Proposed Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Chair Chen-Zhang at 11:08AM on Thursday, December 16, 2021. The meeting was conducted, amidst the continued global pandemic, in a mix modality with participants both attending in person at the Bernhard Center, Rooms 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 5:00PM, Wednesday, December 15th. Presiding in person were Chair Chen-Zhang, Vice Chair Johnston, and Trustees Edgerton, Rinvelt, Trevan, and Turfe. Trustee Penn participated virtually.

A motion to accept the December 16, 2021 BOT agenda was made by Vice Chair Johnston, with a second from Trustee Edgerton. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the November 4, 2021 BOT Meeting was made by Vice Chair Johnston, with a second by Trustee Edgerton. 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 (see Attachment C), Graduate Student Association (GSA) President – O. Cheng, and Western Student Association (WSA) President A. Morris 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.

Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police S. Merlo presented on Community Policing: Campus Safety through Service-Oriented Operation and highlighted the department’s recent accolades through the accreditation process.

Trustee Rinvelt next reported on the Annual Presidential Assessment process with indication the yearly cycle had been completed with input from Faculty Senate and other sources.

During Public Comments Regarding Action Items J. LaBine, President of Professional Instructors Organization and T. Fisher, President of Teaching Assistants Union both shared concern regarding the proposed Presidential Compensation.
As Action Items, Vice President for Business and Finance J. Van Der Kley recommended approval of Capital Expenditure for WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. A motion to accept the Capital Expenditure for WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine was made by Trustee Edgerton with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee J. Rinvelt next recommended the proposed Presidential Compensation be accepted by the Board. A motion to accept the proposed Presidential Compensation was made by Vice Chair Johnston and seconded by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Vice Chair Johnston and seconded by Trustee Penn. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: Curriculum Proposals; Personnel Report; Revised WMU Duty to Report Criminal Acts Policy; WMU Lease Agreement with FedEx Office and Print Services; Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report; Operating Cash Investment Performance Report; and the Marquette Associates Site Visit and Due Diligence Report.

During General Public Comments R. White addressed the Board regarding the annual presidential assessment process and presidential compensation.

The BOT meeting ended at 12:27PM following a motion to adjourn by Trustee Penn, with a second from Trustee Edgerton, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Kahler B. Schuemann
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University
Good morning! Welcome to our December Board meeting.

It’s good to see everyone who is joining us in person today, and we are pleased to have those who are connecting online for our meeting. As we come to the close of our calendar year it’s hard to believe we only have one more meeting left before 2022! We can all agree on a shared wish for a bright and prosperous New Year.

It was my pleasure to speak to our students recently as part of the President’s Leadership Series. This event gave me a chance to share some life lessons with the students who attended, and it was a great reminder of why we are all here today—we are proud to be part of Western Michigan University and we all want to contribute to keeping it a strong institution that gives its students an exceptional education.

Ensuring the safety and security of everyone who studies, works or visits our campus is one of the highest priorities for our institution. Today we will be hearing a presentation on the topic of campus safety and community policing from the Director of Public Safety, Chief Scott Merlo.

We are very proud of the fact that Western’s Department of Public Safety is one of about 5% of police agencies in our state that has earned accreditation for its policies, procedures, management, operations and support services. The department completed the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation process, which include an evaluation of 107 different standards, and today, we welcome representatives from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the accrediting agency, who are joining us as guests for this meeting and who will be officially presenting Chief Merlo with the accreditation certificate.

Today’s agenda includes action items related to a request for an expenditure for a new piece of medical equipment for the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. We will be considering a purchase that will support the school’s research and education efforts—two key areas that are important in the training of future physicians.

As part of its responsibility, this Board is charged with evaluating the performance of the President and determining that individual’s compensation package. This is a role that we take very seriously, and as such, we have created a Presidential Compensation and Advisory Committee to address this important task. Today we will hear a report from that committee’s chair, Trustee Rinvelt. He will share the results of their work and provide a recommended action.
In addition, the Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved a new Master of Science in Finance major and the creation of three new concentrations within that major in the Haworth College of Business. We thank the members of the Graduate Studies Council for their diligence in reviewing and recommending these exciting new academic programs.

