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WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session March 18, 2021

WMU Board of Trustees

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Thursday, March 18, 2021

Virtual Meeting Platform Amidst a Continued Global Pandemic

Closed Informal Session – 9:00 AM

Formal Session – 11:00 AM *Livestream at <https://wmich.edu/trustees>

*Individuals wishing to address the Board of Trustees during either Public Comments sections must notify Dr. Kahler Schuemann at kahler.schuemann@wmich.edu by 5PM Wednesday, March 17th.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda – *Chen-Zhang*
2. Approval of the Minutes (*January 21, 2021 Meeting*) – *Chen-Zhang*
3. Remarks by the Chair – *Chen-Zhang*
4. Remarks by the President – *Montgomery*
5. Comments by the Faculty Senate President – *Kritzman*
6. Comments by the Western Student Association President – *West*
7. Comments by the Graduate Student Association President – *Morris*
8. Presentation – Celebrating WMU's Frontline Healthcare Workers – *Anderson*
9. Public Comments Regarding Action Items – *Schuemann*

Action Items – *Chen-Zhang*

10. Consent Items – *Chen-Zhang*
 - A. Board of Trustees Meeting Dates 2022
 - B. Curriculum Proposals
 - C. Personnel Report
 - D. Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report
 - E. Operating Cash Investment Performance Report
11. General Public Comments – *Schuemann*

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

Proposed Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2021

An Investiture Ceremony for Trustee Trevan and Trustee Turfe was held virtually and streamed live at 10:45AM. Oaths were affirmed by the Honorable Michael P. Hatty, Chief Judge from both the 44th Circuit Court and the 53rd District Court. Perspective was shared by Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, President Montgomery, Board Secretary Schuemann with commentary from both Trustee Trevan and Trustee Turfe.

The Annual Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was then called to order by Vice Chair Chen-Zhang at 11:05AM on January 21, 2021. The meeting was conducted, amidst the continued global pandemic, in an online modality with participants engaging through Zoom, a virtual platform. The meeting was streamed live through the BOT website. Prior marketing encouraged the public to engage and those interested in providing comment were asked to notify Board Secretary Schuemann by 5PM Wednesday, January 20th. Presiding were Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, and Trustees Edgerton, Johnston, Kitchens, Penn, Rinvelt, Trevan, and Turfe.

A motion to accept the *January 21, 2021 BOT agenda* was made by Trustee Kitchens, with a second from Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the *December 10, 2020 BOT Meeting* was made by Trustee Trevan, with a second by Trustee Edgerton. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks were provided by Vice Chair Chen-Zhang – *Attachment A*, followed by remarks from President Montgomery – *Attachment B*.

Faculty Senate President M. Kritzman, Western Student Association (WSA) Vice President J. Wright, 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. See *Attachment C* for remarks by Faculty Senate President M. Kritzman.

Vice President for Student Affairs D. Anderson presented a video on the Arcadia Flats Student Housing project.

Next, Provost Bott introduced E. Martini, W. Bond, K. Easley, and S. Nagel who overviewed the collaborative effort between semesters focusing on retention through coordinated outreach to students.

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

As Action Items, Board Secretary K. Schuemann, presented the slate of proposed officers for the 2021 Western Michigan University Board of Trustee Officer Election for approval. **A motion to accept the proposed officers for the 2021 Western Michigan University Board of Trustee Officer Election** was made by Trustee Kitchens with a second by Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously. Elected Officers for 2021 include: Chair Lynn L. Chen-Zhang, Vice Chair William D. Johnston, Secretary Kahler B. Schuemann, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Jan Van Der Kley, and Assistant Treasurer Colleen Scarff.

The next agenda item regarded a Consumers Energy Utility Easement Request and was recommended by Vice President for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley. **A motion to accept a Consumers Energy Utility Easement Request** was made by Trustee Kitchens, with a second by Trustee Turfe, and passed unanimously.

Vice President for Advancement K. DeVries next proposed an Amendment to the WMU Foundation Bylaws: Capacity Building Committee. **A motion to accept an Amendment to the WMU Foundation Bylaws: Capacity Building Committee** was made by Trustee Johnston with a second by Trustee Edgerton. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item regarded Amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution and was recommended by Faculty Senate President M. Kritzman. **A motion to accept the Amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution** was made by Trustee Kitchens, with a second by Trustee Penn, and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Item was made by Trustee Penn, with a second from Trustee Edgerton. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Item as exhibited: Personnel Report.

