

**Lake Superior State University  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Special Meeting  
Considine Hall  
LaJoie Board Room – Zoom Video Conference  
April 24, 2020**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in special Zoom Video session beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020, hosted in the LaJoie Board Room of Considine Hall, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and with Board of Trustees members connected via zoom conference. The meeting was pursuant to Section 1.03 of the Bylaws of said Board and in following Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order 2020-48 (COVID-19), allowing public board meetings to be held electronically.

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 April 24, 2020. Any material considered by the Board, which was distributed at the time of the meeting, is so designated in these minutes. Copies of all such material are contained as appendices to these minutes.

At the call to order there were several members of the public participating on the Zoom session.

**I. Roll Call**

Mr. Thomas Bailey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and asked the secretary, Ms. Lauren Pierce to call the roll. The following members responded, “present”:

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey  
Ms. Patricia Caruso  
Mr. Timothy Lukenda  
Mr. Randy Pingatore  
Ms. Sandi Frost Steensma  
Dr. Rodney S. Hanley, President and Ex-Officio

Five Trustees were recorded as present. All five Trustees were connected via Zoom conference. Dr. Mark W. Mercer joined the meeting via Zoom video conference at 9:02 am. Trustee Richard Barch was verified via Zoom record to have joined Zoom Audio at 8:59 am stating he was connected via Zoom but his microphone was not working. Mr. Barch confirmed Yes and Aye votes per agenda item. Present for the University were Mr. Steve Atkinson - Zoom, President of the Education Support Personnel; Ms. Wendy Beach-Zoom, Director of Human Resources, Safety and Risk; Dr. Michael Beazley-Zoom, Dean of Student Affairs; Mr. Thomas Coates-Zoom, Foundation Director; Dr. Lynn Gillette, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. David Paitson-Zoom, Director of Athletics; Mr. Fred Pierce, Dean of Admissions and Marketing; Ms. Katie Smith-Zoom, Student Government President; and Mr. Maurice Walworth, Vice President for Finance and Operations.

**II. Approval of the Agenda for April 24, 2020**

Mr. Lukenda moved for Board approval of the agenda for April 24, 2020 as presented; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**III. Addresses to the Board**

None

**IV. Chair's Remarks**

Chair Bailey expressed gratitude to all faculty, staff, and students for their adjustments and flexibility during the Coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Bailey shared the unfortunate circumstance on recent employee layoffs due to the decreased number of students on campus and the decrease in programs and events due to the virus. LSSU has made available many resources to those employees affected by the layoffs. Mr. Bailey shared his hopes that LSSU return to some type of normalcy as soon as possible.

The Board continues to maintain constant contact with Dr. Hanley and support the University.

**V. President's Remarks**

Dr. Hanley commented on the effects of the Coronavirus, regarding the institution and commended the faculty and academic administration for their transition into an online only format. LSSU's primary goal has been to allow students to complete the semester in a safe and secure way. Many staff members have been working remotely and maintaining social distancing, all while keeping the residence halls and dining services open for students.

Dr. Hanley highlighted recent events from around the campus community, including:

- LSSU's Nursing department collaboration with the Superior Simulation Center, War Memorial Hospital and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to create Acute Container Care Pods.
- The use of LSSU 3-D printers through the Engineering department have provided additional support to Great Lakes Composites Institute of Bay Mills Community College to assist in producing face shields to be provided to local healthcare and hospice facilities.
- Admissions and Marketing teams evaluated and modified the application/admission process to allow and easier process for students.

**VI. University Line of Credit**

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with an action item to approve a \$3M Line of Credit Resolution as a precaution brought about by recent challenges and financial uncertainty due to the Governor's Executive Orders surrounding COVID-19. Mr. Walworth stated that a portion of the funds would be used to pay invoices related to the LSSU housing project and relieve

cash flow brought on by the response to the pandemic. An RFP for a \$3M LOC was issued on March 25 with response received from Huntington Bank, Fifth-Third Bank, and a group of three local banks (Central Savings Bank, mBank, and First National Bank of St. Ignace). Two other banks were contacted directly but did not respond to the proposal. The group of three local banks (CSB) offered the most competitive proposal, with Fifth-Third Bank as having the highest cost structure. LSSU practices the policy of pursuing local business and with careful consideration and financial implementations of all proposals. LSSU, with support of the President, recommends the approval of the CSB proposal, which provides the greatest flexibility via a tax-exempt seven-year loan, bearing interest per annum.

