



News from the Stevens Board of Trustees

September 26, 2018 Strategic Planning Summit

This is the inaugural 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 Strategic Planning Summit on September 26, 2018. The Summit is an opportunity for the Board to convene off-site and have in-depth discussions of issues of strategic importance to Stevens. This year, the Summit was held at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City. Below is a summary of the matters discussed at the Summit:

- The morning business session was devoted to an analysis of the viability of plans for a new building consisting of a University Center and two dormitory towers capable of housing approximately 1,000 students, with occupancy expected in time for the Fall 2021 semester. As the community is well aware, Stevens' current student activity spaces are inadequate, and the demand for on-campus student housing exceeded capacity long ago. Therefore, the new University Center will be a timely addition to the campus. The Board analyzed various aspects of the project, including its setting within the new University District created by the City of Hoboken, and the plans for construction and financing of the project.
- The first strategic planning topic focused on *The Power of Stevens* Campaign and the upcoming 150th anniversary of the founding of Stevens. Presentations addressed the expansion of the campaign goal to \$200 million and the extension of the Campaign by about two years,

with a focus on raising additional support for the University Center and dormitories. The initial goal of raising \$150 million was achieved more than six months ahead of the December 31, 2018 deadline. The 150th anniversary, also known as Stevens' Sesquicentennial, will take place during the academic year 2020/21 and current plans include a variety of coordinated events and publications.

- Next, an attorney conducted a training session for the Board on the fiduciary obligations of trustees under NJ law, including the duties of care and loyalty. This discussion focused on the proper role of trustees in making policy and overseeing the direction of the university, with Stevens' President and other leaders responsible for all operational and academic matters. The Board then reviewed certain areas of its governance and discussed best practices in higher education and ways in which the Board may become more diverse (e.g., age, geography, industry, race, ethnicity, gender, etc.).
- The Board continued a discussion that began in Fall, 2017, about mental health issues among students and the deeply concerning issue of suicide. The Board reviewed data and trends at the national level and within higher education, including data that show millennials experience higher levels of stress and depression than their predecessors. Stevens' resources in this area include the Office of Student Counseling and Psychological Services and the CARE Team, which monitors and responds to students in crisis. Stevens has received the JED Seal from the JED Foundation, a recognition that Stevens has satisfied the fundamental standards of JED and has adopted the Foundation's approach to suicide prevention. The Board reviewed Stevens' plans for enhanced mental health services.

Any questions about Board matters should be directed to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.