The BOT meeting ended at 12:19PM following a **motion to adjourn** by Trustee Rinvelt, 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 Vice Chair Lynn Chen-Zhang's Remarks January 21, 2021

Good Morning, Happy New Year and welcome to our first board meeting for 2021. With the completion of Chairman Bolger's service on this board, I am pleased to lead today's meeting until a new chairperson is selected. I would like to especially welcome Kurtis Trevan and Alan Turfe to our board, and express my appreciation to Governor Whitmer for naming these talented leaders to this body.

A new year always brings new hope and optimism, and I think that we all are ready for good things in 2021. On New Year's Eve, I have never been that anxious for the New Year Ball to fall. At Western Michigan University we already have many things to celebrate! I always love to take the opportunity to brag about our great University—and there is much to brag about.

For example, it was wonderful to read the recent Princeton Review rankings that listed the Haworth College of Business as one of the nation's best business schools for earning a Master of Business Administration degree. The U.S. News and World Report rankings also included the Haworth College of Business, along with our engineering program. Overall, U.S. News listed WMU as one of the best colleges in Michigan for social mobility and among the leaders in the state's public universities.

None of this recognition is a surprise to me—as a proud alumna, I personally know the value of a WMU degree—and as a member of this board, I am honored to help guide it forward into the future.

Board's Action Items:

We have a full agenda today. In addition to hearing from our shared governance partners, in today's meeting we will learn more about how teams from our academic and student affairs divisions have used targeted, directed approaches to support students in returning for spring semester. I appreciate this effort to connect with students and to encourage their continued studies.

We will also see a presentation about the newly opened Arcadia Flats residential facility. This is a beautiful new structure that is part of the Hilltop Village complex and is an important addition to our campus.

In separate actions, the board will hear a request from Consumers Power for a property easement. We will also vote on an amendment to the WMU Foundation bylaws and an amendment to the Faculty Senate constitution. Finally, we will hold our annual board elections.

ATTACHMENT B

WMU Board of Trustees President Montgomery Remarks January 21, 2021

Good morning and thank you for that introduction, Vice Chair Chen-Zhang.

I would like to add my welcome to trustees Trevan and Turfe, who were sworn in prior to the start of today's meeting. I have appreciated getting to know each of them and I am confident that their individual skills and experiences will benefit this board's work and our overall efforts in advancing Western Michigan University.

Our spring semester is now underway. In accordance with state guidelines, the students began their studies remotely on Jan. 11, and returned to campus to learn via our five teaching modalities on Jan. 19. As part of that return, I am pleased to note that the first residents moved into Arcadia Flats, our new residential building on the south side of our campus. During today's meeting you'll have a chance to see a video that highlights this beautiful facility.

Kari and I had the opportunity to tour the building just prior to its completion, and we were thrilled to see how wonderfully it fulfills the vision for 21st century student living spaces that are bright, welcoming and encourage connection and collaboration.

Arcadia Flats is one example of a forward-looking effort that was affected by the pandemic. Long before 2020 we were focused on revitalizing spaces to enhance our academic and residential offerings and better meet the needs of students, faculty and staff. We spent much of the last few months responding to the challenges of COVID-19. We still made progress on important initiatives, but our attention was divided.

As we move into a new year, we are also moving toward returning our full attention to work that advances our institution—that attracts and retains talented faculty staff and students; that enables our faculty to use their expertise and work across disciplines to address society's greatest challenges; that is always learner-centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.

Hilltop Village, comprising Arcadia Flats and the new student center and dining hall, is certainly part of this vision, but so is the effort to renovate Dunbar Hall, and efforts like the work to develop a new strategic resource management budget model.

We are also looking forward to contributions from the Racial Justice Advisory Committee members, the benefits that will be gained from streamlined career and academic counseling and the possibilities that will come from faculty working across departments through interdisciplinarity.

We are still working our way through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, but as you'll see today in the video about Arcadia Flats and in the presentation about the WMUx team's efforts to transform outreach to students, we are also looking ahead to how we can best deploy our resources to ensure a stronger University.

