

From: President Pete Menjares <president@spu.edu>
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To:
Subject: November 2021 Board report



November 22, 2021

The autumn Board of Trustees meetings were held last week. I shared with you in my most recent message that the Board would meet first for a retreat in the days prior to the full board meeting. Our board chair, Cedric Davis, will send a subsequent message to faculty and staff that unpacks the significance of that retreat and how the trustees are working to be a healthy and vision-casting Board. In this memo I am providing a report on the Board of Trustees meeting that took place on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 18 and 19.

Thursday Sessions

The board meetings began with an executive session to take a series of actions. The Board took this opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of Dr. Daniel J. Martin over his nine years of service as our 10th president. The [Board resolution](#) outlined the outstanding achievements realized during his leadership.

To fill a trustee vacancy, Jason Garcia was elected as a new member of the Board. Mr. Garcia is the parent of two children (who are alumni of SPU) and is serving as an elder in the Free Methodist Church.

The Board also voted to extend the service of three trustees to provide continuity during this interim leadership period. A one-year extension of terms was approved for trustees Becky Gilliam, Mike Quinn, and Leslie Vander Griend.

Each standing committee (Academic Affairs and Student Experience; Finance, Audit, and Facilities; and University Relations) met for the remainder of the Thursday afternoon sessions. Reports via the links below were submitted, reflecting the University's current efforts in fulfilling its mission.

- [Provost](#)
- [Academic Affairs](#)
- [Inclusive Excellence](#)
- [Student Formation & Community Engagement](#)
- [University Ministries](#)
- [Enrollment Management and Marketing](#)
- [Finance and Administration](#)
- [University Advancement](#)

Friday

The day began with breakfast and special guest Rev. Dr. Brian Lugioyo, dean of the School of Theology and professor of theology and ethics. Previously a professor of theology and ethics at Azusa Pacific University, Dr. Lugioyo joined Seattle Pacific as dean of the School of Theology in 2021.

His research focuses on neuroscience and Christian anthropology, the role of liturgy and ethics, and the life and work of former protestant reformer, Martin Bucer. Dr. Lugioyo is a Cuban-American from a family of Presbyterian ministers and theologians. His wife, Nicole, is Dutch and lived in Holland during her youth. Together they have three children: Linden (12), Liesel (10), and Luca (8).

He brought the morning devotions drawing from the text in Romans 8:18–25 and, sharing from this passage, the insight that hope has its vision fixed on Christ and is tied to the promise of salvation and the redemption of creation. In contrast, the lack of hope is despair and folly. He reminded us that hope is not easy and that it must be cultivated and practiced. It is cultivated in worship and prayer as a voicing of hope. Hope in Christ is not a Pollyannaish optimism; it recognizes the groans of humanity and yet holds on with boldness.

As this was the first meeting of the Board of Trustees since the beginning of my service as interim president, the Board was intentional about conducting an installation service. The time was led by Rev. Matt Whitehead and Board Chair Cedric Davis. A presidential medallion was presented by Chair Davis, and Rev. Whitehead presented me with a pastoral stole representing my Latin heritage as a symbol of the spiritual role the president plays.

The general business meeting began with an enrollment report by Nate Mouttet, VP for enrollment management and marketing. The report focused on the continued demographic changes impacting University enrollment, the outcome of this year's undergraduate and graduate enrollment, and ways to pursue enrollment growth moving forward.

The Board received reports from each of the standing committees. The following items were reported and actions taken:

- The Academic Affairs and Student Experience Committee reported on their extended conversation about our upcoming accreditation visits in spring 2022 (year six) and spring 2023 (year seven) and recommended that all trustees participate in a virtual information session regarding the Board's role in accreditation. They also summarized main takeaways from the committee's discussion with the faculty chair.
- The Finance, Audit, and Facilities Committee reported on the 2020–21 Audited Financial Statements and Federal Audit and noted that both audits received clean audit reports without any findings or weaknesses noted. The Board approved the University audited financial statements and Federal Funds audit for 2020–21.
- The Board reviewed the 2021–22 Final Budget adjustments. <redacted>

- <financial info redacted>

- <financial info redacted>

- A resolution passed for two related estates that were left to SPU to assign operational responsibility for the endowed scholarship award to align with the University's established process.

Additional updates reported to the Board included:

- Pivot NW, funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment and based at Seattle Pacific University, received a second award of \$1.25 million.
- The American Psychological Association (APA) affirmed the Clinical Psychology program accreditation for another 10 years.

- Recognition of the 29 years of service given to SPU by Senior VP for Finance and Administration, Craig Kispert. The recognition and farewell event on Monday, Nov. 22, to honor his leadership at SPU was announced.

I will be remembering you and our students in prayer as we close out the Autumn Quarter, asking that God bless you and all that you are doing to live out our mission.

Sincerely,

Pete



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