WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session January 26, 2023

WMU Board of Trustees

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Western Michigan University
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2023
Closed Informal Session – 9:00 AM
Formal Session – 11:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting Platform (In-Person and Virtual)
Bernhard Center, North Ballroom 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, January 25th.*

1. Acceptance of the Agenda – Chen-Zhang
2. Approval of the Minutes (December 15, 2022 Meeting) – Chen-Zhang
3. Remarks by the Chair – Chen-Zhang
4. Remarks by the President – Montgomery
5. Updates by the Faculty Senate Vice President – Rantz
6. Updates by the Western Student Association President – Sun
7. Updates by the Graduate Student Association President – Asif
8. WMU Athletics’ Pursuit of Comprehensive Excellence: The Strategic Plan for Athletics – Bartholomae
9. Western Michigan University Employee Graduates – Montgomery
10. Public Comments Regarding Action Items – Schuemann

**Action Items – Chen-Zhang**

11. 2023 Western Michigan University Board of Trustee Officer Election – Schuemann
12. Delegated Authority to Confer Degrees – Schuemann
13. Consent Items – (Chair)
   A. Curriculum Proposals
   B. Personnel Report
14. General Public Comments – Schuemann

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

December 15, 2022

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Formal Session was called to order by Chair Chen-Zhang at 11:06AM on Thursday, December 15, 2022. The meeting was conducted in a mixed modality with participants both attending in person at the Bernhard Center, Room 157-159 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, December 14th. Presiding in person were Chair Chen-Zhang and Vice Chair Edgerton, along with Trustees Johnston, Rinvelt, Trevan, and Turfe, and Trustee Penn made prior arrangements to be absent.

A motion to accept the December 15, 2022 BOT agenda was made by Vice Chair Edgerton with a second by Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously.

A correction was made to the proposed minutes striking the word “participated” in the first paragraph, last sentence. A motion to accept the minutes as amended from the November 3, 2022 Meeting was made by Trustee Rinvelt, with a second by Trustee Turfe. 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 Sociology Professor A. Kuersten who presented Solving the Unsolvable and introduced the WMU Student Cold Case Team.

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

As Action Items, Assistant VP for Engagement R. Pearl presented on a Building Name Adjustment involving the Stadium Club. A motion to accept Building Name Adjustment to the Stadium Club was made by Trustee Rinvelt with a second by Vice Chair Edgerton. The motion passed unanimously.

President Montgomery introduced the next agenda item seeking Board support for an Honorary Degree for Frederick S. Upton. A motion to accept an Honorary Degree Recommendation for Frederick S. Upton 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 Johnston, with a second from Trustee Rinvelt. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: A. Personnel Report and the B. Flexibility on Use of Funds – Beauregard Endowment.

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

The BOT meeting ended at 12:01PM following a motion to adjourn by Trustee Rinvelt, with a second from Vice Chair Edgerton, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Kahler Schuemann, Ph.D.,
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University
Chair Chen-Zhang’s Remarks December 15, 2022

Our December meeting represents the last meeting of the calendar year, and I want to give each of you a heartfelt thank you for dedicating time in your busy end-of-year schedules to be here either in person or virtually.

Our role as a governing body for the University is to provide fiduciary leadership that will advance Western for years to come. This is a hefty responsibility and one we are honored to carry out.

Two members who have graciously shouldered this important responsibility for many years are winding down their tenures on the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees. Trustee William Johnston, after 16 years, and Trustee Jeffrey Rinvelt, after eight years: Thank you for your long and dedicated service.

We have a deep respect for Trustee Johnston and Trustee Rinvelt. From the fiduciary expertise they bring to their thoughtfulness and support they provide to the pride they take in being Broncos, we will miss them after their departures, when Gov. Whitmer appoints new trustees in coming weeks or months. In the meantime, we are going to capture as much wisdom from them in the time we have left together on the Board.

Colleagues, we certainly appreciate all you have done for Western—and all you will do because as dedicated as you both are, we know that though your time as a trustee will end, you will forever be involved in this University community—your community. Let’s give them a hand.

I also want to thank you, President Montgomery, for your continued leadership. We have had many successes to celebrate this semester, including the increase in our first-year class enrollment—the largest jump in some time—and more recently, the successful search processes demonstrating the stellar level of leadership talent attracted to this remarkable academic institution. These are just a few of long string of accomplishments this semester. Speaking of our Bronco family and achievement, we have more than 1,200 students who will soon join Western’s alumni community as they successfully graduate this Saturday. I look forward to witnessing and celebrating with these graduates as they walk across the stage, ready to make their mark on the world. Being at commencement is always a fun and heart-warming experience.

