Proposed Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Chair Chen-Zhang at 11:14AM on Thursday, June 24, 2021. The meeting was conducted, amidst the continued global pandemic, in a mix 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 5:00PM, Wednesday, June 23rd. Presiding in person were Chair Chen-Zhang, Vice Chair Johnston and Trustees Rinvelt and Turfe. Trustees Penn and Trevan participated through Zoom and Trustee Edgerton provided prior notice she was unable to attend.

A motion to accept June 24, 2021 BOT agenda was made by Vice Chair Johnston, with a second from Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the April 22, 2021 BOT Meeting was made by Vice Chair 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 M. Kritzman, Western Student Association (WSA) President A. Morris, and Graduate Student Association (GSA) Interim President A. Hiremath 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.

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

As Action Items, Secretary Schuemann presented Trustee Emeritus Recognition for Ron Kitchens. A motion to accept Trustee Emeritus Recognition for Ron Kitchens was made by Trustee Trevan with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item regarded awarding an Honorary Degree for Audrey Morean Petersen and was recommended by President Montgomery. A motion to accept awarding an Honorary Degree for Audrey Morean Petersen was made by Vice Chair Johnston, with a second by Trustee Rinvelt, and passed unanimously.

Provost J. Bott then recommended Academic Tenure and Promotion for members achieving this professional milestone while also paying tribute to their campus contributions. A motion to
accept Academic Tenure and Promotion was made by Vice Chair Johnston with a second by Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item involved the Sale of a Parcel in WMU BTR2 to Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority and was recommended by Vice President for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley. A motion to accept the Sale of a Parcel in WMU BTR2 to Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority was made by Trustee Turfe, with a second by Trustee Penn, and passed unanimously.

Vice President for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley next proposed a WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine Lease to Psychiatry. A motion to accept a WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine Lease to Psychiatry was made by Trustee Rinvelt with a second by Vice Chair Johnston. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item regarded State Property Transfers Robert M. Beam Power Plant and Wood and Haenicke Halls and was recommended by Vice President for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley. A motion to accept State Property Transfers Robert M. Beam Power Plant and Wood and Haenicke Halls was made by Vice Chair Johnston, with a second by Trustee Rinvelt, and passed unanimously.

Vice President for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley then recommended the Police Officers Association Labor Agreement. A motion to accept the Police Officers Association Labor Agreement was made by Trustee Turfe with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item involved the Western Michigan University Residency Policy - Revision and was recommended by Deputy General Counsel J. Swartz. A motion to accept the Western Michigan University Residency Policy - Revision was made by Vice Chair Johnston, with a second by Trustee Rinvelt, and passed unanimously.

Provost J. Bott and Vice President for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley collectively presented Fall 2021 Tuition and Required Fee Rates. A motion to accept Fall 2021 Tuition and Required Fee Rates was made by Trustee Rinvelt with a second by Trustee Turfe. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item regarded Student Room and Board Rates 2021-22 and was recommended by Vice President for Student Affairs D. Anderson. A motion to accept Student Room and Board Rates 2021-22 was made by Trustee Rinvelt, with a second by Vice Chair Johnston, and passed unanimously.

Vice President for Student Affairs D. Anderson then recommended Student Apartment Rates 2021-22. A motion to accept the proposed Student Apartment Rates 2021-22 was made by Trustee Rinvelt with a second by Trustee Turfe. The motion passed unanimously.
Vice President for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley then advocated for the General Fund Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operating Budget. A motion to accept the General Fund Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operating Budget was made by Vice Chair Johnston with a second by Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Trustee Rinvelt, with a second from Vice Chair Johnston. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: Curriculum Proposals, Personnel Report, Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report, Operating Cash Investment Performance Report, and One Day Liquor License Applications.

During General Public Comments R. Zimmer, T. Fisher, and J. Blackmore addressed the Board.

