

**Lake Superior State University  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Meeting  
Lake Superior State University  
Walker Cisler Student and Conference Center  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
September 15, 2017**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 15, 2017, in the Walker Cisler Student and Conference Center, East Superior Room, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The meeting was pursuant to Section 1.01. of the Bylaws of said Board with notice to the Board pursuant to Section 1.04., and public notice pursuant to Section 1.05. of the Bylaws.

The section numbers and headings of these minutes correspond to the agenda. A copy of the proposed agenda was distributed to each Trustee at the public session of September 15, 2017. The proposed agenda had been distributed pursuant to Section 1.04. of the Bylaws. Copies of all such material are contained as appendices to these minutes.

At the call to order, there were several members in the audience and there was one member of the press.

**I. Roll Call**

Mr. Rodney M. Nelson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He asked Ms. Kaye M. Batho, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members responded “present”:

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey  
Mr. Douglas R. Bovin  
Mr. James P. Curran  
Dr. Mark W. Mercer  
Mr. Rodney M. Nelson  
Ms. Ann Parker  
Mr. Randy Pingatore  
Ms. Sandi Frost Steensma  
Dr. Peter T. Mitchell, President and Ex-Officio

Eight Trustees were recorded as present. Present for the University were Mr. Dakota Baker, Student Government President; Ms. Wendy Beach, Interim Human Resources Director; Mr. Thomas Coates, Foundation Director; Ms. Jen Constantino, Title IX Coordinator; Ms. Deb Faust, Interim Assistant Vice

President for Enrollment; Dr. David R. Finley, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Ms. Kellie Greener, Interim Admissions Director; Mr. Steve Gregory, Director of Physical Plant; Dr. David Myton, Associate Provost; Dr. David Paitson, Athletic Director; Ms. Shelley Wooley, Interim Dean of Student Life; Mr. Maurice Walworth, Vice President for Finance and Operations, and Dr. Aaron Westrick, LSSU Faculty Association President.

**II. Approval of the Agenda for September 15, 2017**

Ms. Parker moved for Board approval to amend the agenda for September 15, 2017, under VII. Finance Committee remove item B. Approval of a Performance Funding Request Recommendation; under XI. Student Affairs Committee add an item C. Approval of Liquor License Recommendation and item D. Approval of contract for Student Marketing Program with Royall & Company; under XII. Development Committee add item A. Capital Campaign Recommendation; supported by Mr. Bovin. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**III. Approval of the Minutes for July 21, 2017, August 11, 2017, August 23, 2017**

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the minutes from July 21, 2017, August 11, 2017 and August 23, 2017 as presented; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**IV. Addresses to the Board**

There were no addresses.

**V. Chair's Remarks**

Mr. Nelson welcomed all to the Board meeting for the fall semester. He commended Mr. Curran for his two-year chair role. He asked that we all keep Teresa Pleger in our thoughts. Mr. Nelson welcomed all new members of the President's Cabinet. He also thanked the Faculty Association and Administration team members for their role in the contract negotiations.

Mr. Nelson informed the Board that Dr. Mitchell's contract is for \$264,000 yearly salary and no health care benefits. He added that a presidential search is on-going and that Dr. Mitchell has agreed to coordinate the search with consultant Thomas Courtice. He added that with Dr. Mitchell coordinating the search as part of his duties, Mr. Courtice will provide his advice pro-bono, which will result in a savings of consulting fees of approximately \$50,000.

Mr. Nelson appointed Trustees Bovin and Curran to the P3 Initiative Research Committee for housing option/recommendations.

**VI. President's Remarks**

Dr. Mitchell welcomed all to the Board meeting. He informed the Board that his past two months as President have been filled with meetings/forums with students, staff, retirees, alumni and community members which have been focused on recruitment, retention and strategic envisioning. He stated that several changes have been made in the admissions and marketing areas with a goal of increasing the number of new students for Fall 2018 to be 100 more students than in Fall 2017.

**VII. Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Walworth informed the Board of an initiative by former President Tom Pleger to obtain \$300,000 in funding for asset preservation for electrical upgrades has been approved. He provided informational updates including the city of Sault Ste. Marie's Easterday Avenue revamping for increased safety, the Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 financial updates, review of the draft audit preliminary report to be approved at a later date and to be distributed. He added that a committee is being formed to review food services/Cisler Center operations and health care costs.

Mr. Walworth informed the Board of the decision to table Item B. and to withhold approval of the performance funding request recommendation at this time will allow for further investigation of other opportunities and options.

**VIII. Human Resources Committee Report**

Ms. Beach informed the Board of informational ESP union updates including current contract negotiations are in process.

Ms. Constantino informed the Board that the annual Title IX report has been submitted and stated that the report will be viewable on the LSSU website.

**IX. Academic Affairs Committee Report**

Mr. Pingatore moved for Board approval of the recommendation to confer the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for summer semester 2017 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements; supported by Mr. Bovin. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Finley informed the Board of informational items including the next steps regarding the HLC reaccreditation process including a status report on strategic

planning and program review for a visit in 2019, status report on institutional accreditation reports due in December 2018 and December 2020. He informed the Board of updates on space reallocation, 3 +1 nursing program at Bay College and the new LSSU website launch.