WMU faculty, staff and administrators work so hard throughout the year supporting our students; we want to celebrate you and the upcoming holidays. I also want to remind employees: You dedicate so much to serving others. Be sure to use this winter recess to recharge and to take care of yourselves. Thank you.
Thank you, Chair Chen-Zhang, and greetings to all of you joining us today. I hope that you are enjoying this holiday season that is upon us.

As we wind down 2022 and prepare to spend quality time with family and friends, I’d like to take a moment to share some highlights from fall semester.

As Chair Chen-Zhang noted, this fall we saw a 24 percent rise in first-year students in comparison to last fall. With the December application pushes, we are continuing to see a strong number in our student applications [running in line with our application numbers from last year which were record setting].

I appreciate the concerted campuswide efforts and strategies behind these statistics. WMU offers a high-quality education with excellent outcomes. Our students go on to do well in work and life because of what they experience here. So, we’re overjoyed that more individuals are choosing this institution and finding their purpose.

The Empowering Futures gift played an important role in this good news and we expect its impact to grow this year and into the future. It has been a year since we announced the first scholarships and student-centered support programs funded by the Empowering Futures Gift. We are incredibly blessed to have this wonderful gift to support our efforts to create pipelines for success, pathways to graduation, increase retention and improve student resilience.

Last week some 50-60 members of the campus wide implementation team held a group meeting to further the integration of their efforts and to build in regular feedback and evaluation of its components, so we know what’s working and what needs improvement. To date, through Empowering Futures, we have awarded 399 Bronco Promise tuition scholarships and nearly 50 housing scholarships. The Bronco Connect Living Learning Community for these students is creating a sense of belonging and helping to improve retention.

These retention efforts are being augmented by the Empowering Futures’ Navigator Program for student success which seems to already have had a positive influence on fall-to-spring retention rates.
Our developing Paid Internship Program—which will provide wages for student internships at private and nonprofit organizations—is on track to facilitate high-quality experiential learning opportunities for our students this coming semester. We are making tremendous strides, which means we are serving the needs of our students.

This semester we also are continuing to take strides in our Employee Engagement initiative focused on cultivating a strong and supportive workplace environment. In October and November, we hosted three workshops in which approximately 200 gathered to offer more than 300 ideas on enhancing workplace culture in the areas of appreciation, communication, transparency and value and support.

All the recommendations for action and behaviors generated by each team at the workshops have been organized and posted online. Next steps involve taking these ideas and shaping potential initiatives. Those initiatives will be shared with the campus for feedback and prioritization. Ultimately, the chosen initiatives will be finalized into committed actions and outcomes.

I want to echo Chair Chen-Zhang in her recognition of successful searches. We’ve identified highly qualified candidates for key leadership roles for your consideration and approval. Dr. Julian Vasquez Heilig as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Vasquez Heilig is coming to us from the University of Kentucky, where he serves as dean of its College of Education and where he has championed strategies that increased enrollment and diversity.

Our Interim Dean in the College of Aviation, Dr. Raymond Thompson, has been recommended to fill this role permanently, pending your approval today. We are pleased with the excellence Dr. Thompson has brought to the University in general and to the College of Aviation in particular.

Board members, just a week ago, you were no doubt as energized as I was when Athletic Director Dan Bartholomae introduced Lance Taylor as the new head coach of the WMU Football program. Coach Taylor comes to Western after having spent the 2022 football season as offensive coordinator at the University of Louisville.

I trust that you feel, as I do, inspired by these successful leaders poised to contribute their many talents to helping advance student success.
As a research University serving the public good, we contribute incredible value to the world through our research and creative activities. Two of our faculty members—Drs. Selena Protacio and Virginia David—were awarded a nearly $3 million federal grant to increase the English as a Second Language-endorsed teacher workforce, filling a vital need. This is our second consecutive installment of the grant, given by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Development Program bringing total funding to $5.6 million. We are proud of Drs. Protacio and David and the critical work they do.

Later in today’s agenda, we’ll be hearing more about the impact of WMU researchers and their students when Dr. Ashlyn Kuersten presents on the Cold Case Program, which works in concert with law enforcement.

I would also like to highlight the advances the University is making toward a smaller carbon footprint. Our 10 new, dual-port charging stations on campus earned a second-place Innovative Project Award from the U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan during its 2022 Leadership Awards ceremony last week. This is the most robust charging infrastructure of any institution of higher education in the state.

Additionally, DeVon Miller building commissioning specialist in Facilities Management, was honored with the Council’s Volunteer of the Year Award. For WMU, DeVon oversees commissioning of our new construction and renovation projects and is responsible for ensuring all buildings on campus receive the highest green building ratings possible.