The BOT meeting ended at 1:06PM following a motion to adjourn by Trustee Rinvelt, with a second from Vice Chair Johnston, 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 June 24, 2021

Good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to our June Board meeting and it is especially wonderful to see many of us back in person. As we continue to move forward, we will have more opportunities to come together, and to also make good use of technology to stay connected. I would like to thank the Office of Information Technology team for their great work over the past year in making sure that we have the tools that we have needed to continue to perform our duties on behalf of Western. They supported us when we had to meet remotely, and they continue to make sure that meetings are accessible to those watching online. Thank you to everyone in OIT.

Just a little over two weeks ago I was honored to take part in a historic day for Western Michigan University. On June 8 President Montgomery announced the $550 million Empowering Futures gift—the largest donation ever made for a public college or university in the U.S. As I said at the announcement event, we are grateful to the donors—these dedicated alumni—who chose to make this gift. Because of their extraordinary philanthropy, countless fellow Broncos will meet their collegiate and career aspirations and we will create the next several generations of skilled and caring physicians.

And the ranks of our Bronco alumni will increase by nearly 1,300 this weekend when we celebrate commencement. Congratulations to all of those who will be graduating. And speaking for a moment as a proud alumna, you have earned a distinction that will be yours for the rest of your life. Wherever you go, you’ll find great Western grads who are ready to help you and give you guidance on your journey. Best wishes for much success.

In today’s meeting Provost Bott will be sharing the names of those faculty members who have earned tenure and promotions. I would like to congratulate those individuals and thank them for their contributions to the University, to their students, to their research and to the community.

Also, today is Trustee Ron Kitchens’ final meeting as a member of this body and our action items today include conferring him with Trustee Emeritus Recognition. I would like to thank him for his contributions to the Board and to the greater Kalamazoo community and wish him the best. Thank you for all of your contributions, Ron. We anticipate that the governor will appoint a new member to join this board in the near future.

We have a very full agenda today and a number of items for board consideration. We will hear recommendations related to tuition and fees for the 2021-22 academic year from the Provost and Vice President Van Der Kley, and a recommendation for student room and board rates
from Vice President Anderson. Vice President Van Der Kley will also share the proposed general fund operating budget for the 21-22 fiscal year.

We appreciate the considerable work that went into all of these recommendations. Like those who are bringing these proposals to us, this body takes these proposals very seriously, keeping our students and their families in mind as we make decisions that put us in line with our peer colleges in the state.

Vice President Van Der Kley is also presenting on several property-related matters today. They include a proposal to sell a parcel at the Business Technology and Research Park 2 to the Kalamazoo County Dispatch Authority and a proposed lease of space from the WMU Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine to the Department of Psychiatry.

In addition to the action items, we also have four consent items on the agenda. We will hear curriculum proposals, a personnel report and two financial investment performance reports.
Thank you, Chair Chen Zhang.

Like you, I was humbled to take part in the announcement of our historic Empowering Futures gift. This donation represents unparalleled opportunity. It will enable us to enhance student access and retention, support students in experiential learning, strengthen a diverse faculty that advances interdisciplinary research and education and even further invigorate an already thriving community for generations. I echo your appreciation for the generous donors who made this gift.

In other good news, we continue moving forward in planning for a new academic year that includes welcoming faculty, staff and students back to campus. Departments, offices and services will return to in-person operations beginning July 6 and fall semester will begin Sept. 1 with 75% in-person classes.

And in preparation for that return, we have announced changes to our masking policy and a new vaccination incentive program.

We will be changing our face covering policy. Masks will be required indoors with limited exceptions that include those who have medical or religious exemptions or for those who are fully vaccinated. Masks need not be required outdoors on campus spaces.

And in an effort to encourage community wide vaccinations, we are rolling out an incentive program for faculty, staff and students. All faculty, staff and students who upload their vaccination status to the Sindecuse Health Center patient portal can receive a $5 Starbucks gift card.

Students who are enrolled this fall and can provide proof that they are fully vaccinated are automatically eligible to win one of 60 scholarships worth between $500 and $10,000.

