WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session January 23, 2020

WMU Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thursday, January 23, 2020 – ANNUAL MEETING

Closed Informal Session – 9:00 AM
Formal Session – 11:00 AM, Heritage Hall Ballroom

1. Acceptance of the Agenda – Bolger
2. Approval of the Minutes (December 12, 2019 Meeting) – Bolger
3. Remarks by the Chair – Bolger
4. Remarks by the President – Montgomery
5. Comments by the Faculty Senate President – Gershon
6. Comments by the Western Student Association President – Smith
7. Comments by the Graduate Student Association President – Morris
9. Public Comments Regarding Action Items – Schuemann

Action Items – Bolger

10. Board of Trustee Officer Election – Schuemann
   - Ceremonial Passing of the Gavel to Elected Chair
11. Real Property Lease for WMed – Van Der Kley
12. FM License Purchase with Kalamazoo Public Schools – Bott
13. Consent Items – (Chair)
   A. Personnel Report
   B. One-Day Liquor License Applications
      2. 2020 Kalamazoo Marathon - May 3, 2020
   C. Research and Innovation Quarterly Report
14. General Public Comments – Schuemann

Supplemental and supporting agenda materials can be viewed at: http://www.wmich.edu/trustees
Proposed Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2020

The Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session for the Annual Meeting was called to order by Chair Bolger at 11:16AM on Thursday, January 23, 2020. The meeting was held in the Bernhard Center, Rooms 157-159. Presiding were Chair Bolger, Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, and Trustees Behen, Edgerton, Kitchens, Penn, and Rinvelt.

A motion to accept the January 23, 2020 BOT agenda was made by Trustee Kitchens, with a second from Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the December 12, 2019 BOT meeting was made by Trustee Penn, with a second by Trustee Kitchens. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks were provided by Chair Bolger – Attachment A followed by remarks from President Montgomery – Attachment B.

Faculty Senate President R. Gershon, Western Student Association (WSA) President L. Smith, and Graduate Student Association (GSA) Vice President C. Herhold provided comments regarding their respective areas and their ongoing activities and initiatives relating to shared governance, promoting student involvement, and academic enrichment. See Attachment C for remarks by Faculty Senate President R. Gershon.

Interim Director of Career and Student Services, E. Urban, presented the Career Outcomes for 2018-19 Graduates and shared stories of success regarding recent alums.

There was no indicated public interest in providing commentary regarding any Action Item.

As Action Items, BOT Secretary K. Schuemann recommended a slate of officers for the Board of Trustee Officer Election. A motion to accept the recommended slate of officers for the Board of Trustee Officer Election was made by Trustee Kitchens with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously. The election retained all current positions Chair J. Bolger, Vice Chair L. Chen-Zhang, Secretary K. Schuemann, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary J. Van Der Kley, and Assistant Treasurer P. Van Walbeck.

VP for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley next proposed a Real Property Lease for WMed. A motion to accept the Real Property Lease for WMed was made by Trustee Edgerton with a second by Trustee Behen. The motion passed unanimously.
The next agenda item regarding an FM License Purchase with Kalamazoo Public Schools was recommended by Provost J. Bott. **A motion to accept the FM License Purchase with Kalamazoo Public Schools** was made by Trustee Penn, with a second by Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, and passed unanimously.

**A motion to approve the Consent Items** was made by Trustee Edgerton, with a second from Trustee Penn. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: Personnel Report; One Day Liquor License Applications (1) Kalamazoo Country Day School fund raising dinner - May 30, 2020 (2) 2020 Kalamazoo Marathon - May 3, 2020; and the Research and Innovation Quarterly Report.

Dr. C. Weideman provided commentary on behalf of WMU AAUP during General Public Comments. K. Masi also addressed the Board.

The BOT meeting ended at 12:43PM following a **motion to adjourn** by Trustee Penn, a second by Trustee Edgerton, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Kahler B. Schuemann
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University
Welcome to our first board meeting of the new year and the new decade. On behalf of the entire WMU Board of Trustees, thanks to all our University team members and students for their continued dedication to Western. Your Board is honored to serve the career-building and life-development needs of our Bronco students and team partners.

Your Board has been asked about including other groups in the shared governance model we utilize. Remembering the Board's constitutional fiduciary and administrative responsibilities I offer the following: We are very proud of Western Michigan University's very effective shared governance model.

In this model we work with three board-established organizations: the Graduate Student Association, which addresses the concerns of graduate students; the Western Student Association, which serves our undergrads; and the Faculty Senate, which assists with curriculum development and setting academic standards.

Shared governance for our partners also means shared authority and accountability. We expect, and these partners know that they have the obligation to properly represent and accomplish the duties assigned to them by the Board.

Together, we are committed to carrying out our respective duties independently, and also to communicating and collaborating with each other when it is in the best interest of our institution. We appreciate the dedication to the University's mission that our partners fulfill.

Additionally, we appreciate the fine work and commitment to their members and the University that the WMU AAUP and our other employee relations organizations provide. These employee associations have a different mission then those organizations that the Board relies upon for advice and counsel as shared governance partners.

While their goals may be different, we sincerely value our relationship with the employee relations units. To that end, we have dedicated time for their comments during our formal meetings and have adjusted the agenda to include a structured time for representatives of our employee relations unit to address the Board. Again, we appreciate your effort in representing our employee groups.

I trust that you are aware of the announcement early last week that we are closing several residence halls earlier than planned due to the Hilltop Village construction. The board has been apprised of the development and supports this revision. We looked at this issue very seriously, as we realize how it impacts some employees' lives. We understand and appreciate the effort
the division is putting in to minimizing the impact as much as possible, as we all want the best for our institution and those who work here.

We talk about how Broncos are everywhere, so I wanted to relay an example of that from my wife Betty. She was in Washington D.C. last week for the Transportation Research Board’s annual meeting. This is a large, global event that brings more than 13,000 professionals together for presentations related to all modes of transportation. Imagine her surprise in walking into an auditorium and seeing that big, beautiful “W” on the screen. A WMU graduate student and two faculty members were presenting a talk on their research about seat belt enforcement and driver seat belt use to a room full of eager listeners. What a wonderful example of demonstrating the excellence of our University’s educational and research power. Broncos truly are unstoppable.
Thank you, Chairman Bolger. Western Michigan University is fortunate to have a Board chair who possesses not only great integrity and ability, but also a deep appreciation for our University. During the past year you’ve been an exemplary leader. You have shown a strong commitment to student safety through your leadership on our Title IX review and have maintained our board’s focus on campus safety and security.

Under your leadership, we have strengthened connectivity between the board and the administration, which is vitally important for a thriving university. There is regular, sustained and productive communication on a number of fronts. This benefits our administration as we carry out our academic and service functions, and supports the board’s work in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities. In the end, it means we have a stronger institution that benefits us all.

We are fortunate to have an entire board of outstanding individuals. I’d like to especially recognize Vice Chair Chen-Zhang who was recently selected as one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan for 2020 by the Grand Rapids Business Journal. Congratulations, Lynn!

Today we are going to be hearing from Dr. Ewa Urban, interim director of Career and Student Employment Services, with an update on post-graduation activity for 2018-19. She’ll be sharing a lot of very positive data with us today. If you know me, you know that I’m looking forward to seeing those statistics, but it’s what’s behind those numbers that really counts.

In her presentation Dr. Urban will include comments from current and former students about how their WMU experience helped prepare them for the next steps in their journeys. They are powerful statements about the absolute vital work that we are doing that is making a difference.

They include young alumni like Annalisa Wilder, a 2017 graduate who credits her participation in the WSA and the WMU Signature program with helping her find a passion for environmental science and public policy. Now a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Wilder recently returned from Madrid, where she presented her climate change research to the United
Nations Conference of Parties. She has been working with the government of the Seychelles on mitigating potential impacts of climate change on that African island nation and its infrastructure.

This burgeoning international leader was introduced to environmental work as a member of the WSA sustainability committee. And through the WMU Signature program she conducted a community engagement project to plant trees and shrubs here on the campus.

"What I did for WMU Signature actually changed everything I'm doing now," Wilder says. "I found my passion through this opportunity and I'm very grateful to WMU and the Signature program." This is a young woman who is making a mark on the world, and she's doing it thanks to the opportunities she got right here at WMU.

We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but also a lot of things to look forward to in the coming year. There’s the progress on Hilltop Village—we’ll be opening the doors to Arcadia Flats this fall and continuing construction at the Student Center and Dining Facilities.

There’s also the great progress at the Business Technology and Research Park Phase 2 site, on the less outwardly visible, but critically important Dunbar Hall renovation and the fifth and final stage of the Think Big initiative. These are just a few examples of what’s to come.

We have much to celebrate all across our campus and much work to do. I look forward to working with this board and with our partners across the campus, the community and beyond to accomplish great things for our students and our University.
ATTACHMENT C

REMARKS TO WMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 23, 2020
Richard A. Gershon

*See Attached Slide Deck*
Western Michigan University
Board of Trustees
January 23, 2020

Richard A. Gershon, President
Western Michigan University Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Executive Board
Marilyn Kritzman, Vice President
Osama Abudayyeh, Director
Suzan Ayers, Director
Decker Hains, Director
John Jellies, Director
William Rantz, Director
C. Dennis Simpson, Director
Sarah Summy, Director
Faculty Senate:
5 Strategies for the Spring Semester

- WMU Essential Studies
- Prior Learning Assessment
- Curriculum Review Advisory Committee
- Interdisciplinary Academic Studies
- Syllabus Template
WMU Essential Studies

- Complete the Development of WMU Essential Studies website.
- Refine Assessment tools to be used by faculty.
- Information Campaign:
  - Work with College and Departmental Advisors.
  - Work with WMU Student Ambassadors.
- Develop MOA on WMU Essential Studies data governance and protection.
  - Continue to refine how the data will be used for purposes of course improvement.
- Continue to work on the marketing of WMU Essential Studies.
- Host WMU Essential Studies Celebration and Recognition event.
Prior Learning Assessment

- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) takes into consideration experiential learning such as on-the-job training, business training, military service, volunteer service when those experiences align with core knowledge areas within specific graduate/undergraduate programs and majors at WMU.
- This semester both the Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Councils will develop and finalize policies regarding PLA -- which is a process for evaluating knowledge and professional training for purposes of awarding earned credit hours for nontraditional students who are seeking a degree at WMU.
- The goal is for those interested departments at WMU to have available -- a set of prior learning assessment tools (and an agreed upon University approach) for purposes of evaluating a prospective student’s prior learning using credit by examination (which currently exists) as well as portfolio review.
Curriculum Review Advisory Committee

- In order to improve and achieve greater efficiency in the WMU curriculum review process, the Faculty Senate Executive Board is undertaking a review for a new committee to be called WMU Curriculum Review Advisory Committee that would be responsible for overseeing curriculum review process in all its aspects.

Committee Charges:

- Develop and implement process improvements for the WMU curriculum process as needed.
  - Review and assess the current curriculum review calendar.
  - Work to develop more efficient listing of courses in the University catalogue.

- Develop and implement process improvements for the WMU electronic curriculum process as needed.
  - Develop revised procedures and documentation for the WMU electronic curriculum process.

- Develop, schedule, and coordinate college level curriculum trainings.
Ad Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Academic Studies

- In April 2019, the Faculty Senate Executive Board established the formation of an ad hoc committee to examine the current practices of interdisciplinary academic study at WMU and evaluate both opportunities and challenges going forward.
- This committee has been charged with understanding the different types of interdisciplinary academic programs that currently exist at WMU. The committee has also been asked to provide a set of recommended strategies with the goal of helping to advance interdisciplinary academic study at WMU.
- The committee has been regularly meeting throughout the year:
  - Phase 1. Problem Definition - fall semester
  - Phase 2. Developing Strategies and Recommendations - spring semester
Interdisciplinary Academic Studies
4 Strategy Focal Points: Promising Ideas

- Advancing a Culture of Interdisciplinary Thinking:
  - Promote courtesy appointments for faculty in other departments. Alternatively, faculty would be given a chance to declare an affiliate department outside his/her home department.

- Overcoming Institutional Barriers through Flexibility:
  - Create a Futures Institute to identify “wicked problems”.
  - Encourage cross-listed courses between departments and allow both to count in terms of credit hour production.

- Promote Innovative Curriculum Design:
  - Allow students to minor in a self-designed problem area.
    - Climate Change, Opioid Addiction
  - WMU Essential Studies – Design your own specialty area.

- Advancing Interdisciplinary Research:
  - Promote/Encourage Interdisciplinary FRACAA grants
Faculty Senate Syllabus Template

- All WMU faculty are required to provide their students with a working syllabus for purposes of helping them understand the purpose, structure/organization, and requirements for all courses of instruction.
- The question sometimes comes up; what information is essential and what information is optional in terms of what needs to be conveyed?
- The Faculty Senate Executive Board has created an ad hoc Syllabus Committee to research best practices, review, and update required items to be included on WMU syllabi. The committee is tasked with developing an MOA that defines required syllabi items by the end of spring 2020.
- The committee is made up of representatives from the Executive Board, the Professional Concerns Committee, the Undergraduate Studies Council, and the Graduate Studies Council.
Thank you.