

**Lake Superior State University  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Meeting  
Walker Cisler Student and Conference Center  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
March 18, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 18, 2022, in the Superior Room, of the Walker Cisler Student and Conference Center, 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 March 18, 2022. The proposed agenda had been sent 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.

**I. Roll Call**

Mr. Timothy Lukenda, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He asked Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary, to call roll. The following members responded, “present”:

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey  
Ms. Patricia Caruso  
Mr. Timothy L. Lukenda  
Mr. Randy Pingatore  
Ms. Cynthia Williams  
Dr. Rodney S. Hanley, President and ex-officio

Five Trustees were recorded as present with Trustee Pingatore connected via Zoom conference. Trustee Richard Barch was confirmed to be connected on Zoom and experiencing technical issues. Present for the University were Dr. Nafez Alyan, Vice President for Finance and Operations; Ms. Wendy Beach, Director of Human Resources, Safety and Risk; Dr. Michael Beazley, Dean of Student Affairs; Dr. David Diles, Director of Athletics; Dr. Lynn Gillette, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Fred Pierce, Dean of Admissions and Marketing; Mr. Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement; and Mr. Isaac Thompson, Student Government President.

**II. Approval of the Agenda for March 18, 2022**

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the agenda for March 18, 2022; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**III. Approval of the Minutes for January 21, 2022**

Dr. Mercer moved for Board approval of the minutes for November 19, 2021, as presented; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**IV. Addresses to the Board**

Bob Kjolhede shared thoughts regarding the LSSU Foundation.

Carol Andary shared thoughts regarding the LSSU Foundation.

**V. Chair's Remarks**

Mr. Lukenda welcomed the Board and members of the audience to campus. Mr. Lukenda thanked the campus community for their efforts in pulling together to manage the COVID crisis.

**VI. President's Remarks**

Dr. Hanley announced the passing of LSSU student, Evan Richter and asked for a moment of silence.

Dr. Hanley highlighted several updates and accomplishments at LSSU since the last Board meeting, including:

- The number one seeded LSSU Women's Club Hockey team participated in the American Collegiate Hockey Association D2 national tournament in St. Louis, Missouri. They won their first two games of the tournament but fell in their third game against Boston College. The Lady Lakers ended the regular season with a 26-3-1 record. In just their second season, the team spent most of the season ranked number one in the nation, and earlier in the month, they brought home the Central Collegiate Women's Hockey Association, Division II Championship.
- To mark the official end of winter and signal the arrival of spring, the university continues its 51-year tradition of hosting a snowman burning. The university first began burning the snowmen in 1971 to celebrate the end of winter and mark the start of spring.
- LSSU was honored to host the renowned author Angeline Boulley in early March in a tremendous event in the library where she read selections from her book, *Firekeeper's Daughter*, and shared insights.
- Dr. Hanley welcomed Robear Assinewe-Beaupre to LSSU in his role of Native American Center Student Support Advisor. In this position, Mr. Assinewe-Beaupre will help provide student support for at-risk students to connect them to campus resources. In addition, he will also coordinate events and cultural learning opportunities at the university's Native American Center.
- The University hosted a symposium – as another event in the Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education. The symposium was designed to bring together researchers in a workgroup to build a

framework for addressing the challenge of oil spills in icy conditions within the Great Lakes region.

- Planning for the 2022 Commencement Ceremony is underway. The last two graduation ceremonies were virtual as a response to the COVID pandemic. LSSU will be returning to an in-person graduation ceremony for 2022. The speaker for 2022 will be U.S. Senator from Michigan, the Honorable Gary Peters. Sen. Peters has been a strong partner of LSSU for many years.

## **VII. Finance Report**

Dr. Alyan presented to the Board, a review of dashboards and a summary for the FY22 General and Auxiliary Funds. The GF year-to-date revenue is at 83% of budget, normal for this time of year. The GF year-to-date expenditures are at 73%, normal for this time of year.

