Proposed Meeting Minutes

**March 14, 2019 – Annual Meeting**

The Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Chair Rinvelt at 11:07AM on Thursday, March 14, 2019. The meeting was held at the Bernhard Center in Rooms 157-159. Presiding were Chair Rinvelt, Vice Chair Bolger, and Trustees Behen, Chen-Zhang, Edgerton, Johnston, Kitchens, and Trustee Penn teleconferenced into the meeting.

The Formal Meeting began with an Oath of Office Ceremony for Trustee Behen and Trustee Edgerton. Both new trustees were sworn in by Judge Christopher Haenicke.

A motion to accept the **March 14, 2019 BOT agenda** was made by Trustee Chen-Zhang, with a second from Trustee Kitchens. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the **December 12, 2018 and February 1, 2019 BOT meetings** was made by Trustee Johnston, with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks were provided by Chair Rinvelt – **Attachment A** followed by remarks from President Montgomery – **Attachment B**.

Faculty Senate President R. Gershon, Western Student Association (WSA) President J. Sanchez, and Graduate Student Association (GSA) President A. Pineda 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 R. Gershon.

Athletic Director K. Beauregard and Assistant Athletic Director J. Stone introduced two student athletes who demonstrated success both on and off the field.

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

As Action Items, Chair Rinvelt presented a proposed slate of officers for the Annual Meeting **Board of Trustee Officer Election**. The officer slate included Chair James B. Bolger, Vice Chair Lynn L. Chen-Zhang, Secretary Kahler B. Schuemann, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Jan Van Der Kley, and Assistant Treasurer Patti VanWalbeck. A motion to accept the suggested officer slate was made by Trustee Kitchens, with a second by Trustee Johnston. The motion passed unanimously.
Trustee Rinvelt passed the gavel to Chair Bolger who joined President Montgomery in complimenting Trustee Rinvelt for his leadership as Chair for the past two years.

Vice President for Student Affairs D. Anderson next proposed the Room and Board Rates Summer 2019. A **motion to accept the Room and Board Rates Summer 2019** was made by Trustee Kitchens, with a second by Trustee Johnston. The motion passed unanimously.

**A motion to approve the Consent Items** was made by Trustee Johnston, with a second from Trustee Kitchens. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: WMU Audit Committee Charter; Personnel Report; Gift Report; Operating Cash Accounts; and Annuity and Life Income Funds.

There was no indicated public interest in providing commentary during General Public Comments.

The BOT meeting ended at 12:08PM following a **motion to adjourn** by Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, a second by Trustee Johnston, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Kahler B. Schuemann
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University
ATTACHMENT A

WMU Board of Trustees meeting remarks
Chair Jeff Rinvelt
March 14, 2019

Opening
Good morning! Welcome, and thank you for being with us today at the first Board of Trustees meeting of 2019. A bit delayed, but we're trying this again. I’m glad Mother Nature is being nice to us this time. It’s supposed to hit 60-plus degrees today—then plunge back down to the 30s or 40s. But after this winter we'll take what we can get.

New trustees
It's wonderful to see you all gathered here. We are excited to finally formally welcome our new colleagues to the board. Trustee Behen and Trustee Edgerton, we look forward to your leadership and the expertise you will bring to WMU for years to come. We are also excited that Trustee Chen-Zhang has been reappointed to the board. Welcome and congratulations!

This morning, we have a presentation on scholar-athletes to look forward to as well as remarks from faculty and student leaders. I'll offer a report on what trustees have been engaged in and reflecting on. And we have a few action items to address, as well, including the election of board officers and the setting of summer rates for WMU apartments.

Room and board rates
I remark on this often, but it always warrants repeating—the importance of the board's role as the University’s financial stewards, which is reflected in what we charge students. Later in the meeting, we will be asked to consider room and board rates for the summer session. We will all hear details about proposed rates at that time, but know that ensuring our pricing is appropriate and affordable for students is always the board's objective and always top of mind for trustees.
BTR 2 update

Trustees also have been keeping up to date on projects, and one of the University's major forthcoming projects is the Business Technology and Research Park—Part 2.

The creation of BTR 2 on a 55-acre parcel south of Stadium Drive, between Drake Road and U.S. 131, is soon to begin. This coming development is great news on the economic development front and it also demonstrates the good that comes from University/business/community partnerships. Literally helping pave the way for the park is a $2.1 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The grant will help fund the construction of roads and utility infrastructure.

