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WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session December 15, 2022

WMU Board of Trustees

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Western Michigan University
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Hybrid Meeting Platform (In-Person and Virtual)

Closed Informal Session – 9:00 AM

Formal Session – 11:00 AM

Bernhard Center, Rooms 157-159 and Livestreamed at https://wmich.edu/trustees

*Individuals wishing to address the Board of Trustees during either Public Comment section must notify Dr. Kahler Schuemann at kahler.schuemann@wmich.edu by 5PM Wednesday, December 14th.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda – Chen-Zhang
2. Approval of the Minutes (November 3, 2022 Meeting) – Chen-Zhang
3. Remarks by the Chair – Chen-Zhang
4. Remarks by the President – Montgomery
5. Updates by the Faculty Senate President – Summy
6. Updates by the Western Student Association President – Sun
7. Updates by the Graduate Student Association President – Asif
8. Solving the Unsolvable – Montgomery and Kuersten
9. Public Comments Regarding Action Items – Schuemann

Action Items – Chen-Zhang

10. Building Name Adjustment – Stadium Club – DeVries
11. Honorary Degree Recommendation for Frederick S. Upton – Montgomery
12. Consent Items – Chen-Zhang
   A. Personnel Report
   B. Flexibility on Use of Funds – Beauregard Endowment
13. General Public Comments – Schuemann

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

November 3, 2022

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Formal Session was called to order by Chair Chen-Zhang at 11:04AM on Thursday, November 3, 2022. The meeting was conducted in a mixed modality with participants both attending in person at the Bernhard Center, North Ballroom or engaging through Zoom, a virtual platform. The engagement 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, November 2nd. Presiding in person were Chair Chen-Zhang, along with Trustees Johnston, Penn, Rinvelt, and Turfe. Vice Chair Edgerton and Trustee Trevan participated made prior arrangements to be absent.

A motion to accept the November 3, 2022 BOT agenda was made by Trustee Rinvelt with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the September 15, 2022 Meeting was made by Trustee Johnston, with a second by Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Faculty Senate President Summy, Western Student Association (WSA) President Sun, and Graduate Student Association (GSA) President Asif provided comments regarding their respective areas and their ongoing activities and initiatives relating to shared governance, promoting student involvement, and academic enrichment.

President Montgomery introduced Director of Multicultural Affairs for Students M. Holman who presented Bronco Connect: Discovering Success.

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

As Action Items, VP for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley presented on the Sale of Kalamazoo Downtown Property. A motion to accept the Sale of Kalamazoo Downtown Property was made by Trustee Rinvelt with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item the Western Michigan University External Audit and was recommended by Trustee Rinvelt. A motion to accept the Western Michigan University External Audit was made by Trustee Johnston, with a second by Trustee Penn, and passed unanimously.

VP for Student Affairs D. Anderson then presented Changes to the Student Code of Conduct. A motion to accept the Changes to the Student Code of Conduct was made by Trustee Rinvelt, with a second by Trustee Johnston and passed unanimously.
A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Trustee Penn, with a second from Trustee Johnston. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: Personnel Report; Revised Bylaws for the Paper Technology Foundation; Revised Western Michigan University Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2023; Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report; and Operating Cash Investment Performance Report.

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

The BOT meeting ended at 12:15PM following a motion to adjourn by Trustee Rinvelt, with a second from Trustee Penn, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Kahler Schuemann, Ph.D.,
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University
Good morning! It’s wonderful to be together again for our November Board of Trustees meeting. To those joining us in the Bernhard Center and to those viewing remotely, we appreciate you for taking time out of your day for today’s meeting.

It’s hard to believe that it’s already November. Thanksgiving will be upon us before we know it. And students and faculty—who just completed mid-term exams it seems—will be gearing up for finals. The semester is flying by. But we are energized by the learning and the activity that continues to unfold on campus.

As I mentioned, Thanksgiving isn’t far off. But I want to highlight another national observance, which will be here much sooner. It’s one all of us at Western should take pride in celebrating. Tomorrow will kick off the University’s commemoration of first-generation college students, which is a nationally recognized day taking place on Nov. 8 this year. On campus, we will be starting the celebration a little earlier than that. From Nov. 4 through Nov. 8, Heritage Hall will be the scene of an exhibition featuring the art and stories of WMU first-generation students.

We have a long history at Western of welcoming with open arms students who are the first in their family to attend college. We are proud that this describes many of our students.

Over the years, I’ve heard countless stories of first-gen students earning a degree here and how that experience changed not only their lives, but those who followed in their footsteps.

A member of our team at Zhang Financial happens to be a first-generation student at Western. A great asset to our firm, he has worked for us for more than two years already while attending school and will be graduating next summer. He is poised to take his certified financial planner exam soon and has a very bright future ahead of him.

