Proposed Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2019

The Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Chair Bolger at 11:12AM on Wednesday, September 11, 2019. The meeting was held in the Bernhard Center Rooms 157-159. Presiding were Chair Bolger, Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, and Trustees Behen, Edgerton, Kitchens, Penn, and Rinvelt.

A motion to accept the September 11, 2019 BOT agenda was made by Trustee Penn, with a second from Trustee Kitchens. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the June 26, 2019 BOT meeting was made by Trustee Rinvelt, with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Faculty Senate President R. Gershon and Graduate Student Association (GSA) President C. Morris and Vice President C. Herhold 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.

President Montgomery introduced General Counsel C. Craig who presented with L. Gomez on the Title IX Process Review.

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

As Action Items, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion C. McCorkle recommended Adoption of a Land Acknowledgement Statement for WMU. A motion to accept the Adoption of a Land Acknowledgement Statement for WMU was made by Trustee Rinvelt with a second by Vice Chair Chen-Zhang. The motion passed unanimously. Guest representatives for the area Tribes shared their appreciation and presented WMU with a gift to commemorate the occasion.

Associate General Counsel J. Swartz next proposed the Conflict of Interest Policy for the Board of Trustees and Senior Administrative Officials. A motion to accept the Conflict of Interest Policy for the Board of Trustees and Senior Administrative Officials was made by Trustee Kitchens with a second by Trustee Rinvelt. The motion passed unanimously.
Associate VP for Business and Finance P. Van Walbeck next proposed the WMU Foundation Investment Committee Oversight of Defined Contribution Plan. A motion to accept the WMU Foundation Investment Committee Oversight of Defined Contribution Plan was made by Trustee Rinvelt with a second by Trustee Kitchens. The motion passed unanimously.

The next action item was presented by Associate VP for Business and Finance P. Van Walbeck next who proposed the Sale of Parcel in WMU BTR Park 2 to Lapeer Development, LLC. A motion to accept the Sale of Parcel in WMU BTR Park 2 to Lapeer Development, LLC was made by Trustee Penn with a second by Trustee Edgerton. The motion passed unanimously with an abstention from Trustee Kitchens.

Associate VP for Business and Finance P. Van Walbeck next proposed the Revised Operating Cash Investment Policy Statement. A motion to accept the Revised Operating Cash Investment Policy Statement was made by Trustee Edgerton with a second by Trustee Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Planning and Capital Projects D. Dakin next recommended the State Capital Outlay Priority List. A motion to accept the State Capital Outlay Priority List was made by Trustee Kitchens, with a second by Trustee Behen, and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Trustee Kitchens, with a second from Trustee Edgerton. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: Personnel Report; Research and Innovation Quarterly Report; University Policy Review and Approval; Multiple Liquor License Applications; Operating Cash Investment Performance Report; and the Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report.

C. Weideman, S. Chamberlin, A. Bennett, and C. Mapps each provided commentary during General Public Comments.

The BOT meeting ended at 12:58PM following a motion to adjourn by Trustee Penn, a second by Vice Chair Chen-Zhang, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Kahler B. Schuemann
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University
Good morning and welcome.

With the beginning of a new academic year it is an exciting time here at Western.

Our students and dedicated faculty and staff create so much excitement and positive energy on our campus. And on a day like today, we are reminded how special and enduring our University community is to the future of our global society.

Before we begin our formal meeting, I’d like us to take a moment to pause in reflection on the significance of September 11th. In 2001, many of our incoming first-year students had just entered the world and those in the upper classes were toddlers. Yet, along with the rest of our nation, these young adults have been significantly impacted by the events of that day 18 years ago.

It is incumbent upon all of us to remember the sacrifices and acts of bravery of September 11th and to recommit ourselves to standing in solidarity against any and all forms of hate and violence that exist in our world today. Please join with me in a moment of silence to remember those who have been the victims of violence. Thank you.

We are very proud that our students, faculty and staff reflect a strong dedication to service. From the many health careers that are launched here, to those who treat individuals struggling with mental and physical health challenges, to those students who organized the 9/11 Silent Climb this morning, and especially to our veterans who have come to Western to continue their education after having served our country, our great university is filled with bright and talented individuals who consistently demonstrate all that is so positive about our community.

The future is bright ... Thanks to you all.

Now let’s reflect on some of the topics your Board has been addressing.

**Fall enrollment:**
Our fall enrollment numbers have not been as we had hoped for, but they are close to our budgetary projections. Despite these challenges, we are working to boost both enrollment and retention through various innovative measures. We will continue to monitor our recruitment
efforts with the goal of ensuring that Western stays healthy, viable and an attractive beacon of higher education for our students.

**State budget:**
The state budget has not been enacted. In our university budget, that was approved in June, the state appropriation projection comprises roughly 27% of our Western’s total general fund budget. We are prepared to respond to the final state appropriations package when it is passed in a manner that protects the future of this great institution while enabling us to continue providing the highest level of education for our students as well as to conduct key and cutting-edge research.