Finally, with the semester coming to a close, our campus community prepares for Fall Commencement. On Saturday, the accomplishments of 1,234 students will be celebrated during commencement ceremonies. Each one of our graduates has benefitted from a support network that provided guidance, laughter and encouragement throughout a journey that is now culminating with a diploma. If you plan to attend the ceremonies, we’ll see you on Saturday.
PROPOSAL: 2023 Western Michigan University Board of Trustee Officer Election

Chair  
Shelly Edgerton

Vice Chair  
Shani J. Penn

Secretary  
Kahler B. Schuemann

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary  
Jan Van Der Kley

Assistant Treasurer  
Colleen Scarff

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees elect the proposed Officers for 2023.
PROPOSAL: Delegated Authority to Confer Degrees

Background

The Board of Trustees, having the overall authority and responsibility for the governance of the university, retains ultimate responsibility for all university matters and constitutional authority over conferring degrees and granting diplomas. The Board reserves the right to delegate this authority.

Recommended Action

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees authorizes the President of the University to confer degrees on their behalf at the 2023 commencement ceremonies as recommended by the Faculty.
PROPOSAL: Create a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies Degree

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies offered by the Department of Sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences. The rationale for a new master's degree program in criminal justice studies is twofold. First, the new master's degree program in criminal justice studies will better serve WMU students and career professionals in Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan. The Department of Sociology has a very strong B.A. program in criminal justice studies. As of Spring 2022, there were 333 students who selected Criminal Justice Studies (or Criminal Justice, which is the former name for the major) as their primary major, and many more who selected it as their second major or as a minor. Although the Department of Sociology does offer graduate degrees in sociology that allow for students to study crime-related topics, there is not a criminal justice focused degree despite having many faculty with relevant expertise and offering courses that are related to criminal justice. This limits our ability to serve students and working professionals in the area who desire a graduate degree in criminal justice.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve creating a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies Degree.
PROPOSAL: Create a Graduate Certificate in Tribal Governance

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Tribal Governance offered by the School of Public Affairs and Administration in the College of Arts and Sciences. This certificate provides a comprehensive understanding of the legal and cultural history of the treaty tribes, tribal peoples, communities, business entities, and governments and how they relate to local, state, and federal governments. It also develops hands-on skills to assess and address the economic, managerial, and societal challenges of tribal governance. The goal is to provide continuing professional education for members of tribal communities and for those interested in working with tribal communities, tribally-owned businesses, non-profit organizations, governments, and organizational networks. This provides excellent preparation for the Master of Public Administration program.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve creating a Graduate Certificate in Tribal Governance.
PROPOSAL: Create a Minor in Costume Design Degree

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a Minor in Costume Design offered by the Department of Theatre in the College of Fine Arts. The Minor would make it possible for students outside of the BFA Theatre program to pursue their interests in Costume Design and further develop their skills in this field. This would also allow students to pursue entry level positions in this field upon graduation or for future graduate level study in the field of Costume Design.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve creating a Minor in Costume Design.
PROPOSAL: Create a Graduate Certificate in Orientation and Mobility

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Orientation and Mobility offered by the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies in the College of Health and Human Services. This graduate certificate in Orientation and Mobility (O&M) will allow a student to take the needed courses to become a certified orientation and mobility specialist in fewer credit hours than the Masters in Blindness and Low Vision. This allows the BLS department to meet the needs of students who would like to add a certificate, but not a master’s degree.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve creating a Graduate Certificate in Orientation and Mobility.
PROPOSAL: Create a Graduate Certificate in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy offered by the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies in the College of Health and Human Services. Our department currently only offers a Master in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT). The proposed improvement is the offering of a stand-alone certificate that prepares students for the national VRT certification exam.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve creating a Graduate Certificate in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy.
PROPOSAL: Create a Graduate Certificate in Finance

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Finance offered by the Department of Finance and Commercial Law in the Haworth College of Business. This program allows a person not seeking a full Masters in Finance to earn a finance credential.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve creating a Graduate Certificate in Finance.
PROPOSAL: Create a Graduate Certificate in Financial Technology

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Financial Technology offered by the Department of Finance and Commercial Law in the Haworth College of Business. A student can concentrate in a non-finance field and earn the certificate in financial technology to prepare for moving into this area of responsibility.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve creating a Graduate Certificate in Financial Technology.
PROPOSAL: Delete the Minor in Data Analysis