So, we are proud of our students and alumni and proud to join in this national recognition. I hope you can visit Heritage Hall tomorrow or early next week as part of the celebration. Thank you.

We will be considering several items for action during today’s meeting. The first up for consideration is the proposed sale of a property in downtown Kalamazoo. Vice President Van Der Kley will present on this requested action.

The next item for board action will be brought to the floor by Trustee Rinvelt—the results of the University’s external audit, which was conducted by Plante Moran.
Then Dr. Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs, will bring a recommendation for changes to our student code of conduct.

In addition to these items, we will also have consent items to address. There are curriculum proposals, a personnel report, revised bylaws for the Paper Technology Foundation, this board’s meeting dates for 2023, and financial reports.
Thank you, Chair Chen-Zhang, and greetings to all of you joining us today. It’s good to be together again. Though we last met less than two months ago, it’s been a productive period on a variety of fronts. In the interest of time, I’m going to review just some of that activity, and I’ll begin with gratitude.

We’re at a point in the semester where students may feel they are hitting their stride—or they may be experiencing feeling a lot of stress. Regardless, as students pursue their studies and co-curricular activities, we want to continue to encourage them to prioritize their well-being.

To that end, our student leaders organized fall mental health week and a mental health summit, keeping the importance of emotional, psychological and social wellness at the forefront. We appreciate their leadership and raising awareness about the array of resources and services the University provides.

At our last trustees’ meeting, I shared news of one of our latest additions to mental health support—24-7-365 teletherapy and crisis counseling through a service called Uwill—which was just featured in an October Wall Street Journal article.

Our Dean of Students, Dr. Reetha Raveendran, as well as Western Student Association Chief of Staff Elisha Ewing were both quoted in the piece.

Employee engagement workshops:
I also want to thank all those colleagues who have participated in our Employee Engagement Workshop series. On Tuesday, we held the third installment of this three-session series, in which we have focused on ways to enhance and improve our workplace environment and amplify the employee voice.

Through this community-engaged versus top-down approach to advancing change, our goal is to take those ideas to create an actionable, measurable plan leading to improvement in the felt experience on campus.

We will be sharing those ideas with the full community to surface the most promising among them. Ideas that get prioritized by the community will move forward. We will then measure the impact to see how we are doing. While we shouldn’t expect change overnight, we should expect progress.
I also want to thank all those who attended the provost candidate presentations last week. The chief academic officer is a critically important role. The perspectives of faculty, staff and students in the search process is likewise critical.

I appreciate the engagement of those who took time to provide thoughtful feedback on the candidates. I also want to extend express my deep gratitude to the Provost Search Advisory Committee, which was led Dr. Sarah Summy and Dr. Brian Gogan. Outstanding job, all.

Later in today’s meeting, we’ll be getting a report on Bronco Connect, a new living learning community linked with the Empowering Futures housing and dining scholarship. This scholarship and Bronco Connect are among the many ways we are investing in student success through the generosity of the Empowering Futures Gift.

This semester, campus will be apprised of other Empowering Futures initiatives under development—the WMU Paid Internship Program, which will provide wages for students exploring internship experiences at private and nonprofit organizations, as well as the Navigators Program, which involves the creation of a network of Student Success Navigators trained to provide proactive, personalized support to undergrads across their academic and well-being needs.

This program, which scales up similar programming in pockets of the University, is designed to help students successfully journey through the complexity of college life. No student has to go it alone; all students deserve a variety of mentors who will show them the ropes and help them thrive.

At Western, we’re fortunate to have friends, alumni, donors and other partners in our community who believe strongly in this institution and have helped it thrive. One of those individuals is the late Irving S. Gilmore. Last month as we celebrated our homecoming and marked a special milestone for the College of Fine Arts—it’s 50th anniversary—we also announced that the School of Music will be named after Mr. Gilmore.

A business leader and gifted pianist who passed away in 1986, his legacy is one of generosity and the University has greatly benefited. The Irving S. Gilmore Foundation has granted more than $30 million to WMU since the mid-1980s.

Past contributions include $2 million to help fund the Irving S. Gilmore Theatre Complex and more recently, in 2020, $2 million to support our new Virtual Imaging Technology Lab initiative and the signature dance studio to be located atop the renovated Dunbar Hall. We are deeply grateful for the remarkable support. The school will officially assume its new name in January.
PROPOSAL: Building Name Adjustment – Stadium Club

Background

Established in 1939, Waldo Stadium has undergone multiple renovations in its storied history. In 1995, the Stadium Clubhouse was built on the south side of the stadium. The four-floor building features spaces for game operations, a press room for working media, a suite for hosting University donors and guests, and the John Gill Stadium Club featuring outdoor seating and amenities for 325 season ticket holders. Following the conclusion of the 2022 football season, the facility was closed to enable renovation of a portion of the building. The construction is scheduled to be complete in August 2023.