It's exciting to see this moving forward. BTR 2 builds on the success of BTR 1. As many of you know, the original Business Technology and Research Park—across the street from the coming new development—has flourished since its inception. That original business park, located in WMU's Parkview Campus, is home to about 40 companies that provide more than 850 jobs. The park and its businesses have added close to $10 million in tax revenue for the city of Kalamazoo. BTR 1 also has provided hundreds of internships for WMU students and counts 100 alumni among its employees. We believe BTR 2 will be a similar success. We expect it to attract and incubate new businesses as well as extend University, regional business, and community partnerships.

There are many to thank for their support and for bringing the project to this point, including Bob Miller, our associate vice president for community outreach, as well as Trustee Kitchens in his role as president of Southwest Michigan First, which has been key to the success of the BTR Park from the beginning. Oshtemo Township and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County also have been and will continue to be wonderful partners. Thanks to everyone for getting BTR 2 to this point.

Title IX

I also would like to note that the board is continuing to be advised of the latest issues related to Title IX. For example, to comply with recent changes in legal requirements, University has updated Section 11 of its Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence, Intimate Partner
Violence and Stalking Policy and Procedures. Those procedures can be found online under the University Sexual Misconduct Policy. I encourage everyone to familiarize yourself with the policy.

**Punta Gorda campus closure**

I also want to remark on another recent development. Last month, after consultation with the Board, University senior leaders announced the upcoming closure of our Punta Gorda, Florida, location, which will take effect Aug. 31. To be sure, it was a difficult decision, but one that came after extensive analysis and thoughtful consideration. We appreciate the president keeping the board apprised as this decision unfolded. The trustees are fully supportive and appreciate the data-informed approach taken by the University’s leadership. As indicated in last month’s announcement, the administration’s analysis determined that the area’s demographics and enrollment trends are not moving in a direction that will support the long-term viability of this location. Through the process, the well-being of our students and the feasibility of providing them with a sustainable, high-level educational experience were guiding principles. And we continue to be strongly committed to helping the Punta Gorda students achieve their educational goals with as little disruption as possible.

**Sportsmanship award**

Before I offer my concluding comments, I want to offer congratulations to our football team. The 2017 WMU Football team was named the NCAA’s 2018-19 sportsmanship award winner for Division I men’s sport. The award recognizes our football team for its role in a game against the University of Southern California Trojans, in which Trojan long-snapper Jake Olson, took his first collegiate snap. A normal occurrence but Jake also happens to be blind.

Our football coach, Tim Lester, as part of an agreement with Trojans Coach Clay Helton, allowed for an unusual arrangement that the coaches kept secret. Coach Helton asked Coach Lester for his help in allowing Jake a free attempt on an extra-point snap during the upcoming game. Lester revealed the plan to the team moments before the Broncos took the field for an extra-point attempt in which Jake would snap the ball. Going easy on an opponent is obviously a highly unusual request, but the team was all in. It turned out to be a perfect snap and an
extraordinary moment for everyone in that stadium including a large group of WMU fans — and also in Jake's life.

Through extraordinary sportsmanship shown by our football team, they played a role in helping a fellow athlete fulfill a dream.

You should also know that WMU is the first institution in the history of the MAC to win the NCAA's national sportsmanship award. Thanks to Coach Lester and to our exemplary student-athletes.

**Final note:**
And on a final note, after two years, this is my last meeting as board chair.
It has been a unique joy to lead an organization that has had such a profound impact on me and my life. This place, this work, and its people mean so much to me. I am proud to be a member of the team here.

Thank you for your belief in me, your support and your friendship. None of us achieve in isolation and the successes we've enjoyed together have been the result of our mutual cooperation, collaboration and shared vision. It's a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside colleagues who understand how to bring the best out in each other.

To be honest, I am finding it bittersweet to be leaving a position I've enjoyed so much, but I'm excited about the leadership of Trustee Bolger and Trustee Chen-Zhang. I'm very excited about the direction of Western and so glad to have over two more years with all of you as a trustee. Thank you again.
Opening
Good morning, and thank you all for being with us this today. It's hard to believe we're beyond the half way point of the spring semester, but here we are. We have accomplished much in the past few months and there's much more to tackle.

New appointment
We began this semester with a new addition to our senior leadership team— Kristen DeVries, vice president for development and alumni relations. She hit the ground running, has been out and about on campus and in the greater community. And though she is already a fixture around here, this is my first opportunity to welcome Kristen in this setting. Please join me in giving her the warm Bronco board meeting welcome she missed out on in January. Thank you.