**Title IX review:**
As we have mentioned before, your Board takes its responsibility of ensuring our students’ safety and security as an absolute top priority. To this end, we will be assessing the Title IX review that has been conducted and determining the best plan of action for us to take to ensure the safety of our student and employees.

**Land Acknowledgment Statement:**
Dr. Candy McCorkle, vice president for diversity and inclusion, and Rebecca Huntley, a higher education and student affairs graduate student, will be presenting Western’s land acknowledgment statement to the board.
This statement recognizes the university’s location on lands historically occupied by the Ojibwe (O-JIB-way), Odawa (O-DOW-ah) and Pottawatomi (Pot-OH-wat-ah-me) nations.

We are pleased and honored to have tribal representatives with us here today and look forward to formally introducing them as we learn more about this important statement.
At this time, I would like to invite Western Michigan University President Edward Montgomery to add his welcome and comments to this morning’s assembly.
Thank you, Chairman Bolger and welcome, everyone.

- We are surrounded by the hustle and bustle of a new academic year and everything that brings.

- I hope that you’ve had a chance to take a closer look at our changing landscape and noticed the considerable activity on our Hilltop Village area. This is the southernmost portion of our main campus—what we had called the south neighborhood. You might miss seeing McCracken Hall...or you might not. Either way, we have some exciting new developments on the horizon—literally.

- Yesterday we celebrated placement of the final upper level beam on the new Arcadia Flats structure in a “topping out” ceremony. It was a very heady experience signing the last beam and watching it rise into its final location on the top level of this building that represents a new vision for student living.

- The Arcadia Flats project will provide residences for upper-level undergraduates and grad students. It was conceived and envisioned for the 21st century learner. It will be a model for the kind of residential experience that our students and prospective students have told us that they are looking for. Students will find plenty of spaces for working together, or working on their own, in a place that promotes inclusivity and healthy, sustainable living. We’ll be welcoming its first residents a year from now.

- In a separate ceremony yesterday, we marked the groundbreaking for the new Student Center—a beautiful facility that will welcome our learners with services and support offices, plus plenty of open spaces, dining and retail options, and lounges for studying or casual gatherings. Phase one of this project—the first two floors of student services and resources—will be completed two years from now and the final phase—the expansive third-floor dining facility—opens in Fall 2022.

- These structures are part of a larger, long-term plan that will revitalize our campus and help position us as an innovative, learner-centered institution.

- We can report a new addition to our leadership team. Kara Wood is joining us as the new associate vice president for community partnerships. Ms. Wood is an alumna who earned her master’s degree in public administration, and she is returning to her alma
mater from Grand Rapids, where she was the city’s managing director of economic development services. She will join our governmental relations team in a cabinet-level role charged with advancing corporate engagement in such areas as research, economic development and talent development.

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Points of Pride

- *Washington Monthly* magazine just released its 15th annual College Guide and Rankings. These are college rankings that look at institutions of all sizes and divisions that as Washington Monthly says, “serve the best interests of the country as a whole—including those that enroll and graduate students of modest means.”

- I’m happy to say that WMU was the top MAC school in the category of graduate performance and it was second among Michigan’s public universities. When it comes to graduate earnings, we are the highest-ranked public institution in Michigan and number two for the MAC schools. Let that sink in. What those numbers say about us is that WMU offers opportunity for anyone who wants it. Anyone. It doesn’t matter where you start—if you are willing to put in the effort, to stick with it, your degree can take you as far as you want.

- And now, it’s possible to find out how far you can take a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from WMU. We have the nation’s newest DPT program—it just gained pre-accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and the first cohort of 30 students began their studies this summer.

This program is unique because it’s 30 months long, enabling students to complete their studies and their clinical work faster than other programs with less debt. Congratulations to Dr. Stacie Fruth and the entire Department of Physical Therapy on launching this innovative new degree.

- We talk about how Broncos are prepared for anything and how they are determined to take on any challenge. An interdisciplinary team from the College of Health and Human Services is proving that by taking on one of our nation’s biggest challenges—the opioid
crisis. Dr. Ann Chapleau, associate professor of occupational therapy, Dr. Jennifer Harrison, associate professor of social work, and Dr. Bridget Weller, assistant professor of social work, have received a $1.35 million Health Resources and Services Administration grant to develop a program to enhance interdisciplinary education for social work and occupational therapy students and to expand the number of professionals who serve rural and medically underserved communities. This goes right to the heart of what we do best—we give students an excellent education along with opportunities to apply what they are learning to real-world problems.

