

Proposed Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2024

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Chair Shelly Edgerton at 11:15 AM on *Thursday, April 25, 2024*.

The meeting was conducted in person in the Student Center Ballroom and 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, April 24th*.

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

A motion to accept the *April 25, 2024 BOT agenda* was made by Trustee Kelly Burris with a second by Trustee James Liggins Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the *March 14, 2024 BOT Meeting* was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley, and with a second by Trustee James Liggins Jr. passed with full support of the voting members.

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

Outgoing Faculty Senate President Sarah Summy and outgoing Western Student Association President Melissa Powers provided comments regarding their respective areas, introduced their successors, and outlined ongoing activities and initiatives relating to shared governance, promoting student involvement, and academic enrichment.

Next, President Edward Montgomery introduced Dr. Timothy Palmer, professor of Management and director of the Center for Sustainable Business Practices; Dr. Neil Drobny, program director for the Bronco Challenge for Sustainable Impact and instructor for Management in the Haworth College of Business; and Cloe Fetterolf, a junior studying Digital Marketing and eCommerce as well as General Business who presented *Bronco Challenge for Sustainable Impact*.

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

As Action Items, Vice President for Business and Finance Jan Van Der Kley presented the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees' Union Wage Agreement. Her advocacy was followed by commentary from AFSCME President Bryan Sutton. **A motion to accept the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees' Union Wage Agreement** was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley, with a second by Trustee James Liggins Jr., and passed unanimously.

Chair Shelly Edgerton next presented the Consent Item for review.

A motion to approve the Consent Item was made by Trustee James Liggins Jr., with a second from Trustee Kara Wood. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Item as exhibited: Personnel Report.

Rolland Bissonnette addressed the Board in **General Public Comments**.

The BOT meeting ended at 12:13PM following a **motion to adjourn** made by Trustee Kara Wood with a second by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang, 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 Shelly Edgerton's Remarks April 25, 2024

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for attending the WMU Board of Trustees meeting. It is my pleasure to be here with you today. As we gather to discuss important matters and make decisions that are shaping our University, I want to acknowledge the dedication of board members. Thank you for your support and for being champions of Western Michigan University!

Now, let us begin.

I would like to open remarks by expressing a heartfelt thanks to former WMU trustee Kurtis Trevan, who is with us today in the audience, for his invaluable service during his tenure on our board. His dedication to good governance significantly enhanced both the board and Western as a whole.

We are grateful for his commitment to fiduciary responsibilities and his instrumental role in enriching our collaboration with local tribes. Would you join me in a round of applause for Kurtis Trevan?

Now let's turn our attention to an upcoming celebratory occasion! Western will hold its 340th commencement ceremonies this Saturday at 9AM, Noon, 3PM and 6PM in Miller Auditorium. As always, it will be a joyous day celebrating the graduates who have worked tirelessly to reach this milestone, and graduation is a moment they will always cherish.

Thank you to President Montgomery for delivering 4 commencement speeches, and I extend my gratitude to the faculty, staff and administrators who are attending the ceremonies, making the day such a special one for the graduates and their families.

Speaking of milestones, we have reached the completion of the Dunbar Hall renovation project, and we are delighted to come together this afternoon to celebrate the grand reopening of what was the most-utilized academic building on our campus before the renovations began in 2022.

We look forward to sharing more formal remarks during the rededication ceremony following today's board meeting. However, I would like to take a moment now to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the planning and execution of this extensive renovation project.

From the architects and construction workers to our own senior leadership and facilities professionals as well as the planning committee that provided guidance and input throughout the process, thank you for your commitment to improving our educational environment.

It seems just like yesterday we celebrated the grand opening of the WMU Student Center and today we commemorate reaching another milestone. Congratulations to all on this project!

Next, I have some additional news to report. On April 20, the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees' Union, Local 1668, ratified a letter of understanding offered by Western Michigan University, the culmination of a 17-month effort between the University and the AFSCME Leadership Team.

We appreciate the work that went into bringing proposals to a vote and to all the members of the bargaining unit who took part in the voting to ratify this agreement. Later in today's meeting, Vice President Jan Van Der Kley will lead us through consideration of the recommended board action.