Strategic Resource Management
The Strategic Resource Management team has been hard at work. The team is leading the development of the University's new budget model. Engagement in this project has been time-intensive, challenging, but hopefully rewarding for all involved. The team's efforts and this new model are crucial for the University's continuing advancement. And next week, the campus community will get a progress report on the project. Mark your calendars. On Wednesday, March 20, the SRM team is holding its second town hall upstairs in the South Ballroom. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. I encourage everyone to attend to learn the latest and ask any questions you may have.

WMYou Employee Engagement Survey
Earlier this week, we announced the upcoming release of a comprehensive survey instrument intended to capture employee engagement and satisfaction. Confidential and online, the WMYou Employee Engagement Survey launches Monday, March 18, and will remain available to take through Friday, April 5.
It is open to all full- and part-time benefits-eligible faculty and staff, and members of the Professional Instructors Organization and Teaching Assistants Union. I strongly encourage participation; supervisors should allow their staff the time to take part. Results of this survey will help senior leadership better understand employees' work experiences and measure progress on meeting the University's strategic goals and priorities. When employees are excited about coming to work every day and energized by our students, values and mission, we have a better chance of prospering and keeping the University moving forward.

**Accolades**

As I wrap up my remarks, I'd like to take a few moments to extol the talent that exists here at WMU, the various ways our scholars and students improve the world with their many contributions. To that end, I'd like to offer congratulations to the Department of Geography.

**The AAG M.S./M.A. Program Excellence Award**

The excellence of our master's degree program in geography has been aptly honored with a **2019 Excellence Award** from the American Association of Geographers. I understand that the award committee was impressed by how well students are equipped to excel and to lead in the field and with the latest skills. The committee called out, among other practices of the program, the use of internal departmental funding to prioritize graduate student participation in conferences. In lauding our curriculum, the committee noted that WMU is adding a robust unmanned aerial vehicles component by recently inaugurating a graduate certificate in geospatial applications of UAVs as well as on-campus collaboration with health science, marketing, civil engineering, anthropology and other programs.

Graduate students in this program specialize in one of three concentrations: geographic information science, environmental and resource analysis, and community development and planning. They go on to success in Ph.D. programs, internships and into careers with such private or public sector employers as The UN Refugee Agency, AccuWeather and U.S. Cellular.

The department has twelve tenured faculty and one full-time term faculty member. Its research profile includes generating about $1.8 million in external grants over the last five years, the publication of 133 peer-reviewed articles and seven books by faculty, in addition to presenting
165 papers at academic conferences. Again, congratulations to the department for its latest honor.

I also want to congratulate student entrepreneurs who placed in the University's annual K.C. O'Shaughnessy Business Pitch Competition and Showcase.

**Rose Soma**, a junior majoring in fashion design and development, claimed the $2,000 first-place prize as well as the People's Choice Award for her company **Rose Soma: Up-Cycled Shirts**. Some 16 million tons of textile waste are generated by industry annually and Rose intends her company be part of the solution. The company's shirts are created using discarded textiles, which are cut up and reassembled, making each garment unique. Great idea and well-done, Rose!

Students in our *industrial and entrepreneurial engineering program* also cleaned up in this competition; every other student who placed, from second to fourth prize, is an industrial and entrepreneurial engineering major. Second place and a $1,400 prize went to **Gel Sleeves**, a company created by junior **Conor Mulhearn** and sophomores **Megan Gesler, Anthony Mastro** and **Valentina Sanchez Briend**. The team hopes to enter the growing senior care market with their customizable arm and hand wraps which contain protective gel pockets for individuals who bruise easily due to the use of blood thinners.

Third place and an $800 prize went to **Rocket Race**, a company founded by sophomore **Benjamin Buell**, first-year student **Robert Doran** and sophomore **Noah Franchak**. Their company's stainless-steel wheel bearing design for skateboards eliminates rust and moisture damage, preserving speed and greater bearing longevity.

Fourth place and a $500 prize went to **T-Tek**. Senior Cortney York and junior Jasmine Fails are the brains behind this business idea. T-Tek hopes to cater to the food industry with a customizable trash can that through use of a portable sensor and built-in springs would eliminate issues caused by overloaded trash bags and leakage.

