

Proposed Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2023

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Chair Shelly Edgerton at 11:08AM on Thursday, *November 30, 2023*. The meeting was conducted in a mixed modality with participants both attending in person in the Heritage Hall 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, November 29th*.

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

A motion to accept the *November 30, 2023* BOT agenda was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley with a second by Trustee Lisa Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the *September 28, 2023 Meeting* was made by Trustee Kelly Burris, with a second by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang. The motion passed unanimously.

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 President Kayla Byrd 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 Professor Upul Attanayake who presented along with a group of WMU Civil and Construction Engineering students on Building a Bridge to Future Success.

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

As Action Items, VP for Business and Finance Jan Van Der Kley advocated for required approval of continued support for the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) Program. **A motion to accept the required approval of continued support for the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) Program** was made by Trustee Kelly Burris, with a second by Trustee Kurtis Trevan, and passed unanimously.

With the next agenda item, General Counsel Keith Hahn presented support for Adoption of Amendment to the Paper Tech Foundation Bylaws. **A motion to approve Adoption of Amendment to the Paper Tech Foundation Bylaws** was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley with a second by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang. The motion passed unanimously.

President Edward Montgomery next advocated support for an Honorary Degree Recommendation for President Emeritus John M. Dunn. **A motion to award an Honorary Degree to President Emeritus John M. Dunn** was made by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang with a second by Trustee Jon Hoadley. The motion passed unanimously.

For the next agenda item, President Edward Montgomery encouraged recognizing the life and leadership legacy of Trustee Shani J. Penn by awarding a Posthumous Honorary Degree. **A motion to award a Posthumous Honorary Degree for Trustee Shani J. Penn** was made by Vice Chair Alan Turfe, with a second by Trustee Kurtis Trevan, and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley, with a second from Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: A. Second Amendment to Tower Lease Agreement, B. Curriculum Proposals, C. Personnel Report, D. Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report, and E. Operating Cash Investment Performance Report.

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

The BOT meeting ended at 12:06PM following a **motion to adjourn** made by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang with a second by Trustee Jon Hoadley, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Proposed Special Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2023

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Special Session was called to order by Chair Shelly Edgerton at 12:05PM on Thursday, *December 14, 2023*. The meeting was conducted virtually 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, December 13th*.

Presiding virtually were Chair Shelly Edgerton along with Trustees, Jon Hoadley, and Lisa Williams. Vice Chair Alan Turfe engaged through a phone connection. Trustees Kelly Burris, Lynn Chen-Zhang, and Kurtis Trevan made prior notification of unavailability.

General Counsel Keith Hahn assisted the Board in navigating an emergency BOT meeting with quorum not met by participating trustees. Bylaw requirements for this provision were satisfied.

A motion to accept the *December 14, 2023* BOT Special Meeting agenda was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley with a second by Trustee Lisa Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

As Action Items, VP for Business and Finance Jan Van Der Kley advocated for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Labor Agreement. **A motion to accept the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Labor Agreement** was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley, with a second by Vice Chair Alan Turfe, and passed unanimously.

With the next agenda item, Provost Julian Vasquez Heilig encouraged support for the Professional Instructors Organization Labor Agreement (Wage Reopener). **A motion to approve the Professional Instructors Organization Labor Agreement (Wage Reopener)** was made by Vice Chair Alan Turfe with a second by Trustee Lisa Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The BOT meeting ended at 12:19PM following a **motion to adjourn** made by Trustee Jon Hoadley with a second by Trustee Lisa Williams, 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 November 30, 2023

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for attending the WMU Board of Trustees meeting. It is my pleasure to be here for our final board meeting of the semester and the year 2023. We have much to be thankful for this time of the year and I'm grateful to each of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here today in person and on livestream.

As we move into the final meeting of this semester and before we get into the business on the agenda this morning, I want to extend sincere thanks to my board colleagues. It is both a substantial responsibility and an honor to advance the University and provide fiduciary leadership. I have deep respect for each of you and appreciate the thoughtfulness, skill and care you bring to the role of trustee.

I also want to extend thanks to our shared governance partners who join us at each meeting. Faculty Senate President Sarah Summy and Western Student Association President Kayla Byrd, we have appreciated you for keeping us informed through your updates and we look forward to continuing engagement and partnership in the future. Thank you both for your valuable contributions to WMU.

I also want to thank President Montgomery for his leadership as we head into the homestretch of a busy and productive fall semester. The list of achievement is long: The opening of our remarkable, best-of-the-best student center; seeing an increase in new student enrollment as well as a record-breaking year for overall graduate student enrollment; the signing of the Okanagan [OH-can-noggin] Charter, which enhances our commitment to well-being campus wide—all these achievements are simply outstanding. What's more, a few weeks ago in your 23-24 State of the University address you cast an incredible and exciting vision for our next decade of elevating student success to unprecedented heights. To quote some of your remarks, you noted that, "We're not just attracting students, we're empowering them to cross that graduation stage." I'm so proud to say that Western is excellent at breaking through barriers "So that all may learn."

