

RESOLUTION: Trustee Emeritus Recognition for Ron Kitchens

WHEREAS Ron Kitchens has provided dedicated and faithful service to Western Michigan University and the people of Michigan as a member of the University's governing board, appointed in 2017;

WHEREAS As a trustee, he has brought recognition to the University through his many professional accomplishments and honors, which include formerly serving the region as senior partner and CEO of Southwest Michigan First where he developed initiatives around key economic strengths and grew revenue, investors, and support for small businesses; and

WHEREAS He has served the Board of Trustees as a visionary with focus on strategic planning and social justice initiatives leading the governing board through a period of great accomplishment and external recognition for the University's efforts in such areas as staff engagement, regional development, and student access to education while bringing a deep knowledge of economy and equality; and

WHEREAS His fiduciary leadership and wisdom helped pave the way for initiatives including the WMYou Employee Engagement Survey, Think Big, the Gold Standard 2020 Strategic Plan, the Mountain Top Initiative, the Racial Justice Advisory Committee, the Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment Policy, Campus Wayfinding, and additionally to significant renovation and construction improvements including Western Heights, the WMU Autism Center of Excellence, Heritage Hall, the Valley Dining Center and Arcadia Flats; therefore be it

RESOLVED The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees unifies in appreciation to grant the distinguished title of Trustee Emeritus to Ron Kitchens, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto, in recognition of his exemplary devotion, vision, dedication, mentoring, and service to the University.