Congratulations to every one of these talented and industrious students!
ATTACHMENT C

REMARKS TO WMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 14, 2019
Richard A. Gershon

*See Attached Slide Deck
Western Michigan University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2019

Richard A. Gershon, President
Western Michigan University Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Executive Board
Janet Hahn, Vice President
Suzan Ayers, Immediate Past President
Osama Abudayyeh, Director
Carla Chase, Director
John Jellies, Director
Marilyn Kritzman, Director
William Rantz, Director
C. Dennis Simpson, Director
Bret Wagner, Director
Research and Creative Activities Day

- The Research and Creative Activities Day will be held on April 11, 2019.
- Research and Creative Activities Day is a highly unique event held on the WMU campus that brings together graduate students from across campus to present their research and to interact with other graduate students and faculty. The event is set up so that anyone who wishes to attend can meet and talk with our students about their research. The Graduate College is responsible for the organization and planning.
WMU Essential Studies

- The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee has held two of four retreats to review the WMU Essential Studies course submissions.
- This committee, under the direction of Decker Hains, represents an important next phase to the WMU Essential Studies review process since it determines courses and their location within the larger WMU Essential Studies structure.
- We estimate that 300+ courses will be reviewed by as of the final retreat on April 5.
Ad Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Academic Study

- Currently, Western Michigan University is home to several different types of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programs that span both colleges and departments across campus. The term *interdisciplinary* refers to those academic programs and majors that are comprised of different units within the same discipline. In contrast, the term *multidisciplinary* refers to those academic programs that span more than one field of study.

- The Faculty Senate Executive Board will establish an ad hoc committee to examine the current practices of interdisciplinary academic study at WMU and evaluate both obstacles and opportunities going forward. This committee will be charged with understanding the different types of interdisciplinary academic programs that currently exist at WMU. As part of its final report, the committee would be asked to provide examples of best practices of current programs here at WMU and elsewhere. The committee will also be asked to provide a set of recommended strategies with the goal of helping to advance interdisciplinary academic study at WMU.
South Neighborhood Development Project

- **Food for Thought...**
- In December, the Faculty Senate Executive Board met with Provost Jennifer Bott, Vice President Jan Van Der Kley, Vice President Diane Anderson, and Director Dave Dakin concerning the South Neighborhood Development Project. It was an honest and very frank conversation. I subsequently had a follow up conversation with President Edward Montgomery.
- Several members of the Faculty Senate Executive Board expressed concerns regarding the planned student union and the need for appropriate meeting space to accommodate the various kinds of organizations, clubs, and activities that regularly use the Bernhard Center.
- The argument put forth by WMU’s senior leadership is that the proposed student union will require a change in thinking in terms of how to use space across campus.
- The Faculty Senate Executive Board board made the point that finding space has to be easy and efficient and at reasonable cost. That means places like the Fetzer Center, Heritage Hall, and similar venues need to be part of that conversation.
The Campus Planning and Finance Council

- The CPFC reviewed and provided input into WMU's sustainable and proactive storm water planning initiatives that have resulted in substantial cost-savings for the campus and improved water quality in the region.

- **Why is this important?**

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifies storm water runoff as a significant cause of water pollution. Pollution can include: soil, chemicals, fertilizer, leaves, oil and grease, trash, and other pollutants.

- At issue is the fact that WMU’s physical campus contains a lot of impervious surfaces such as pavement which prevents rain and other water sources from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, water runs rapidly into storm drains, sewer systems, and drainage ditches which can cause flooding, erosion, and muddiness that can cause significant damage.

- The goal, therefore, is to create an effective management of storm water runoff that is both efficient and environmentally friendly.
The International Education Council

- The IEC is working with the Haenicke Institute for Global Education to develop a new Global Classroom initiative, which has the potential to transform cross-cultural student interaction at WMU. The global classroom concept takes advantage of current videoconferencing technology to bring shared classroom experiences between a WMU course and a possible counterpart from another University.
- Consider, for example, yours truly teaching a media management and telecommunications class and the opportunity to partner with one of my international counterparts at the University of Navarra in Spain on a theme related to social media and business strategy.
Professional Concerns Committee

- The Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at WMU submitted a proposal to the PCC outlining a need for a consistent policy concerning how to handle students who are in the military with regard to their need to miss class for extended periods of time.

- At issue is the question of how long can a WMU military student be away from class before it becomes an issue for both the student and the instructor of record.

- There is a recognition that such absences might well be considered in the same vein as an absence for medical reasons. Further discussion, including draft language, are in development.
Thank you