

Proposed Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024 Annual Meeting

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session Annual Meeting was called to order by Chair Shelly Edgerton at 11:11AM on Thursday, January 25, 2024. The meeting was conducted in a mixed modality with participants both attending in person in the Student Center 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 Kahler Schuemann by 5PM, *Wednesday, January 24th*.

Presiding in person were Chair Shelly Edgerton along with Trustees Kelly Burris, Jon Hoadley, James Liggins Jr., and Kara Wood. Vice Chair Alan Turfe, and Trustees Lynn Chen-Zhang, and Lisa Williams engaged virtually through Zoom.

A motion to accept the *January 25, 2024 BOT agenda* was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley with a second by Trustee Kara Wood. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the *November 30, 2023 Meeting and December 14, 2023 Special Meeting* was made by Trustee Kelly Burris, with a second by Jon Hoadley. The motion passed with Trustee James Liggins Jr. and Kara Wood abstaining as new trustees not present at the previous meetings.

Remarks were provided by Chair Shelly Edgerton – *Attachment A*, followed by remarks from President Edward Montgomery – *Attachment B*.

Faculty Senate President Sarah Summy and Western Student Association outgoing President Kayla Byrd along with incoming WSA President Melissa Powers provided comments regarding their respective areas and their ongoing activities and initiatives relating to shared governance, promoting student involvement, and academic enrichment.

Next, President Edward Montgomery introduced Associate Provost Paulo Zagalo-Melo, and Assistant Professor Dinesh Maddipatla who presented on behalf of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education about his journey from graduate student to assistant professor.

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

As Action Items, BOT Secretary Kahler Schuemann presented the 2024 Western Michigan University Board of Trustees Officer Election Slate. The slate included: Chair Shelly Edgerton, Vice Chair Alan Turfe, Secretary Kahler B. Schuemann, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Jan Van Der Kley, and Assistant Treasurer Colleen Scarff. **A motion to accept the Board of Trustees slate of officers for 2024 calendar year** was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley, with a second by Trustee James Liggins Jr., and passed unanimously.

Secretary Schuemann next advocated support for Authority to Confer Degrees be Delegated to the President of the University. **A motion to support Delegated Authority to Confer Degrees** was made by Trustee Kara Wood with a second by Trustee Jon Hoadley. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley, with a second from Trustee Kelly Burris. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: A. Curriculum Proposals and B. Personnel Report.

There was no indicated interest in anyone addressing the Board in **General Public Comments**.

The BOT meeting ended at 11:59PM following a **motion to adjourn** made by Trustee Kara Wood with a second by Trustee Jon Hoadley, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Kahler B. Schuemann, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University

ATTACHMENT A

WMU Board of Trustees Chair Edgerton's Remarks January 25, 2024

Good morning and welcome to the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees' first meeting of 2024. This meeting represents our Annual Meeting—a required meeting in which we appoint officers and oversee annual business matters.

I'd like to express my congratulations, again, to Trustees Liggins and Wood, for their willingness to serve as Board members and for joining us in guiding Western Michigan University forward. In the upcoming weeks, we anticipate introducing our new trustees to their board roles and responsibilities, discussing expectations and establishing board priorities for the year.

While serving on this board brings significant responsibility, it is also a profound privilege. We serve as an advocate for the University, and we work to preserve Western's notoriety by helping to define, support and protect its mission. The decisions that we make impact every corner of the University and underscore the importance of our role as fiduciary leaders. Critical to the success of this board is for its members to hold a deep commitment to Western's pursuit of excellence. In an effort to uphold that commitment, the board members are in the process of developing a unifying commitment statement that will serve as a reminder of our collective goal of promoting the University. We look forward to the expertise and knowledge that each trustee brings to our board and to our great University.

In addition to developing a unifying statement of commitment, the board is exploring an operational dashboard. This visual tool would aim to provide the board with essential data to fulfill its fiduciary role, particularly in the areas of enrollment, retention and student success rates.

Once again, congratulations to our newest members and welcome aboard. I look forward to a successful season ahead as we work together to advance the University's mission.

During today's meeting, Dr. Montgomery will announce the WMU employees who graduated with a degree during the fall semester. Congratulations to those employees who spent time furthering their education—you earned a degree, and we celebrate with you! President Montgomery will also introduce Associate Provost Dr. Paulo Zagalo-Melo and Assistant Professor Dr. Dinesh [Maw-Dee-Pot-Lah] Maddipatla, who will deliver a presentation on the renowned Haenicke Institute for Global Education and the journey from graduate student to assistant professor. We look forward to hearing from them shortly.

Also, I'm eagerly anticipating President Montgomery's remarks momentarily, as I believe he has some exciting news to share with us regarding WMU embarking on plans for new campus construction to meet our students' needs.