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the deletion of the Minor in Data Analysis offered by the Department of Statistics in the College of Arts and Sciences. The department currently offers 3 minors: Data Science, Statistics, and Data Analysis. They will be consolidating the Data Analysis and Statistics minor. Currently, they have many students obtaining a Statistics major and a Data Analysis minor, to which there is a lot of overlap. They will be making changes to the Statistics minor that will still target students that would have obtained a Data Analysis minor from other departments.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve deleting the Minor in Data Analysis.
PROPOSAL: Delete the Concentration Master of Arts in Teaching: Teaching Chinese as a Second Language

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the deletion of the Concentration in Master of Arts in Teaching: Teaching Chinese as a Second Language offered by the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies in the College of Education and Human Development. There are no longer any students or faculty in this program. The demand for this program does not exist.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve deleting the Concentration Master of Arts in Teaching: Teaching Chinese as a Second Language.
PROPOSAL: Rename the Major in Interior Architecture and Design

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the renaming of the Major in Interior Design offered by the Richmond Institute for Design and Innovation in the College of Fine Arts. The new title shall be Interior Architecture and Design, to provide a more earnest representation of the program offerings and outcomes. For a very long time the interior design program at WMU has had a more architectural focus than comparative interior design programs. The existing interior design curriculum also has a more technical focus with a plethora of focused courses in architectural detailing, physical prototyping, computational design, building construction, regulatory controls and project management. These topics are more normative in an architectural educational and less common in a pure interior design curriculum. It is truly more akin to an Interior Architecture program when compared to course offerings of alternate Interior Architecture programs and conferring with teaching colleagues at other institutions for these reasons. The proposed change further responds to recommendations that have been received from design practitioners and past students that having the degree titled to Interior Architecture and Design would provide more clearly signify to prospective employers seeking to fill interior architecture positions that WMU graduates are well equipped to pursue those interior architecture internships and post-graduation opportunities.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve renaming the Major in Interior Design as Interior Architecture and Design.
PROPOSAL: Personnel Report

ACADEMIC
Administrative Appointments
Christopher Cheatham; Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Budget and Operations; effective January 4, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Megan Grunert Kowalske; Chair; Department of Chemistry; effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

Yuanlong Liu; Chair; Department of Human Performance and Health Education; effective January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

Matthew Mingus; Director; School of Public Affairs and Administration; effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027.

Jeffrey Terpstra; Chair; Department of Statistics; effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

Return to Faculty
Udaya Wagle; Professor; School of Public Affairs and Administration; effective July 1, 2023.

Appointments – Tenured
Sandun Kuruppu; Associate Professor; Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; effective January 1, 2023 (correction to tenure status only).

Appointments – Tenure Track
Alissa Baker; Assistant Professor; Department of Occupational Therapy; effective January 1, 2023.

Deirdre Courtney Nieves; Faculty Specialist I – Lecturer; Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies with a joint appointment in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability; effective January 1, 2023.

Robert Makin III; Assistant Professor; Department of Computer Science; effective January 1, 2023.
Appointments – Tenure Track (Continued)
Shrabanti Roy; Assistant Professor; Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; effective January 1, 2023.

Steven Sparks; Assistant Professor; Department of Aviation Sciences; effective January 1, 2023.

Appointments – Term
LaCretisha McDole; Faculty Specialist I – Clinical Specialist; Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Daniel Miller; Instructor; Department of Business Information Systems; effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Julie Raedy; Faculty Specialist I – Lecturer; Department of Human Performance and Health Education; effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Change in Departmental Affiliation
Michael Harnar; Assistant Professor; from an appointment in The Graduate College to an appointment in the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology; effective January 1, 2023.

Sabbatical Leave
Wei-Chiao Huang; Professor; Department of Economics; effective 2023-24 academic year.

Adjunct Appointment
Parker Crutchfield; Adjunct Associate Professor; Department of Philosophy; effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Brian Eklov; Adjunct Professor; Department of Chemistry; effective September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2025.

Linda Lesniak; Adjunct Professor; Department of Mathematics; effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Faculty Resignations
Julie Eilenberg; Faculty Specialist II - Clinical Specialist; WMU Bronson School of Nursing; effective December 31, 2022.
NON-ACADEMIC

Retirements
Barbara Abernathy; Custodian; Facilities Management – Building Custodial and Support; effective December 31, 2022.

Christine Jager; Associate Director Business Operations; Vice President for Student Affairs; effective January 1, 2023.

Rafael Mendoza; Custodian; Facilities Management – Building Custodial and Support; effective January 1, 2023.

Juanita Page; Custodian; Facilities Management – Building Custodial and Support; effective January 5, 2023.

Elizabeth Roe; Administrative Assistant II; Department of Statistics; effective February 2, 2023.

Edward Truitt; Custodian; Facilities Management – Building Custodial and Support; effective January 1, 2023.