Before we turn our attention to the Board agenda, I would like to acknowledge Dr. Sarah Summy, Faculty Senate president during the 2022-24 term.

Today is Sarah's final board meeting representing the faculty senate in this distinguished role. It has been a pleasure collaborating with her on shared governance responsibilities. Her leadership and the dedication of her executive board will have a lasting impact. Dr. Summy, would you please stand and be recognized?

ATTACHMENT B

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

Thank you, Chair Edgerton.

Let's give Kurtis Trevan another round of applause - would you stand and be recognized for your outstanding service to the Board of Trustees.

I'd like to thank everyone for attending today's meeting. As Chair Edgerton mentioned, we are gearing up for the 340th commencement ceremonies this Saturday in Miller Auditorium. This semester more than 2,100 graduates will join the ranks of Bronco alumni and launch their promising futures. We are confident that a Western degree has an excellent return and Broncos get jobs quickly after graduation, so we're excited to see what our Broncos will do after crossing the stage Saturday.

Each ceremony is filled with a vibrant mix of emotions, from pride to excitement, to a sense of achievement and fulfillment. We look forward to celebrating the conclusion of the academic year with the graduates, families and friends. The graduates' achievements reflect not only their dedication and hard work, but also the support and guidance provided by all of you. Let's come together to honor their success and inspire them as they embark on their next journey.

Thank you to the faculty who educate and inspire our students and everyone who works hard to help our students, including everyone from Dining Services who feed our students to AFSCME employees who work hard to make sure we have a beautiful campus.

As Chair Edgerton mentioned, we look forward to cutting the ribbon on this project today. Dunbar Hall is not just a renovation but a transformation that meets the evolving needs of our students and faculty. Please join us at 1:30 today for the rededication inside Dunbar Hall, where we look forward to new beginnings.

Rounding out what Chair Edgerton mentioned moments ago, I would like to acknowledge Dr. Sarah Summy, who has served as president of the 2022-24 Executive Board of the Faculty Senate.

Under her leadership, we saw the establishment of a review cycle for academic conduct policies; recommended revisions of general principles of curriculum change; recommendation of course delivery definitions for undergraduate and graduate catalogs; the revision of graduation requirements to establish minimum credits for a doctoral degree; and the creation of the Unaffiliated Units Curriculum Committee, all having received approval from the Board of Trustees.

In addition to her faculty leadership, Dr. Summy served as co-chair of the Provost Search Advisory Committee and she oversaw WMU Essential Studies continued maintenance, a curriculum to help our students become fluent in change and driven to contribute, develop, persevere and prepare for their future.

Overall, we appreciate her work as president because she has been instrumental in maintaining progress and promoting processes to support the Faculty Senate's vision and mission. Thank you, Dr. Summy, and the 2022-24 executive board for their service and leadership!

Congratulations to two distinguished WMU faculty who received the 2024 WMU Presidential Innovation Professorship Award, recognizing them for their creative and entrepreneurial approach to their discipline. The awards were announced earlier this month during the 2024 Research, Innovation, and Creative Scholarship Celebration Week, hosted by the WMU Office of Research and Innovation.

Dr. Devin Bloom, associate professor of Biological Sciences, is conducting research on his project, titled "Using the tree of life to detect genomic and phenotypic signatures of migratory jawless fishes." Dr. Daniela Schröter, associate professor of public administration in the School of Public Affairs and Administration, is researching a project titled "Systemwide sustainability evaluation: A research and capacity building agenda to further evaluation for sustainable development." Congratulations to both of them.

A round of applause is also in order for the exceptional recipients of the 2024 Excellence in Research awards, also awarded during Research Week. Their pioneering research and creative study are leading the way for our students and globally. Congratulations to all and thank you Dr. Remzi Seker, vice president for Research and Innovation, and his team, for organizing a week's worth of events highlighting research, innovation and creative scholarship.

I am proud to report that Western Michigan University's Sindecuse Health Center has renewed its standing with the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, a national standards organization. This designation truly reflects the dedication and exceptional patient care that they deliver daily. Sindecuse remains part of an elite group of organizations that prioritizes quality care for patients and a culture of continuous improvement for the clinic, staff and faculty.