Dr. Aaron Westrick informed the Board of informational items from LSSU Faculty Association including recruitment and retention support, contract approval for one year, withdrawal of legal and grievance issues and collaboration with Bay Mills Tribal Community College initiated by President Mitchell.

Mr. Curran moved for Board approval of the recommendation to appoint the following individuals to their respective Charter School Board of Directors for the terms listed:

Matthew Meisel to Bay City Academy for a term expiring on June 30, 2019; and

Erik VanHorn to Concord Academy of Petoskey for a term expiring on June 30, 2020; and

Leslie Henderson to DeTour Academy for a term expiring on June 30, 2020; and

Matthew Mulholland to Grand Traverse Academy for a term expiring on June 30, 2020; and

Teresa Williams and Carlie Puckett to Innocademy Allegan for a term expiring on June 30, 2020.

The motion was supported by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Chris Oshelski informed the Board of informational items for the Charter School Office upcoming reauthorizations and he introduced new employee Ms. Brooke Lofdahl Maciag, School Support Specialist.

**X. Enrollment**

Dr. Mitchell informed the Board that enrollment for Fall 2017 was down due in large part to a decrease in applications and admitted students. He added that many of our prospective students are self-selected and that our Admissions Office will be adding initiatives to increase recruitment with changes in high school

visits, increasing application activity and improving training for staff and tour guides.

**XI. Student Affairs Committee Report**

Ms. Wooley informed the Board of informational items including student life retention initiatives, residence hall engagement initiatives, commuter students lounge and review of operations in the Norris Center.

Mr. Curran moved for Board approval of the State of Michigan required liquor license approval as presented; supported by Ms. Frost Steensma. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Mercer moved for Board approval of a student marketing program/contract with Royall to consult with the Admission's Office for \$400,000 a year for four years as presented; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Constantino welcomed Dr. David Paitson, Athletic Director, to the University and she informed the Board of informational updates from athletics including two open positions, Women's Walk event and upcoming season highlights. Dr. Mitchell thanked Ms. Constantino for her service as interim athletic director.

Mr. Baker informed the Board of informational items from Student Government including the successful food pantry, Student Government committees, Laker Legion section at athletic events and a successful Board luncheon with students in the Quarterdeck.

**XII. Development Committee Report**

Dr. Mercer moved for Board approval for the LSSU Foundation Board to review and vet a capital fundraising campaign request of \$2.95 million for the Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) project. The total project cost is approximately \$11.8 million which includes a State of Michigan Capital Outlay approval of 75% or \$8.85 million; and the LSSU Board of Trustees is requesting the LSSU Foundation raise the 25% matching funds making it the Foundation's top capital campaign priority as presented; supported by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Coates informed the Board of informational items including Soo Coop scholarship, Laker Club, President's Circle Reception planning and Great Lake State Weekend to be held on October 13-14, 2017.

**XIII. Other Business**

Dr. Mitchell informed the Board of the CFRE Project progress including meeting with Governor Snyder's staff, State Budget office regarding project revision including a different location at Cloverland Electric building.

Mr. Nelson informed the Board that the Presidential Search Committee membership includes Tom Bailey, Dakota Baker, Kathy Berchem, David Myton, Mark Mercer, Ann Parker, Cindy Rocz, Pat Shannon, Chris Smith and with Dr. Mitchell assisting. He added that Ann Parker will chair the committee and Tom Bailey will be vice chair of the committee. Dr. Mitchell informed the Board that he will be assisting the search in consultation with Mr. Tom Courtice. He added that the data collected with listening sessions will be used for the Presidential and Provost Search.

Dr. Mitchell informed the Board that Dr. Ashley Moerke will be the Chair of the Provost Search which will begin following the Presidential Search. He said the goal is to have an announcement of a new President by March 1, 2018.

Mr. Nelson informed the Board that there is no charge to the University for Dr. Mitchell's assistance with the Presidential Search or the Provost Search and that he may potentially continue to consult with the University past June 30, 2018.

Mr. Nelson appointed the Trustees to standing committees and special Ad Hoc committees as follows:

Finance- Sandi Frost Steensma and Randy Pingatore  
Human Resources- Ann Parker and Tom Bailey  
Academic- Jim Curran and Doug Bovin  
Foundation Board- Sandi Frost Steensma and Mark Mercer  
CFRE- Tom Bailey and Randy Pingatore  
Infrastructure Partnership- Jim Curran and Doug Bovin

Dr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Baker, LSSU Hockey Team, Mr. Derric Knight, Student Life Office, Ms. Shelley Wooley and Ms. Sharmay Woods for the organizing of the Tom/Teresa Pleger Commons Memorial held on August 27, 2017.

Mr. Nelson commended Mr. Walworth for his budget review and faculty staff for their dedication.

Mr. Pingatore left the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Mr. Curran moved for adjournment at 10:29 a.m.; supported by Ms. Frost Steensma. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

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Rodney M. Nelson  
Chair

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Peter T. Mitchell  
President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Kaye M. Batho, Secretary.  
A draft of these minutes was completed on September 27, 2017