Speaking of the graduation stage, I'm pleased to share that in about two weeks, we will celebrate Western's 339th commencement exercises in Miller Auditorium. Three ceremonies will take place on Saturday, Dec. 16, and we look forward to celebrating approximately 1,200 graduates.

Relatedly, on the agenda today, the board is being asked to approve the awarding of honorary degrees for two distinguished individuals who have been pillars of the WMU community:

President Emeritus John M. Dunn is being recommended for an honorary doctorate, and our beloved trustee colleague, the late Shani J. Penn, for a posthumous degree. Both are very deserving of this high honor.

Yesterday we had a celebration of a different kind, one steeped in historical importance. I had the pleasure offering the welcome at an event commemorating an important figure in Western's and Kalamazoo's architectural history. Construction business owner Albert J. White is credited with the masonry construction of Western's very first building, today called Heritage Hall, as well as several other notable buildings in Kalamazoo. White, who was the son of formerly enslaved individuals, started his business in Kalamazoo about two decades after the official end of slavery in the United States and completed work on Heritage Hall in the 1900s. We are proud to continue highlighting his legacy now and for future generations.

Before we turn our attention to the Board agenda, we have an exciting presentation today that I'm sure each of you will find intriguing, and it showcases the dedication of our students and professors, along with WMU's strong collaboration efforts to advance technology and help shape the future of transportation throughout Michigan and globally. Later in the agenda, Dr. Montgomery will introduce Dr. Attanayake to discuss a partnership developed between the WMU Research Center of Excellence for Structural Durability and the Michigan Department of Transportation that has resulted in the official completion and opening of a bridge along Interstate 94. This is such exciting news, and we look forward to hearing details about the project after we hear updates from our shared governance partners.

Now, for today's agenda:

Today we will be hearing from Jan Van Der Kley, Vice President for Business and Finance, who will introduce information about the Law Enforcement Support Office Program, or LESO. This program, which we have worked with since 2011, recommends board approval for participation. It allows Western's Department of Public Safety to secure equipment that can further enhance campus safety. Having this pipeline to equipment that can aid our safety and security preparedness and responsiveness is extremely important and useful. I thank our Chief of Police, Scott Merlo, and his department for consistently pursuing enhancements—such as participation in the LESO program—to further strengthen safety for the campus community. We look forward to hearing from VP Van Der Kley on this action item.

We will also hear from WMU General Counsel Keith Hahn, who will lead a discussion on the adoption of the amendment to the Paper Tech Foundation bylaws.

As I earlier mentioned, two champions of the Western community are being recommended for honorary degrees during the December 16 commencement ceremonies. Dr. Montgomery will lead us in this agenda item.

To round out the agenda for today, we also have several consent items to consider—a second amendment to a Tower Lease Agreement, curriculum proposals, a personnel report, the Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance report and the Operating Cash Investment Performance report.

This concludes my opening remarks and introduction to the board's agenda items.

ATTACHMENT B

WMU Board of Trustees President Montgomery's Remarks November 30, 2023

Thank you, Chair Edgerton. Good morning, everyone.

I hope your holiday season is off to a joyous one. What a remarkable semester we've had thus far. From the festive grand opening of our one-of-a-kind student center to the remarkable achievements of our all-around winning fall Bronco sports season, we have much to celebrate. I'll share the record-breaking athletic highlights with you momentarily. But first, I'd like to note that we are looking forward to our hallmark event as an academic institution—commencement!

We will confer more than 900 bachelor's degrees, 220 master's degrees, 55 doctoral degrees and several specialist degrees during the fall commencement in three ceremonies at Miller Auditorium on December 16. It's a time to honor our graduates and pay tribute to our honorary degree recipients, President Emeritus Dunn and our late Trustee Shani Penn.

Next, I want to congratulate the College of Aviation—Allegiant Travel Company has selected Western as an inaugural partner in its Accelerate Pilot Pathway program, which will streamline career opportunities for our Broncos.

The program pairs students with Allegiant mentors who support them throughout their educational journey. Their senior year, they are positioned to work as cadets and possibly be hired by the company upon graduation. Our aviation students are not only receiving first-class education in the classroom, but this new opportunity is also offering incredible experience-driven learning.

We couldn't be more proud. In other aviation news, the college recently hosted an intercollegiate regional flight competition, and the Sky Broncos precision flight team took first place in flight and ground competitions and now advance to the national competition in May in Wisconsin. Our Broncos are truly soaring!

Next week, we will recognize the fall semiannual Make a Difference award recipients spotlighting the excellence they bring to Western Michigan University. These individuals exemplify the heart of WMU, and I'm grateful that they make it a special place to work, teach and study. Congratulations to the awardees. The program will be held at 2 p.m. this Monday in the student center ballroom. Join us and support your colleagues.