For Auxiliary Funds (AF), the housing budget has collected approximately 92% of the budgeted revenue; a little low for this time of year. Expenditures are around 64% of budget, 10% lower for this time of year. The reduction in revenues is almost matched by a reduction in expenses, anticipating the original estimates for a surplus of \$350K still holds. The Cisler Operations budget is expected to meet its budget goal of a \$230K surplus at year-end. Approximately 90% of the budgeted revenue has been collected, slightly lower than expected for this time of year. Expenditures are much lower than expected at this time of year, at 60%. The Athletics budget is anticipated to have a slight deficit at year-end. About 52% of the budgeted revenue has been collected, lower than the typical 63%-70% collection for this time of year. About 73% of the budgeted expenditures have been expended, a bit higher compared to years past. Given the values, the year-end position of Athletics is trending toward a loss of about \$150K for FY22.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update on cash balances. The overall balance is about the same as it was for the last Board meeting. The balance remains higher than previous years due to spring tuition and some state funding that was recently received. The cash balance is better than past years' balances at this time.

Mr. Lukenda stated that despite COVID, it appears that departments are managing their expenses and the institution is overall on track.

Dr. Alyan confirmed Mr. Lukenda's statement and acknowledged Dr. Beazley and Student Affairs for their efforts in reducing expenses.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update on COVID funding provided to date, and how it has been allocated or spent. For FY22, about \$1.43M of HEERF III funds have been credited to various LSSU Funds for loss of revenue due to COVID. Approximately \$600K went to the General Fund, \$585K to Cisler Operations, \$103K to Fleet, and \$51K to Athletics. In total, LSSU has received approximately \$11.3M in HEERF dollars for LSSU's use, or student aid.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update and comparative review of various financial metrics of LSSU and to demonstrate how they are used by external

agencies, such as HLC, Standard & Poor's (S&P), U.S. Banks, potential lenders, and auditors, monitor the financial health of LSSU, and other institutions as a matter of practice. Multiple ratios are used by the HLC, from which they determine a Composite Financial Index (CFI). Many agencies recommend institutions achieve a CFI > 3.0, however, the HLC requires that it not fall below one (1.0). LSSU's CFI in FY21 is the highest it has been in many years in 2011 was 2.3, in 2020 -.08, and for 2021 4.68, the highest ever.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged Dr. Alyan and the significant improvement in financial ratios.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update and review on Foundation and University investments held by LSSU over the last ten years. A portion of the endowment is captured each year, based on a calculated 4.5% of a rolling average. The funds are used to provide student scholarships. Over the last ten years, the University endowment balance has grown from \$7.7M to \$16.3M. The Foundation balance has grown from \$5.6M to \$24.3M over the last ten years. Investment totals for both endowments are \$40.6M. LSSU endowments are based on growth due to market performance.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged those involved with fundraising and investment efforts.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an overview in planning activities surrounding the development of the FY23 General Fund budgets for LSSU. Budget planning for FY23 includes preparation for a presented budget at the May Board meeting, earlier than years prior. Budget planning has included a set of conservative assumptions that will allow for a balanced budget at the beginning of FY23. LSSU anticipates a 3% reduction in expenditures from FY22, with most units making progress towards that goal.

Dr. Alyan presented to the Board for approval, Room and Board (R&B) rates for FY23. LSSU has reviewed local market conditions and examined rate increases at other institutions. LSSU has averaged a 2% R&B base rate increase over the last several years. The Environmental Fee that was separated in preceding years, is now included but will continue to be recorded as \$95/semester. Dr. Alyan presented a request to increase the R&B base rate by 2.75%.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of a 2.75% increase to the Room and Board base rate for FY23; supported by Ms. Caruso. The Chair requested a roll call vote. The results of the roll call were:

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey	"Yes"
Mr. Richard Barch	Abstain
Ms. Patricia Caruso	"Yes"
Mr. Randy Pingatore	Abstain
Ms. Cynthia Williams	"Yes"
Mr. Timothy L. Lukenda	"Yes"

The motion carried with four affirmative votes.

Mr. Barch and Mr. Pingatore were experiencing technical difficulties at the time of voting.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update on activities related to campus-wide facilities.

- Working with CFRE and the U.S. Coast Guard on a building maintenance plan
- In response to the global increase in cybersecurity threats resulting from the conflict in Ukraine, the IT department has implemented a block of any traffic originating from Russia. LSSU has received an average of 20 million hits a day, successfully blocked.
- IT has been focusing and planning to finalize automation for payroll, budget transfers, position control, and Banner grants module.

Mr. Lukenda and Dr. Alyan acknowledged IT for their efforts in blocking threats of hacking from Russia.

