position of Alumni Trustee. After interviews and considerable discussion of all three candidates, the Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the election of Kaitlin Gili, '20, as an Alumni Trustee for a 3-year term.
- The Board elected Mr. Thomas Nathanson, '74, as a Charter Trustee for a 3-year term.
- After consultation with the Faculty Committee on Committees, the Faculty Senate and the Provost, it was determined that the current Faculty Participant membership on all committees of the Board of Trustees will be extended for one year.

Other Reports and Updates

- The Board approved updates to the following governance documents and polices:
 - Amended and Restated By-laws of the University – the length of the term of each Alumni Trustee was amended to parallel those of Charter Trustees; a section on non-discrimination was added, mirroring Stevens' long-standing policy prohibiting discrimination;
 - Charters of the Audit and Risk and the Academic and Student Affairs Committees - the name of each committee and its roles and responsibilities were modified and updated (each charter is available on Stevens' website);
 - Emergency Operations Plan – revised to focus on cybersecurity incidents and infectious disease outbreaks; and
 - ERISA – certain defined benefit and defined contribution plans were amended for compliance and updating purposes.
- Following the successful conclusion of the faculty promotion and tenure process required by Stevens' Faculty Handbook, the Board approved the promotion of Dr. Lei Wu to professor.
- The Board approved the award of the degree of Master of Engineering *Honoris Causa* to Dr. Giuseppe Ateniese, Professor of Computer Science and Chair of the Department of Computer Science. The degree will be presented at Convocation in Fall 2020.

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