Protecting the health and safety of our entire campus has been our first priority throughout the pandemic, and everyone who gets vaccinated contributes to protecting others and helps us make progress to put COVID-19 in the past.

I am very proud of our University’s strengths in research and discovery, and the work that goes on across our campus every day to contribute knowledge and expand understanding to address some of the world’s greatest challenges. These challenges require thinking that stretches across disciplinary boundaries to address what we in economics refer to as wicked problems. At Western we support creative interdisciplinary exploration in a number of ways, and today, I’d
like to announce the awarding of our first Interdisciplinary Team Excellence Enhancement Grant.

This award goes to a project aimed at creating interdisciplinary research and creative scholarship around a topic that has strong potential for future external funding through a federal, state or private source. The project should also have potential to inspire further studies at Western. It is supported by The Office of Research and Innovation, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President’s Meader Endowment.

It is my pleasure to announce today that the winner of the first Interdisciplinary Team Excellence Enhancement grant is Dr. Jeremy Duncan, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, for his proposal titled, “Hearing and Vision Loss in the Aging Population: From Molecules to Society.” Dr. Duncan’s project focuses on establishing a group of researchers from across many disciplines and colleges to address the growing need for research to better understand the challenges facing hearing and vision loss within the aging population. Team members include faculty from biological sciences; psychology; chemistry; speech, language and hearing sciences; blindness and low vision studies; gerontology; and mechanical and aerospace engineering.

Congratulations to Dr. Duncan and the entire team and thanks to all those who submitted proposals.

Today’s meeting includes the important announcements of the coming year’s tuition, room, board and fees. The decisions to set these rates are not taken lightly and are made after careful consideration and comprehensive analysis. We understand the significance of these costs on our students and their families, and our operations teams work very hard to ensure that any cost changes are made with keeping an eye on providing a quality education. My thanks to the provost, to the vice presidents of student affairs and business and finance and their teams for their continuing work to strike a balance between containing costs and providing the best value to our students.

As Chair Chen-Zhang noted, we’ll be celebrating our summer commencement this weekend. We’re sending 1,294 new Bronco alumni out into the world with their diplomas, a sense of purpose and the determination to make a difference, regardless of where their lives take them. I’m looking forward to congratulating a number of them at the outdoor activities that will be taking place.

I’d like to add to the chorus of voices in sharing my appreciation to Trustee Kitchens for his contributions to this Board. He has brought a strong background in community development to this body and his insights have been valuable in contributing to its work. Ron, thank you for everything you’ve done to support Western.
ATTACHMENT C

WMU Board of Trustees
President Marilyn S. Kritzman Remarks June 24, 2021

Good morning Chair Chen-Zhang, members of the Board, President Montgomery, campus colleagues and guests. On behalf of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate, thank-you for this opportunity to address the Board and for allowing one of your designated partners in shared governance to update you on our activities.

As we end another academic year that will go down in the history books as challenging and unique, allow me to share several accomplishments of the Faculty Senate.

Members of the International Education Council implemented an online “Office Hours” program designed to connect WMU International students to faculty and staff at the institution. These monthly office hours were open to any international student studying at WMU and were designed to promote increased sense of belonging and greater inclusion among international students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Graduate Studies Council reviewed 16 curriculum proposals and proposed two Memoranda of Action. Ad hoc committees were formed to assess graduate students nominated for University awards in research and teaching.

The Undergraduate Studies Council has reviewed 37 curriculum proposals, approving 24 program deletions, 9 new programs (one Accelerated Graduate Degree Program (AGDP) which was also approved by GSC), and 4 others (including 2 name changes). USC also approved several MOAs:

- allowing retroactively, dean’s list honors due to incomplete grades if recommended by their respective dean
- allowing programs to increase minimum grade point averages for Admission to their department Accelerated Graduate Degree Programs (AGDPs)
- allowing transfer credit minors which I will speak to in a moment.

The Transfer of Credit Committee, a long-standing committee of both the Undergraduate Studies and the Graduate Studies Councils, proposed a Memorandum of Action to create a Transfer Minor Policy. The policy would create articulation agreements with select community college programs to include a transfer minor on a student’s WMU transcript for recognition of specific programs earned at another college because WMU does not offer that minor.