Through this board's fiduciary guidance, with continuing professional contributions from our faculty and staff, and important participation from students, we have the opportunity to take the lessons of 2020 and apply them toward repositioning our institution for future success.

That future success is directly tied to maintaining our Higher Learning Commission accreditation status. We are nearing the completion of a 10-year process to take stock of our work, plan for the future, and always ensure that we are striving toward providing a high-quality educational experience for our students.

Maintaining HLC accreditation is important on many levels, and it affects every part of campus. Beyond ensuring that we have met high standards and completed a rigorous peer review process, it demonstrates our commitment to fulfilling our mission and continuously striving for improvement.

Many individuals across our campus have participated in our efforts to complete each step in the HLC timeline. I would like to thank everyone who has been part of this vital effort. Though our process has been modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have still stayed on track and will welcome the reaffirmation of accreditation site visit in April.

With that I'll conclude my remarks today. I am looking forward to today's presentations and then later, to congratulating those who will take on board leadership positions following the elections.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT C

WMU Board of Trustees President Marilyn S. Kritzman Remarks January 21, 2021

Good morning Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, members of the Board, President Montgomery, colleagues and guests. Welcome back to campus and welcome to a new semester. As a partner in shared governance, and as the representative for the Faculty Senate, I thank you for the opportunity to address the Board this morning.

On behalf of the Faculty Senate and the WMU Faculty we welcome new board members Trustee Trevan (Trey van) and Trustee Turfe (Tur fee). Based on your bio's and my research, the Governor and her staff have identified Board members that will help to elevate and move the University forward.

Congratulations on your appointments and welcome. We look forward to working with you.

The Faculty Senate continues to move forward, even during the brief break. Let me provide you a few highlights.

In May 2020 during the regular retirement cycle, 34 members of our faculty retired. The Senate staff worked with area legislators and the Governor's Office to honor these retired faculty members with a special legislative tribute. The tributes were mailed to our colleagues late last week. They have been delivered to their destination, have been well-received, and dot social media posts with acknowledgement and pride for their contributions to Western Michigan University.

The Faculty Senate Executive Board has recommended to Provost Bott that the WMU Essential Studies program and the University Studies degree be housed in the newly formed University College. In addition, the Executive Board supported the University's efforts in adopting a new electronic curriculum platform. This new platform will increase efficiency and make it easier to track curriculum proposals.

The Executive Board also accepted the Last Lecture Series workgroup report and is moving forward into the implementation phase of the project. The Last Lecture Series is a collaborative effort between the Faculty Senate, the President's Office, the Provost's Office, MarCom and Development. The on-going initiative will provide retiring faculty an opportunity to share career-closing thoughts with colleagues, students, alumni, family and friends as well as providing recognition for the faculty from the University, students and colleagues. Look for these to begin in late spring.

The Fallen Bronco's ceremony is taking shape. Designed to be a memorial for current faculty, students and staff who pass away while an active member of our community, we plan to hold our inaugural ceremony later this spring, when an outdoor, socially distanced event is possible. For this we are seeking warm weather and no rain.

The **Graduate Studies Council** approved multiple curriculum proposals and discussed potential revisions to current policies about co-chairs and committee members for theses and dissertations.

The **International Education Council** is considering how its Global Learning for All initiatives can intersect with the WMU Interdisciplinarity initiative. The IEC will present at the Faculty Senate meeting in February.

Lastly, we congratulate, in advance, presumptive Board Chair Lynn Chen-Zhan and presumptive Vice-Chair Bill Johnston. Thank-you for your leadership.

In closing, we enter a new calendar year with new Board leadership, new Board members, new classes with some new students and many returning. There is a sense of optimism and a hope that the year 2021 will be better than the last. The Senate shares that sense of optimism. I continue to ask family, friends and colleagues to be certain their expectations are high, but that they also align those expectations with the current reality. Sometimes unexpected events happen. This is the time for continued commitment to the well-being and safety of our faculty and students as some return to the classroom. It is always time to commit to the academic success of our students, the inclusive and welcoming environment of our campus and the willingness to make Western Michigan University better than the day before. I have said it before and I will say it again, we have an obligation to make this our finest hour.