Mr. Lukenda moved for Board approval of the \$3M Line of Credit Resolution as presented in Appendix B; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The Chair invited the Board to discuss.

Mr. Lukenda asked if the first two years of the LOC has any fees or interest costs before turning into a term loan. Mr. Walworth stated that the only fee is a \$4K processing fee. Mr. Walworth anticipates drawing \$1M at close to pay the Corivas housing invoice once received. Interest only payments would be required for seven years once the draw begins.

Mr. Lukenda asked if the pledge of general revenue would tie up the University to pursue any additional projects while the loan is outstanding. Mr. Walworth stated that the University's bond coverage ratio has room for additional funding; however taking on additional debt would require an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenditures.

The Chair requested a roll call vote. The results of the roll call vote were:

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey	"Yes"
Mr. Richard Barch	"Yes"
Ms. Patricia Caruso	"Yes"
Mr. Timothy Lukenda	"Yes"
Dr. Mark W. Mercer	"Yes"
Mr. Randy Pingatore	"Yes"
Ms. Sandi Frost Steensma	"Yes"

The motion carried with seven affirmative votes.

## **VII. University 2020-2025 Strategic Plan**

Mr. Bailey provided feedback on the presented 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, stating that the strategic plan is a working document that is not to discourage innovation, but to be flexible, adaptable and expected to evolve. The plan is a critical instrument to move forward with goals that could be modified as necessary.

Dr. Hanley provided a background on the creation of the Strategic Plan, starting in May of 2019, with the creation of the Strategic Planning Committee (Dr. Michael Beazley, Dr. Jason Garvon, Dr. Kimberly Muller, Ms. Janine Murray, Ms. Stephanie Roose, Ms. Katelyn Smith

**Lake Superior State University**  
**Minutes of Board of Trustees' Special Meeting**  
**April 24, 2020**

and Ms. Alexandra Van Doren). The committee held multiple listening sessions that facilitated a draft Strategic Plan in fall of 2019 where the Senior Management Team gave review, input and approval. At the March 2020 Board meeting, the final draft Strategic Plan was presented to the Board for final review and feedback. The Board provided numerous suggestions with the following changes made to the final plan:

- The concept of 'social mobility' was drawn out in more detail in order to emphasize one of the primary strengths of the university.
- An examination of the organization of Foundation was included with the intent to maximize fundraising success.
- Canadian-specific recruiting and requisite goal was separated to be its own marketplace from other international recruiting areas.
- An emphasis in the history of the Great Lakes Region and Native American history and culture was added to the American Studies program.
- Formation of a Crisis Management Plan.
- Developing a recruiting plan from our Charter Schools.
- Highlighting efforts and accomplishments around sustainability.

Dr. Hanley reviewed a prioritization chart (Appendix A) covering over 100 initiatives in the Strategic Plan, and discussed the enrollment projections chart. Enrollment goals include over 2,400 students in 5-years with following the Strategic Plan. Dr. Hanley stated that the Strategic Plan captures LSSU's commitment and promise to students and introduced the plan name: Superior Education, Superior Experience, Superior You. Through both curricular, co-curricular experiences, and extracurricular experiences, LSSU trains students to think critically, communicate effectively, and display professional and ethical behavior. Dr. Hanley shared his experience and privilege with working on the Strategic Plan and presented to the Board a resolution for approval of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

Mr. Lukenda thanked the administration and committee for all of their hard work and effort put into the plan.

Ms. Smith shared her experience as a Strategic Plan committee member, stating that the plan encompasses moving forward with an eye on the future.

Mr. Lukenda moved for Board approval of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan as presented; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey commended everyone that was involved in the creating the plan and expressed the Board's gratitude. He recognized former Trustee, Ann Parker and her efforts on the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Mercer commended all those involved and stated that the plan was efficient and thoughtful.

Dr. Hanley prepared the Board to anticipate updates at each Board meeting regarding accomplishments toward the Strategic Plan.

**VIII. Other Business**

None

**IX. Adjournment**

Ms. Frost Steensma moved for adjournment at 9:40 a.m.; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas C. Bailey, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney S. Hanley, President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary. A draft of these minutes was completed at 2:00 p.m. on April 28, 2020.