Dr. Gayle Ruggiero, Sindecuse medical director, says it is estimated that fewer than half of all student health centers receive accreditation from external health organizations that meet best practice standards. This is a significant achievement, and we are proud of the Sindecuse team for their tremendous work to achieve this level of success again!

Congratulations to Anthony Perez, assistant director of admissions, multicultural recruitment and outreach. Anthony was a featured speaker at the recent Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling's 2024 conference, an industry event that gave the opportunity to showcase Western's expertise statewide. We want to thank Anthony for representing Western and the Office of Admissions, who work tirelessly to engage with students year-round, inviting and attracting them to Western.

Congratulations to Dr. Candy McCorkle, who recently was named the 2024 Michigan American Council on Education's Distinguished Women in Higher Education. Each year, the MI-ACE women's network identifies exceptional women who exhibit leadership at their institutions, in their professions and society-at-large.

This prestigious award represents the highest honor bestowed upon a female colleague by the MI-ACE organization. As Vice President of Western's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. McCorkle has demonstrated extraordinary leadership since she arrived at Western in 2018.

Her commitment to provide educational programming and strategies to dismantle institutional and systemic inequities, along with her office's efforts to create engaging and challenging programming for all on campus made her the top candidate for my nomination and the MI-ACE award. Congratulations on receiving the distinguished award and keep up the great work!

Having an impactful advisor in college can make all the difference when it comes to academic success and well-being during college. WMU recently awarded its top advisors during the 2024 Academic Advising Awards ceremony.

Congratulations to Outstanding New Advisor McKenzie Vlieg, College of Arts and Sciences; Service in Academic Advising awardee Colleen Stano, Haworth College of Business; Student's Choice awardee Alyshia Garrett, Haworth College of Business; and Excellence in Academic Advising awardee Jessica Parker, Merze Tate College. Kudos to Tomika Griffin-Brown, Assistant Dean for Academic Advising, for organizing a reception to honor the recipients.

Continuing the tradition of celebrating excellence, we recently celebrated the spring semiannual Make a Difference Awards during a ceremony that highlighted 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 recipients are as follows:

- Grant Allers, Public Safety
- Joe Erskine, Student Rights and Responsibilities
- M'Myia [MY-UGH] Hughes, Academic Support Programs
- Karen Lassen, Admissions
- Tayler Mercil, College of Education and Human Development
- Joan Morin, University Libraries
- Rebecca Popp, Facilities Management - Maintenance Services
- Jerri Pursley, Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management
- Nicole Slater, Facilities Management - Building Custodial Support
- Cathleen Smith, Office of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
- Karmella Todd, VP for Business and Finance
- Amy Vance, Office of Information Technology
- Sara Volmering, University Libraries

Thanks to everyone who took time to show their pride in Western Michigan University as part of Giving Day 2024. The total numbers are still being finalized, but more than 2,000 individuals gave a gift, and we raised nearly a million dollars.

Together, what we 'did in one day' was tremendous and opens new pathways for a brighter and stronger future for our students and our University. I extend my gratitude Kristen DeVries, Vice President for University Advancement, and her team, for the extensive donor outreach and engaging social media campaign leading up to Western Week and Giving Day.

Please join me in congratulating Mackenzie Meyer, a master's student in the Department of English, who has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award to serve as an English Teaching Assistant in Spain for the 2024-25 academic year, from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Mackenzie will spend next academic year in Spain, where her responsibilities will include assistant-teaching social studies, science and technology, art, physical education, and English language. We are extremely proud of Makenzie for receiving this prestigious scholarship to teach abroad. This honor not only reflects her dedication and talent but also highlights Western's commitment to preparing leaders who make meaningful contributions globally.

Finally, thank you to more than 30 members of Sigma Chi Fraternity, who recently took part in community service efforts in Kalamazoo. Their collective efforts on behalf of the Kalamazoo River and River Trail Cleanup were truly impressive, having removed more than 1200 pounds of litter and trash from the water and trails.

We're proud of them for dedicating time and effort to the cleanup project and demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship in our community.

Those conclude my remarks for today and I will take questions at this time.