Among the consent items on today’s agenda, we will hear a personnel report, consider a revision to the University’s Duty to Report Criminal Acts Policy and a lease agreement with the FedEx office and Print Services.
Thank you, Chair Chen-Zhang.

Commencement is an important milestone in the lives of our students and their families as they transition from exam takers, paper writers and project creators under the tutelage of our faculty to degree holders ready to face and master the next chapter in their lives. This Saturday at Miller Auditorium, we’ll host three commencement ceremonies to recognize more than 1,400 fall semester undergraduate, graduate and specialist degree recipients.

During the noon program we will honor Trustee Emeritus Kenneth Miller with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his service to the university, the community and to society. He’s a deserving honoree, and we look forward to recognizing him and to applauding all of the students who will become alumni on that day.

And to make our University accessible and degrees more attainable to those who we hope to celebrate at future commencement ceremonies, just last week we announced the first initiatives that will be funded through the Empowering Futures Gift that we first announced in June. These exciting new opportunities are intended both to attract bright and talented Michigan students and to help them succeed while at WMU by offering them tuition assistance, housing and career support along with an expanded completion grant program.

These efforts are each impressive in their own right but they represent the beginning of putting together a comprehensive support effort using the Empowering Futures Gift to leverage our ability to remove barriers that all too often keep underrepresented and under-served students from starting and completing their collegiate journey.

As we noted, beginning next year, we’ll be providing $2.4 million in new scholarships to 1,350 deserving students. This investment will support students’ academic, career and residential needs and offer a springboard to rich and rewarding lives.

These scholarships will provide: tuition-free education; low-cost housing will be paired with an innovative Living Learning Community; stipends for internships to foster career exploration and development; and completion grants to help current upper-level Western students navigate unexpected expenses that could derail graduation.

In addition to these exciting opportunities, we’re already planning additional programmatic strategies that we’ll share in 2022. By helping Michigan families who most need help giving their children access to a brighter future in the form of a college education; by supporting the exploration, discovery and career development that 21st century students most need; by
offering a holistic University experience built on a foundation of diversity, equity and inclusion, we’re demonstrating Western Michigan University’s continuing commitment to success for all of our students.

I’d like to share a few highlights of faculty excellence.

Dr. Patricia Reeves, emeritus professor, and Dr. Jianping Shen, the John E. Sandberg Professor of Education and the Gwen Frostic Endowed Chair for Research and Innovation, from the Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology, have been awarded a $29.5 million Promise Neighborhood grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Promise Neighborhoods Program.

The grant will fund the Grand Rapids Southeast Promise Neighborhood Project for five years and is one of the largest grants received in Western Michigan University’s history. Dr. Reeves serves as the principal investigator while Dr. Shen is the co-principal investigator.

Dr. Cat Crotchett, a professor in the Gwen Frostic School of Art—and recent recipient of a Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award—can claim another well-deserved accomplishment. She has been chosen for a month-long exploratory residency with the Golden Foundation for the Arts in New Berlin, New York. Dr. Crotchett was one of 18 artists selected from an application pool of more than 320 who applied to this program.

She will spend her month working with the Golden Artist Colors laboratories team building her technical knowledge about paints and applying that learning, along with her considerable talents in an on-site art studio, complete with unlimited materials.

Western is partnering with the Gun Lake Tribe on important work to promote suicide prevention. Dr. Dee Sherwood, associate professor of social work, is the principle investigator on a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The grant focuses on youth and young adult suicide prevention and early intervention in Native American populations in Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ottawa counties. It involves community outreach and planning; youth and young adult mental health screening and interventions; and staff training and development.