- I’m looking forward to seeing many of you next week at our Fall Convocation and State of the University address. This event will take place at the Bernard Center North Ballroom on Friday, Sept. 20 at 11 a.m. We’ll all have the chance to applaud the very deserving faculty award winners who will be announced, and I’ll share my state of the university address with those assembled.
ATTACHMENT C

REMARKS TO WMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 11, 2019
Richard A. Gershon

*See Attached Slide Deck
Western Michigan University
Board of Trustees
September 11, 2019
Richard A. Gershon, President
Western Michigan University Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Executive Board
John Jellies, Vice President pro tempore
Osama Abudayyeh, Director
Decker Hains, Director
Marilyn Kritzman, Director
William Rantz, Director
C. Dennis Simpson, Director
Sarah Summy, Director
WMU Essential Studies

- The WMU Essential Studies program provides Western Michigan University undergraduate students with an integrated curriculum designed around a University-wide set of Essential Studies Learning Outcomes which enhance the quality of the undergraduate experience.
- WMU Essential Studies, under the administrative direction of Mervyn Elliott, continued its work in the development and implementation of this major University-wide initiative.
- These efforts were greatly assisted by Sarah Summy who served as Chair of the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee and Decker Hains who serves as Chair of the WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Subcommittee.
WMU Essential Studies

- Phase One: student learning outcomes developed (2015-16)
- Phase Two: structure and design (2016-17)
- Phase Three: logistics (2017-18)
  - student guidelines
  - course guidelines
  - outcomes and rubrics
- Phase Four: course submission and review (2019-20)
  - 338 courses approved
  - 128 courses invited to resubmit
  - overall curriculum review (i.e. Curriculum Map)
- Phase Five: pilot (2019-20)
  - review of courses
  - Reverse curriculum mapping
- Phase Six: program launch (fall 2020)
Ad-Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Academic Study

- In April 2019, the Faculty Senate Executive Board established the formation of an ad-hoc committee to examine the current practices of interdisciplinary academic study at WMU and evaluate both opportunities and challenges going forward.
- This committee will be charged with understanding the different types of interdisciplinary academic programs that currently exist at WMU. 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.
- The committee has been selected and will be meeting later this month for its first meeting.
WMU Honorary Degree Policy

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs in cooperation with the Faculty Senate is undertaking a major revision of the University’s current Honorary Degree policy.

The purpose of awarding an Honorary Degree is to recognize persons of exceptional scholarly, artistic, professional, or humanitarian achievement who exemplify the mission of Western Michigan University and whose career or lifetime accomplishments serve as models of University ideals and aspirations for its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

This proposal has been submitted for your review.
WMU Honorary Degree Policy

The following represents four suggested categories of Honorary degrees.

- Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa (L.H.D.), given to persons with outstanding achievement in the humanities.
- Doctor of Science, honoris causa (Sc.D.), given to persons with outstanding contributions to and service in the sciences.
- Doctor of Letters, honoris causa (Litt.D.), given to outstanding scholars in specific disciplines, exclusive of the sciences and humanities.
- Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (L.L.D.), given to persons with outstanding service to humankind at large, to learning, and/or institutions benefiting the public.

Nominations will be solicited annually by the Honorary Degree Scholastic Committee Chair in collaboration with the President's Chief of Staff. A call for nominations will be announced at the start of the academic year in September.
Undergraduate Studies Council

- The USC, under the direction of Chairperson Bruce Ferrin, was asked to address a number of council charges in addition to its regular work to review undergraduate curriculum proposals.
- During the 2018-2019 academic year, the USC reviewed 49 curriculum proposals.

Graduate Studies Council

- The GSC, under the direction of Chairperson Louann Bierlein Palmer, was asked to address a number of council charges in addition to its regular work to review graduate curriculum proposals. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the GSC reviewed 29 curriculum proposals.

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- In the coming year, both USC and GSC will be asked to consider best practices and recommend procedures to award academic credit for professional/industry experience for non-traditional students.
WMU Faculty Senate Council Charges

• **Academic and Information Technology Council**
  - Serve as a consultative body on security policies; continue to evaluate data security and existing policies related to mobile devices.
  - Work with Student Information Team to have “preferred name” used in Banner.

• **Campus Planning and Finance Council**
  - Work with the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs with respect to University College and the role of faculty in the advising process.
  - Work with the Office of the Vice President for University Advancement and report on the planned capital campaign, as it relates to the role of faculty towards that initiative.
WMU Faculty Senate Council Charges

- **International Education Council**
  - Develop and recommend best practices for ensuring that international students at WMU are made to feel welcome and directly connect with U.S. based students in real and meaningful ways.
  - Collaborate with the Office of Institutional Equity in the development of the Global Engagement Pathway in the WMU Signature Program.
  - Continue to develop best practices for advancing shared classroom instruction and collaborative projects between multiple university sites including WMU.

- **Research Policies Council**
  - Recommend best practices to communicate research and creative activities and highlighting the accomplishment in research and creative activity by faculty and share them with the office of Marketing and Strategic Communications.
  - Conduct annual review of the state of research ethics and policies and procedures in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Research.
  - Work towards the development of a more comprehensive policy approach to intellectual property matters.
Thank you.