Stay safe and be well. Thank-you for allowing me to address the Board this morning.

PROPOSAL: Western Michigan University Board of Trustees Meeting Dates 2022

Background

The following dates have been vetted through the University Calendar, Religious Holiday Observances, Executive Leadership, and Trustee availability. Locations are suggested for planning purposes but may shift as needed.

Thursday, January 20th, Heritage Hall

Thursday, March 17th, (Possible Offsite Location)

Thursday, April 21st, Bernhard Center

Thursday, June 23rd, Heritage Hall

Thursday, September 15th, Bernhard Center

Thursday, November 3rd, Heritage Hall

Thursday, December 15th, Bernhard Center

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve the proposed Board of Trustees meeting dates for 2022.

PROPOSAL: Health Information and Information Management (HiiM) Major

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the deletion of the Health Information and Information Management (HiiM) major jointly offered by the Department of Business Information Systems (BIS) and the College of Health and Human Services. In order to maintain in HiiM major, BIS Department would need to provide teaching resources to cover courses that are required by HiiM majors, who are admitted to the Haworth College of Business and the College of Health and Human Services. Given the current limited teaching capacity and other resources (e.g., lab facility, hardware, software), elimination of this HiiM major will have the BIS department and the college to better use teaching resources for other academic majors. HiiM major is jointly offered by the BIS Department and the College of Health and Human Services, from which a curriculum change form will be submitted to her undergraduate curriculum committee to delete its HiiM major as well.

Recommended Action

Delete the Haworth College BIS Health Information and Information Management (HiiM) major.

PROPOSAL: Automotive System Minor

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the deletion of the Automotive System Minor offered by the Department Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management Systems in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The Automotive Systems Minor is to be deleted due to lack of ability to offer courses and lack of priority in finding faculty in this area. The courses necessary for the automotive systems minor are no longer offered and there are no faculty available to teach those courses.

Recommended Action

Delete the Automotive System Minor.

PROPOSAL: Personnel Report

ACADEMIC

Administrative Appointments

Stephen Covell; Chair; Department of Comparative Religion;
effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

David Hartmann; Chair; Department of Sociology;
effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Pablo Pastrana; Chair; Department of Spanish;
effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

John Saillant; Chair; Department of English;
effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

John Spitsbergen; Chair; Department of Biological Sciences;
effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Return to Faculty

Kristina Wirtz; Professor; Department of Spanish;
effective July 1, 2021.

Appointments – Tenure Track

Amy Schreiner; Faculty Specialist I – Lecturer; Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies;
effective January 1, 2021.

Appointments – Adjunct

Charles Mackenzie; Adjunct Assistant Professor;
effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

Peter Wuts; Adjunct Professor; Department of Chemistry;
effective September 1, 2021 through August, 31, 2024.

Faculty Resignations

Todd Ellis; Assistant Professor; Mallinson Institute for Science Education;
effective February 25, 2021.

NON-ACADEMIC

Administrative Retirements

Vernon Payne; Associate Vice President; Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs;
effective February 1, 2021.

Thomas Wolf, Jr.; Chief Information Officer; Office of Information Technology;
effective April 1, 2021.

Retirements

Kristine Dias; Gardener; Facilities Management – Landscape Services;
effective November 1, 2020.

Blaine Edgell; Painter/Glazier; Facilities Management – Maintenance Services;
effective March 27, 2021.

Angela Miller; Accounting Services Analyst; Accounting Services;
effective April 1, 2021.

Louise Ollie; Custodian; Facilities Management – Building Custodial and Support;
effective January 30, 2021.

Elizabeth Teviotdale; Assistant Director; Medieval Institute;
effective January 1, 2021.

Randall Keith Walker; Millwright/Maintenance Mechanic; Facilities Management –
Maintenance Services; effective January 16, 2021.

Western Michigan University
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Agenda Item No. 10 D a
March 18, 2021

PROPOSAL: Annuity and Life Income Funds

*Additional materials can be obtained through the Board of Trustees Office.

Western Michigan University
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Agenda Item No. 10 E a
March 18, 2021

PROPOSAL: Operating Cash Accounts

*Additional materials can be obtained through the Board of Trustees Office.