We were pleased to learn that our Doctor of Physical Therapy program has been granted initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Thanks to Dr. Stacie Fruth, founding chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, for leading this long and arduous process, which is important for the students and the program. The first cohort of doctoral students is set to graduate this weekend.
As Chair Chen-Zhang mentioned, today’s meeting will include a presentation from Department of Public Safety Chief Scott Merlo. I’m very appreciative of the effort that the entire department put forward to meet the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission’s standards to achieve accreditation. Of the state’s 600 police agencies, only 40 have undergone the rigorous process, which includes evaluating the agency against 107 different standards. This exemplifies the department’s commitment to excellence, continuous improvement and to preserving campus safety.

We are in the midst of the holiday season, a time for rest, reflection and sharing gratitude for those who have been part of our work and lives over the previous year. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to Western’s success in 2021. I am looking forward to a year of new challenges and new opportunities, as we work together to serve our students and society through education and discovery.
ATTACHMENT C

WMU Board of Trustees
WMU Faculty Senate President Marilyn S. Kritzman’s Remarks, December 16, 2021

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

I am pleased to report that two MOA’s: MOA 21/06 - Conflict of Interest and MOA 19/09-Research Misconduct have finally passed the floor of the Senate and have been sent to the Administration for approval. Both have been under “construction” for the last 4 years. Dozens of individuals contributed to the finished MOA’s. I especially want to extend thanks to Directors DeFulio and Director Abudayyeh, before him, for their work on these MOA’s. They, along with the leadership of the Research Policies Council, currently led by Dr. Onur Arugaslan (AAH Roo Gaas Lan) demonstrated both perseverance and patience as they continued with this project time and time again.

We, in the Faculty Senate, especially appreciate that Cathryn Bailey and Jean Kimmel from the WMU-AAUP helped with the necessary final language that allowed these MOA’s to be supported by the Senate. The Research Misconduct Policy, in particular, provides oversight and protections for faculty, staff, affiliates and students at WMU while allowing operational latitude for the administration. Let me also take this moment to express appreciation to Director DeFulio for his contributions to the Senate Executive Board. As some may already know, he will be taking a much-needed sabbatical during spring semester. Thank-you Anthony for all you have done. Your insights and contributions will be missed!

In other updates, academic departments have been asked to select this year’s Presidential Scholar. Please mark your calendars for the convocation event, honoring these outstanding students, which will be held on April 8, 2022.

The WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee has developed criteria for assessing student learning outcomes. As you may recall, the recent HLC site visit and reaffirmation, highlighted our Essential Studies program and its evidence-based student learning outcomes as one of our program’s most significant strengths.

The Undergraduate Studies Council has completed and is now using their data driven, evidence-based decision tree when acting on undergraduate curriculum proposals.
The International Education Council engaged in a robust discussion with Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Candy McCorkle at its December meeting regarding continued efforts at promoting student inclusion on the WMU campus for both domestic and international students.
The Faculty Senate meets again on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 5 p.m. in 208 Bernhard as well as virtually. Trustee Rinvelt (Rine velt) will join us at the meeting. Feel free to stop in or join us virtually.

As yet another pandemic impacted semester comes to an end, we must admit is has been an interesting and revealing year. There have been successes and failures; hits and misses. It is time to take a break, take personal inventory of where we are, both personally and professionally, so we may plan for 2022. Spend time with family, catch up with friends, and take that long overdue step to mend a fence that needs mending. May we all move into 2022 with a sense of renewed energy, a collaborative spirit and an opportunity to make this the best year ever. We are all part of the Bronco Family. We must continue to demonstrate that pride and resolve for the betterment of our students and our University. Because in the end, that is why we are employed at WMU.

As I close my comments, I wish to express thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers of the Faculty Senate, including the Executive Board, for their time, commitment and service. This critical core mission service is hard work, rarely considered part of load and rarely publicly acknowledged. Thank-you! Without your time and talents, we could not do what we do. To Chair Chen-Zhang, the Board of Trustees, President Montgomery and members of the campus community, on behalf of WMU Faculty Senate, I wish you the Greetings of the Season and may we all be richly blessed in the new year.

Thank-you for allowing me to address the Board this morning.