Last but not least, the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee brought a multi-year university-wide effort to reality by successfully launching the WMU Essential Studies Program in fall 2020 and by growing and building ongoing process improvement, governance,
and program assessment and procedures in order to keep the program relevant, innovative, and flexible for future years.

Let me take a moment to share some end of the year statistics which occurred between May 7, 2020 and today:

- Our six Councils have held a combined total of 54 meetings
- Our eight Committees have held a combined total of 64 meetings
- Our four workgroups have held a combined total of 25 meetings
- The Senate has met as an entire body 7 times
- The Faculty Senate Executive Board has convened for 42 meetings
- Our office participated in the permanent budget program, reducing both operations staff and our operating budget. We also lost, due to retirement, our resident historian Suzanne Davenport, after 41 ½ years of service to the Faculty Senate.

Excluding special committees such as department of public safety oversight committee, athletic advisory board committee, Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RJAC), Hilltop Initiative, the Senate has 355 faculty, staff, academic administrators, and students providing totally volunteer critical core-mission service to the University and the Senate. This is important because during the pandemic, service was discouraged by many. We owe each of our volunteers a debt of gratitude and our overwhelming thanks.

We have helped produce the presidential scholars and faculty retirement recognition events and created the Last Lecture series and Fallen Broncos. We have created virtual meeting processes, virtual voting protocols in order to continue uninterrupted, the work of the Senate.

Vice President Summy and I have attended a combined total of 418 meetings since May 7, 2020 including meetings with our designated partners in share governance: The Board of Trustees, GSA and WSA; the President and members of his cabinet, the Provost and members of her Council, Senate councils, committees and workgroups plus individual meetings addressing member concerns.

All of this has been done with increased teaching loads, reduced resources, and virtually. I share this with you to highlight and acknowledge the significant collective contributions and accomplishments of the Faculty Senate despite the global pandemic and uncertainty we faced this past year. Many of us had to dig deep to do what we did every single day.

I want to take a moment to thank both Professor James Butterfield for his long-term service to the International Education Council and Professor Yvonne Ford for her service to the Executive Board as they step into phases of retirement. My deepest thanks and appreciation to Drs. Osama Obudayyeh, Anthony Defulio, David Flanagan, Decker Hains, Matthew Mingus, William Rantz and C. Dennis Simpson as well as Sarah Summy and Yvonne Ford for their service to the Senate Executive Board. I am proud to count you as my colleagues and trusted advisors.
Looking ahead to next year, we are already finalizing Council chair/committee training, exploring hybrid meetings possibilities for Senate, Council and Committee meetings, creating both Council/Committee member, new Faculty Senator training as well as another round of revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws to help us keep pace with the changes at the University.

As my second favorite author, John Maxwell states in his book, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, “We cannot become what we need by remaining what we are.” ... Change is inevitable, as not always easy. The recent unprecedented $550 million dollar endowed and restricted “Empowering Futures Gift” to WMU, W-MED and WMU Athletics provides a unique opportunity to provide an inclusive and empowering education for all. This is the time for all of us to evaluate and enhance the services to our students. The Faculty Senate Executive Board is grateful to serve during this historic moment in our University’s history and are ready to provide feedback and volunteers during the planning and implementation phase. We are indebted to and grateful for our benefactor’s generous contribution to the legacy and longevity of Western Michigan University.

As I conclude my remarks this morning, I have shared with you the accomplishments of the Senate during this past year. We have an exciting year ahead and hope to continue contributing to our vibrant University at the highest levels possible. As a designated partner in shared governance and a recommendation body, the Faculty Senate strives to do our best work for the University, the students and faculty each and every day. I encourage everyone on this call to think about not only the history of WMU and where we have been, but the future of WMU and where we are headed both as an organization and as the legacy we leave to our students. Because in the end, the students and the future are the reason we do what do each and every day.