Now, onto the introduction of board action items.

As I mentioned, today is our annual meeting, dedicated to addressing business matters for the year. As such, during action items, Dr. Schuemann will lead us through the 2024 WMU Board of Trustee officer election.

Also up for consideration is delegating authority to confer degrees. Dr. Schuemann will lead that agenda item, as well. Our final action item is the consent agenda; we will consider a number of curriculum proposals and the personnel report.

ATTACHMENT B

WMU Board of Trustees President Montgomery's Remarks January 25, 2024

Thank you, **Chair Edgerton**. Good morning, everyone.

Congratulations to Trustees Liggins and Wood for completing this formal step to becoming members of the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees. We welcome you. As Chair Edgerton noted, service on this board carries profound responsibilities along with the profound reward of helping lead an institution dedicated to improving lives.

You will have many opportunities to make decisions that positively impact thousands of students today and into the future, and to support the crucial work of our talented faculty and staff. Your engagement and service also help deepen the strong connections that exist between Western and the greater community. This experience will likewise deepen your connection to our vibrant institution as you support our continuing success. Congratulations on your new role!

Exciting times abound at Western, so our new trustees are arriving at the perfect juncture. As Chair Edgerton mentioned, we recently unveiled plans to construct a new residence hall for first-year students on the site of Harrison/Stinson and Eldridge/Fox halls, also known as Valley 3! The newly constructed residence hall will be ready to house students in fall 2026. This coming point of pride will reflect our commitment to being an access-oriented institution that fosters holistic growth and well-being, so that all may learn. We're extremely excited about what the future holds!

Just as the new calendar year and spring semester got off to a tremendous start, we read that TIME Magazine has recognized Western on its "[Best Colleges for Future Leaders](#)" list. Western ranked top three in the state on the magazine's listing. Nationally, we ranked No. 79.

To be recognized in Michigan and then so highly ranked among thousands of colleges and universities nationwide is an outstanding showing. TIME particularly called out Haworth College of Business as [what the magazine characterized as] a "notable subsidiary" University. But we're not surprised. Faculty and staff are committed to nurturing leadership qualities in our students. We have top-notch programs and impressive outcomes.

Our talented students are snapped up after graduation, with 9 of 10 Broncos employed quickly, working in their chosen fields in jobs they enjoy. So, it's gratifying to get external acknowledgement and confirmation of what we already know so well. Congratulations to all for this recognition.

Speaking of talented future leaders, our Starting Gate student business accelerator helps many emergent leaders grow their entrepreneurial ideas. These students don't wait until after graduation to start businesses.

Among recent examples are **Gabriella Ford** and **Hailey Gordon**, who established a venture called Shindigz, appealing to Generation Z consumers. Their operation is an online portal to events, food and shopping for their Gen Z peers.

Gabriella explains that, "When you search 'what to do in Kalamazoo,' it just comes up with a lot of different events that are usually for families or older generations. ..." So, like all wise entrepreneurs, they discerned a gap in the marketplace—a consumer need—and created a company to address that need.

Congrats to these Broncos on their creativity. We wish them success in their budding business!

Recently, we traveled to Holland to formalize a 4+1 agreement with Hope College, creating an accelerated pathway for Hope students to earn a Western master's degree in communication.

Hope is well known for providing its students with exceptional education and courses that prepare them for the rigors of graduate-level education. Their alumni will now have a clear pathway to a leading research institution with similar values here at WMU.

I'd like to thank all of the Broncos involved for their pivotal role in developing the agreement, including **Dr. Cynthia Klekar-Cunningham**, Chair of WMU School of Communication; **Dr. Julie Apker**, professor and graduate director in the school; **Dr. Keith Hearit**, another of our accomplished communication professors; **Diana Berkshire-Hearit**, graduate awards specialist in the Graduate College; and **Dr. Malia Roberts**, our Interim Senior Director for Graduate College Enrollment.

WMU Instructor Duane Davis receives jazz award: Finally, I'm elated today to recognize Gilmore School of Music Instructor **Duane Davis**, who received the 2024 Ellis Marsalis Jr. Jazz Educator of the Year award during the Jazz Education Network's annual conference earlier this month in New Orleans.

Mr. Davis' renowned showcase of compositions and arrangements as well as his 54 years of dedication to teaching jazz at the high school and collegiate levels in Grand Rapids, Indiana and here at Western earned him the esteemed honor. He just completed teaching the Gold Company course during the fall semester while Gold Company Director and a former student of Davis, **Greg Jasperse**, was on sabbatical.

Greg credits much of the Gold Company program's success to Duane Davis. "Not only did he impact generations of students at WMU, his two sons attended WMU and went on to be world-renowned jazz musicians." Congratulations to Mr. Davis!