### **VIII. Academic Affairs Report**

Dr. Gillette acknowledged the progress of incorporating a new grant software.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval of the conferral of the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for fall 2021 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements; supported by Ms. Williams. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with an update on the current certificate programs that LSSU offers and future certificate programs that are under consideration. Most of the certificate programs target students on campus as well as off-campus. Current Certificate Programs include Cannabis Production Certificate, Geographic Information Systems Certificate, E-Marketing Certificate, Paramedic Training Certificate, and Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Certificate. Future certificate programs under consideration include Cannabis Business Certificate, Certificate in Sustainability, Cannabis Health Certificate (approved by Curriculum Committee), Certificate in Emergency Management (approved by Curriculum Committee), Certificate in Social Emotional Learning (approved by Curriculum Committee), and Certificate in Space Operations (through \$250K grant).

Mr. Bailey acknowledged the faculty and administration for finding ways to reach people and recognizing the need for practical programs.

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with an update on the Title III grant. The five-year \$1.67M Title III grant from the Department of Education has provided funding for LSSU to move forward with multiple student success and retention initiatives. Using grant funding, LSSU has had four new full-time staff to support student success, including, a new counselor in the Counseling Center, a new

Academic Success Center and Student Support Advisor Coordinator, a new Student Support Advisor position, and a new Native American Center Student Support Advisor (Mr. Robear Assinewe-Beaupre).

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with an update on progress in the area of Academic Affairs, including:

- Five faculty in the School of Engineering and Technology and the School of Computer Science and Mathematics were awarded \$144K through the DTE Energy Challenge.
- The engineering Senior Project Team CAMRI completed a mobile robotics demonstration that was showcased during the first intermission of the LSSU hockey game in late February.
- LSSU and Agilent Technologies co-organized and hosted a virtual symposium with approximately 1,300 attendees.
- A laboratory in Crawford Hall was dedicated as the Lion Labs Institute for Cannabis Processing. The dedication was in recognition of their donation of \$200K to support undergraduate research. Dr. Gillette acknowledged Dr. Steve Johnson and Scott Smith for their role.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke is co-organizing the 2022 Joint Aquatic Science Meeting, to be held in May in Grand Rapids.
- Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski organized the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting with nearly 100 scientists, held in mid-March at LSSU.
- In mid-February, the Chamber of Commerce held their “Business After 5” event at the Barch CFRE. Attendance exceeded 100 guests, the largest number of people to attend that event.

Ms. Williams welcomed Mr. Assinewe-Beaupre and asked Dr. Gillette for a report on the Native American Center at an upcoming Board meeting.

## **IX. Admissions and Marketing Report**

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in the area of Admissions. Mr. Pierce stated there was not a lot of recruitment activity in January and February due to continued COVID restrictions at schools across the state. However, activity has started to increase since the beginning of March with face-to-face college fairs coming back online. LSSU has participated in eight face-to-face fairs since the start of March. College Fairs are also being rescheduled for May and early summer, which normally end by May 1. The LSSU campus visitation program continues to see good results. Since the last Board meeting, 61 prospective students and 160 guests have participated in campus tours. LSSU has hosted five group events for Brimley School, JKL Elementary, Sault Area High School, GearUp, and hosted Pep Band recruits from the local area. Additionally, all Open Houses are available for registration and are scheduled for April, May, and July.

To date, LSSU total applications are .3% behind the 2021 recruitment cycle, with anticipation to surpass 2021 numbers. LSSU is trending at 6% in admits for the 2021 cycle. Orientation is open for registration with 89 currently registered for

June. Summer applications are running 11% ahead of the 2021 cycle. Currently, 156 students have enrolled in pre-college courses, representing a 56% increase from fall 2021. Eight Early Middle College 13<sup>th</sup>-year high school students are scheduled to finish their associate's degree by May or August 2022. GearUp/College Day program held a workshop for 36 prospective students, of which 18 students joined the GearUP program. As part of the ongoing partnership with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Independent School district (EUPISD), GearUp partnered with MI STEM to host a Higher Orbits Go For Launch STEM summer camp for mid-June on campus. Since the last Board meeting, two additional Charter School summer camps have been added to the schedule, along with a variety of six summer program camps scheduled on campus.

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in the area of Financial Aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application deadline has been extended to May 1. FTIAC students are lagging 22.8% behind and returning students are 33.9% behind. The total number of FTIAC students packaged is 12.8% behind the 2021 activity. Outreach completion campaigns continue to be underway. All universities are experiencing the same trends. LSSU has distributed the majority of HEERF funds. The last remaining \$819K in HEERF funds will be awarded to 1,465 eligible students. The Bud Mansfield Fund continues to assist students. Since the last Board meeting, eight students received a total of \$10,900.