In the vein of acknowledging exemplary employees at Western, next week we also will honor the long-tenured employees being inducted into the 25 Year Club.

Congratulations to each inductee—it is an honor to recognize individuals who have committed their talents and much of their careers to making WMU the strong academic institution it is today.

Special congratulations to Dr. Bob E. White, professor in Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management, who will be recognized for 50 years of service at the University. Congratulations to Dr. White and we thank him for his service.

Let's also congratulate Professor Cat Crotchett, whose artwork is in "Connections," a juried group exhibition of works that address contemporary relationships to nature. If you are in the Chicago area over the next few weeks, Cat's show is at ARC Gallery in Chicago through December 18. The exhibition is composed of 25 works of art by 13 various artists.

As Chair Edgerton noted, it was an honor yesterday to commemorate the life and work of Albert J. White and his role crafting the literal foundation of our institution. Celebrating all of our history is part and parcel of our commitment to diversity and inclusion. And acknowledging our past is critical to becoming a place where all may learn.

Now, sports highlights of the fall season!

Congratulations to the WMU women's soccer team, who finished the 2023 season with a 12-4-3 record and earned the program's first regular season MAC Championship.

Along the way, WMU went on a program-best 11 game unbeaten streak. The Broncos went undefeated in conference play and earned six All-MAC selections. Congrats to head coach Lewis Robinson and staff on a phenomenal, record-breaking season!

Likewise, congratulations to the men's soccer team, who finished their season with a 16-3-2 record, and earned second in program history for season wins. And they made it all the way to the Sweet 16 this year. They had one heck of a season, and we are extremely proud of their efforts. Congratulations to head coach Chad Wiseman, his coaching staff and team on another record season!

And what can we say about our volleyball team other than they're going dancing! They play Auburn University in the first round of the NCAA volleyball tournament TODAY at 4 p.m. The team has had 20 wins in a row—the longest winning streak since 1983.

We're hoping for a W today. We are proud of our Broncos and congratulate them for such an exciting season of play. We are cheering on head coach Colleen Munson, her coaching staff and the volleyball team as they take on Auburn later today.

With all of the sports highlights this fall, we want to acknowledge the student-athletes who received academic awards this season. Way to go Broncos, and we look forward to a successful winter sports season.

Finally, I'd like to formally thank and congratulate Michelle Hruska, executive assistant senior in the Office of the President, who will be retiring in January after 35 years of service at Western Michigan University.

Michelle joined the staff in the Office of the President as senior executive assistant to the president in July 2017. She has served in a variety of leadership capacities since beginning her career at WMU in 1989, including seven years in the role of executive assistant senior to the provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Her service at WMU includes membership in the inaugural Everyone Counts Diversity and Broncos FIRST Professional Learning Communities, and as a mentor for the Seita Scholars Program. And she and her husband, Rich, are avid Bronco sports fans—I'm sure that will continue into retirement! We will miss her dearly and wish her well in retirement. This completes my remarks, and I will turn it back over to you, Chair Edgerton.

ATTACHMENT C

WMU Board of Trustees Chair Edgerton's Remarks December 14, 2023

Again, I am pleased to welcome you to this special meeting of the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees. Today, our Board is asked to consider two action items.

While fulfilling our fiduciary responsibilities on behalf of Western, this board places great importance on our duty to vote on ratified contracts. We appreciate the work that went into bringing these proposed agreements to a vote and thank all the members of the bargaining units who took part in the voting.

First up is the three-year agreement between the University and the membership of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, which represents independent stage workers for major theatre productions. Here at Western, the venue is Miller Auditorium.

In just a moment, Vice President Jan Van Der Kley will take us through this consideration.

In addition to considering approval of the ratified IATSE contract, today we will hear from Provost Vasquez Heilig on the consideration to approve the Professional Instructors Organization Labor Agreement—wage reopener.

Before we hear the details of the contracts, I want to send a special thank you to both negotiation teams for their engagement in this process. And to all the employees these unions represent, thank you for your service to Western Michigan University.

ATTACHMENT D

**WMU Board of Trustees
President Montgomery's Remarks December 14, 2023**

Thank you, Chair Edgerton.

Good afternoon.

I'm pleased to be here today as Vice President Van Der Kley and Provost Vasquez Heilig present labor agreements and seek the board's approval.

I echo Chair Edgerton's appreciation to all the parties involved in bringing these agreements to this point.

I would like to thank IATSE members for their work at Miller Auditorium. The independent stage workers' behind-the-scenes and backstage work for major theatre productions helps patrons enjoy world-class performances in a professional, inviting and engaging environment.

And to the PIO membership who offer important instructional expertise to support our students' learning, we thank you. You add value to our ecosystem of academic success, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

With that, I will turn the meeting back over to Chair Edgerton.