As part of the renovation project, it is requested to adjust the name of the building from Stadium Clubhouse to Stadium Club. Following construction new exterior signage will be installed with the revised building name.

Under WMU’s Facilities and Space Naming Policy the Board of Trustees has the sole authority to name a university building or exterior space.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board of Trustees approve an adjustment to the name of the building from Stadium Clubhouse to Stadium Club.
PROPOSAL: Honorary Degree Recommendation for Frederick S. Upton

Background

The Honorable Frederick S. Upton received nomination and was approved by the Honorary Degree Committee for consideration of an Honorary Degree at Western Michigan University. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from the University of Michigan in 1975.

Congressman Fred Upton has served with honor and distinction in the U.S. House of Representatives for 36 years and during his tenure has remained committed to his district and the entire state of Michigan. Our institution has greatly benefited by having a respected bipartisan leader advocating for WMU in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Upton’s dedication to bipartisanship is widely celebrated. He is a proud member and one time co-chair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. He participated in a civility tour with his friend and colleague Debbie Dingell to publicly demonstrate how to disagree in politics without being disagreeable and the importance of finding common ground. As part of the tour, Congressman Upton and Representative Dingell collaborated with President Montgomery to discuss the future of civility in politics. His focus on delivering results for the residents of his district and working with members on both sides of the aisle to accomplish this is truly remarkable in this era of bitter partisanship.

As Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman Upton sponsored the 21st Century Cures Act, hailed as the most important piece of legislation passed during that Congress. It laid the foundation for Operation Warp Speed and faster drug approvals, including the first COVID vaccine produced by Pfizer at its manufacturing facility in Portage. The COVID-19 vaccines shipped from Southwest Michigan have saved countless lives around the world and cemented the region as a center of health innovation and manufacturing.

WMU has certainly benefited greatly from Fred Upton’s work over the years. He is so proud of his “hometown” university and all that it stands for. WMU and Congressman Upton share similar priorities for societal well-being and are committed to ensuring that the entire region has the support and capacity to provide the skills, research capacity and environment that is needed for our continued economic success. Congressman Upton has never hesitated to push for increased funding or a new research grant opportunity to support the work being done at WMU. Most recently, Fred Upton requested and secured a $1.5 million grant for WMU’s STEM Collaboratory Workforce program to offer cutting edge approaches to diversify and expand STEM workforce pipelines.
During the pandemic, Congressman Upton sponsored the bipartisan Research Investment to Spark the Economy Act (RISE Act) to authorize approximately $26 billion in emergency relief for federal science agencies to award to research universities, independent institutions, and national laboratories working on federally-funded research projects. In introducing the bill, Congressman Upton noted, “The RISE Act is critical legislation that will support our researchers at Western Michigan University and universities across the country. Preserving our innovation pipeline will help ensure America remains a global leader in research and development.”

Fred Upton is also proud of his support for the Great Lakes. He cosponsored the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and supported full funding for it. He also fought for safe drinking water, including lead pipe replacement programs in Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, and Flint, and pushed bipartisan legislation to set national drinking water standards for PFAS, which are also known as forever chemicals. He also fought to keep invasive species, such as the Asian Carp, out of the Great Lakes. Congressman Upton also led the way on banning microbeads, which were harming fish and contaminating the Great Lakes and other waterways.

Connecting and hearing from constituents was one of the highlights of his career. Fred Upton has responded to more than one million constituent messages, and he personally signed every single response that was sent by mail. Before COVID, Congressman Upton also made sure to visit at least one school every week when he was in the Sixth Congressional District. He sees getting young people involved in their schools and communities as more important than ever.

Bestowing this honorary degree upon him allows Western Michigan University to properly recognize a tireless advocate for us and Southwest Michigan. Fred Upton’s time in Congress is coming to an end, his passionate advocacy work is certainly not. He will continue to be a champion for WMU, the region, and the entire state for many years to come.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board of Trustees approve awarding Frederick S. Upton the Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (L.L.D.) for his achievements as a national leader, a respected public servant, and long-time advocate for Western Michigan University.
PROPOSAL: Personnel Report

ACADEMIC

Administrative Appointments
Charles Henderson; Director; Mallinson Institute for Science Education; effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

Nancy Hock; Chair; Department of Occupational Therapy; effective November 2, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

David Paul; Chair; Department of Philosophy; effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027.

Heather Petcovic; Chair; Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences; effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

Raymond Thompson; Dean; College of Aviation; effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027.

Julian Vasquez Heilig; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; effective January 4, 2023.

Appointments – Tenured
Julian Vasquez Heilig; Professor; Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology; effective January 4, 2023.