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in the area of Marketing and Communications (MarComm). Since the last Board meeting, MarComm focused on:

- Design projects.
- Photo assignments.
- Commencement program.
- Website overhauls and updates.

MarComm generated four press releases, covering: New Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics, new scholarships, new Native American Center Student Support Advisor, and author Angeline Bouley. Unicorn Quest packets remain popular, with 252 quester packets since the last Board meeting. MarComm has documented key events and needs around campus through photography requests and curated campus archival photos for house ads in various media outlets. Campus event photos and video documentation continues.

Mr. Lukenda thanked Mr. Pierce and the admissions staff for their ongoing efforts.

## **X. Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with an update on the University's COVID response during the 2021-2022 academic year. The presence of COVID at LSSU has taken a strong downward direction with cases in the low single digits since

mid-February. There is currently one active COVID case and no occupants in Brown Hall. Various testing capabilities continue to be offered at LSSU. LSSU anticipates maintaining management and mitigation of COVID. The COVID Readiness Committee will stay active to maintain and respond to the safety and security of the University. There has been no spike in COVID cases after students have returned from spring break. Dr. Beazley thanked students, faculty, and staff for their COVID response. Dr. Beazley thanked the Board for their support over the last two years.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged Dr. Beazley for his lead on COVID efforts.

Dr. Beazley presented the Board with potential sports through which Club Sports may expand. Several potential sports were identified and evaluated based on facility/overhead costs, state/regional competition, student draw, and net revenue potential. Some potential sports include bass fishing, disc golf, and shooting sports.

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with updates on Student Affairs operations and programs. Dr. Beazley acknowledged the Laker Success program and the implementation of the opportunities awarded by the Title III grant. The return to campus for fall 2022 will have a different look than years prior. All live-on students – first year, transfer, and returning – will return the Wednesday before classes. Saturday will kick off Laker Week with a campus-wide block party, which will coincide with the first week of classes. The objective behind the change is to promote on-campus engagement and interaction among all students and allow for more participation from faculty and staff.

Dr. Beazley shared echoed congratulations to the Women's Division 2 ACHA team for an exceptional regular season. Dr. Beazley introduced Mr. Terry Carr, the new head coach for Shooting Sports.

University Housing created an incentive package to drive interest in summertime housing. The incentive structure starts with a 25% discount at the start of April and is reduced as the semester approaches. The housing sign-up process was opened several months in advance of preceding years to encourage on-campus residency among students.

Mr. Bailey acknowledged the collaboration and teamwork among Club Sports and Athletics.

Mr. Thompson provided the Board with his final update on matters related to Student Government (SG). Mr. Thompson will be graduating at the end of the semester and thanked the Board and SMT for the opportunity to participate. Mr. Thompson highlighted various accomplishments within the SG objectives:

- Objective 1: SG has been pleased with the administration and the student's handling of COVID.
- Objective 2: SG is working with the SMT on a possible policy change, allowing students to possess non-lethal personal protection such as pepper spray.



- Objective 3: SG has promoted student engagement through art on campus with an art competition and prizes.
- Objective 4: SG funded student tickets for the Hockey playoff games. SG helped fund the Kinesiology Club's trip to Dallas, TX for a Health and Fitness conference.
- Objective 5: SG passed a resolution to withdraw funding originally designated for the Cislser plaza project, with hopes to reallocate the funds to complete the project at a later time.
- Objective 6: SG passed a resolution requiring monthly student financial reports on the SAM fee. In addition, the SG approved a budget for the SAM fee for next semester.

Mr. Lukenda thanked Mr. Thompson for his academic and extracurricular time at LSSU.

## **XI. Athletics Report**

Dr. Diles presented to the Board an overview of athletic department achievements, news, and updates. Dr. Diles acknowledged the athletic coaches and students for their community service engagement over the past year. Every team participated in at least one community service program. Dr. Diles acknowledged Coach Luke Ogren for leading many of the community service-related efforts. In early February, Men's Head Basketball Coach, Steve Hettinga earned his 250<sup>th</sup> win as the Laker's Head Men's Basketball Coach. Dr. Diles acknowledged the hockey team for making the CCHA playoffs.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with information on the NCAA Transfer Portal. Now in its second full year, the transfer portal has shifted recruiting, operations, and program management significantly. