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WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session March 12, 2020

WMU Board of Trustees

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Western Michigan University
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Thursday, March 12, 2020

Closed Informal Session – 9:30 AM

Formal Session – 11:00 AM, Bernhard Center 157-159

1. Acceptance of the Agenda – *Bolger*
2. Approval of the Minutes (*January 23, 2020 Meeting*) – *Bolger*
3. Remarks by the Chair – *Bolger*
4. Remarks by the President – *Montgomery*
5. Comments by the Western Student Association President – *Smith*
6. Comments by the Graduate Student Association President – *Morris*
7. Presentation - Holographic Education and Assessment: The Next Generation Classroom – *Brown*
8. Accelerating Success Through United Airline Aviate Program – *Powell*
9. Public Comments Regarding Action Items – *Schuemann*

Action Items – *Bolger*

10. Western Michigan University Public Event Policy – *Swartz*
11. Consent Items – *Bolger*
 - A. Personnel Report
 - B. Curriculum Proposals
 - C. Guizhou University of Finance and Economics 4+0 Agreement
 - D. Extended University Programs Unit Name Change to WMUx
 - E. Lease Agreement Extension – PNC Bank, Bernhard Center
 - F. Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report
 - G. Operating Cash Investment Report
12. General Public Comments – *Schuemann*

Supplemental and supporting agenda materials can be viewed at: <http://www.wmich.edu/trustees>

Proposed Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2020

The Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session for the Annual Meeting was called to order by Chair Bolger at 11:14AM on *Thursday, March 12, 2020*. The meeting was held in the Bernhard Center, Rooms 157-159. Presiding were Chair Bolger, Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, and Trustees Behen, Edgerton, Johnston, Kitchens, and Rinvelt with Trustee Penn participating via phone.

A motion to accept the *March 12, 2020 agenda* was made by Trustee Johnston, with a second from Trustee Kitchens. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the *January 23, 2020 BOT meeting* was made by Trustee Behen, with a second by Vice Chair Chen-Zhang. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Western Student Association (WSA) President L. Smith and Graduate Student Association (GSA) President C. Morris provided comments regarding their respective areas and their ongoing activities and initiatives relating to shared governance, promoting student involvement, and academic enrichment.

VP for Research and Innovation T. Kinzy introduced Associate Professor L. Brown from the College of Aviation who presented on Holographic Education and Assessment: The Next Generation Classroom.

Provost J. Bott then introduced Dean D. Powell from the College of Aviation who shared how WMU aviation students are accelerating success through the United Airline Aviate Program.

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

As Action Items, Associate General Counsel J. Swartz proposed the Western Michigan University Public Event Policy. **A motion to accept the Western Michigan University Public Event Policy** was made by Trustee Kitchens with a second by Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Trustee Johnston, with a second from Vice Chair Chen-Zhang. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited:

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Curriculum Proposals
- C. Guizhou University of Finance and Economics 4+0 Agreement
- D. Extended University Programs Unit Name Change to WMUx
- E. Lease Agreement Extension – PNC Bank, Bernhard Center
- F. Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report
- G. Operating Cash Investment Report.

There was no indicated public interest in providing commentary regarding General Public Comments.

The BOT meeting ended at 12:01PM following **a motion to adjourn** by Trustee Edgerton, a second by Trustee Kitchens, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Kahler B. Schuemann
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University

ATTACHMENT A

WMU Board of Trustees Chairman Bolger's Welcome and Remarks March 12, 2020

Much has transpired in the last 48 hours in our state related to COVID-19, the novel coronavirus. As always, Western Michigan University's first concern is for the safety and security of our campus community. President Montgomery will soon outline the steps WMU has announced — steps that attempt to strike a balance between supporting student learning while aligning with CDC-recommended practices around social distancing.

Even before it was confirmed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer that two southeastern Michigan residents tested positive for COVID-19, we had decided to relocate this month's Board meeting from Detroit to the campus. I apologize for the last-minute change in plans and location of our Board meeting. But given that this is a time of great fluidity and flux, we felt that holding our meeting here in Kalamazoo was a prudent decision.

I would like to publicly thank Ms. Stacy Thinner and Trustee Shani Penn for their efforts in setting the agenda and handling the logistics for the Detroit board meeting and activities there. The Board is looking forward to rescheduling the Detroit meeting for September.

The Board strongly supports the rights afforded all of us under the First Amendment — the right that all persons should be allowed the opportunity to express their thoughts and to have their opinions heard. We welcome and encourage public comments during the time that we have set aside during our Board meetings. As an institution of higher education, one of our primary responsibilities is to provide our students the opportunity to expand their views of societal issues that face us now and into the future. To be exposed to thoughts and ideas is an opportunity for personal growth. Even if we disagree with another's position on a topic or issue, we can disagree without being disagreeable. Such is the goal of our "We Talk" program.

Also, I would like to offer a point of clarification concerning public comments. We listen to all issues raised during presentations that are made to the Board. Just because we do not make remarks when a speaker concludes their time does not mean that we are not interested in the issue being presented. Your Board's primary responsibilities are fiduciary and not administrative. Depending on the nature of a presentation, we may ask Secretary Schuemann to follow up through administrative channels and provide us with appropriate updates.

ATTACHMENT B

WMU Board of Trustees President Edward Montgomery Remarks March 12, 2020

Thank you, Chairman Bolger. As I am sure you have all heard, yesterday afternoon our University's COVID-19 Task Force made the decision to cancel classes for today and tomorrow, and will convene on Monday, March 16 with remote instruction for all students through Friday, April 3rd.

As a University, we are here to serve student learning and growth, even when circumstances outside of our control create a tremendous amount of uncertainty. We are grateful to our faculty and staff members who are preparing to deliver services to our students at a distance, including advising and other related student services. And we are grateful to our students for showing the kind of flexibility that will make them tomorrow's most resilient and employable professionals.

We will continue monitoring this rapidly evolving situation, and will make the decision on whether to extend this situation by Friday, March 27th.

Our University facilities will remain open, including residence halls and dining facilities, and staff will continue all standard business operations.

At this time, the University is ceasing all nonessential travel, both domestic and international. This includes conferences, class trips or similar learning experiences. We are also recommending that students, faculty and staff reconsider any personal travel plans.

As the Chairman noted, these decisions were based on a desire to protect the health and safety of our campus community while disrupting our students' educational experiences as little as possible. There are currently no confirmed coronavirus cases outside of the two that were reported in southeastern Michigan, but we want to do everything possible to protect our students, faculty and staff.

Our task force and University leaders remain in contact with county and state health department officials to monitor the situation, and with our state government to engage in two-way communication that will support protecting our students and all Michigan residents.

This is a rapidly changing situation, and we will keep everyone apprised of changes in COVID-19 cases as they affect our WMU community and will continue to work across our campus to ensure a safe and secure environment.