Appointments – Tenure Track
Micaela Carignano; Assistant Professor; University Libraries; effective January 1, 2023.

Dylan (Sabrina) Juhl; Assistant Professor; University Libraries; effective January 1, 2023.

Sandun Kuruppu; Associate Professor; Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; effective January 1, 2023.

Selim Ozyurek; Assistant Professor; Department of Aviation Sciences; effective October 28, 2022.
Appointments – Tenure Track (Continued)
Priyanka Sharma; Assistant Professor; Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering;
effective January 1, 2023.

David Zakharov; Assistant Professor; Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences;
effective January 1, 2023.

Appointments – Term
Paula Eckert; Instructor; Department of Management;
effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Greg Gerfen; Instructor; Department of Marketing;
effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Brian Holland; Instructor; Department of Accountancy;
effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Gerardo Rincon; Instructor; Department of Marketing;
effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Change in Departmental Affiliation
Tarun Gupta; Professor; from a primary appointment in the Department of Industrial and
Entrepreneurial Engineering & Engineering Management with a secondary appointment
in the Department of Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management Systems to
an appointment in the Department of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering &
Engineering Management;
effective November 3, 2022.

Larry Mallak; Professor; from a primary appointment in the Department of Industrial and
Entrepreneurial Engineering & Engineering Management with a secondary appointment
in the Department of Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management Systems to
an appointment in the Department of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering &
Engineering Management;
effective November 3, 2022.

Troy Place; Master Faculty Specialist – Lecturer; from a primary appointment in the Department
of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering & Engineering Management with a
secondary appointment in the Department of Engineering Design, Manufacturing and
Management Systems to an appointment in the Department of Industrial and
Entrepreneurial Engineering & Engineering Management;
effective November 3, 2022.
Change in Departmental Affiliation (Continued)
Thomas Swartz; Master Faculty Specialist – Lecturer; from a primary appointment in the Department of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering & Engineering Management with a secondary appointment in the Department of Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management Systems to an appointment in the Department of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering & Engineering Management; effective November 3, 2022.

Sabbatical Leave
Donna Talbot; Professor; Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology; effective fall 2023.

Faculty Resignations
Kelly Kohler; Faculty Specialist II – Lecturer; Department of Psychology; effective December 31, 2022.

NON-ACADEMIC

Administrative Appointments
Timothy Thimmesch; Interim Associate Vice President; Facilities Management; effective December 1, 2022.

Administrative Resignation
Stephen Perlaky; Associate Vice President; Facilities Management; effective December 16, 2022.

Retirements
Debra Gambino; Academic Advisor; College of Fine Arts; effective January 14, 2023.

Timothy Johnson; Utility Journeyperson; Facilities Management – Power Plant; effective November 1, 2022.

Natalia Obreiter; Administrative Assistant II; Department of Military Science and Leadership; effective January 1, 2023.
PROPOSAL:  Flexibility on Use of Funds – Beauregard Endowment

Background:

The Athletics Department is seeking Board approval to utilize an endowment fund to compensate graduate assistants performing work in the athletics department. The spending bucket, currently sitting at $180,583, has been unspent since 2014. The endowment fund (The Kathy Beauregard Athletic Administration Internship True Endowment) seeks to provide tuition and/or stipend funding to a graduate student performing work within the athletic department and that meets specific criteria.

As part of the new Broncos emPOWERed program, the Athletic Department is looking to formalize a graduate assistant program between Sport Management in the Department of Human Performance and Health Education and the Athletic Department. The goal would be to fund one-year graduate assistant positions in a variety of student-athlete development areas. One graduate assistant has already been hired to support our academic advising efforts.

Certain provisions of each endowment agreement preclude our ability to utilize the funds in some situations, and we believe those provisions have been a central factor in the current dormant status of the funds.

Both endowments also state in part “the Board of Trustees shall have the power to determine how the funds shall be used keeping in mind the original intent of the fund.”

Mitigating Factors:

1. The funds have not been spent in almost nine years, suggesting flexibility is required. Additionally, by restricting the issuance of funds to every two years, it is difficult to catch up on the years of dormancy.
2. Internships in athletics are administered year-by-year.
3. The Sport Management Masters program has recently experienced more students completing requirements in a Summer-Fall-Spring-Summer model. In response, the department is proposing a one-year online graduate program, to be introduced in Fall of 2023. The online model is specifically being introduced to promote internship experience.
4. Two-year commitments have proven to be difficult to obtain, primarily due to the evolving efficiency in which students are completing their program, students need for year-to-year flexibility, and the athletic department’s desire to provide new student experiences on an annual basis.

Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of Trustees approve flexible use of the funds to allow for the award to be given on an annual basis and for no less than one year.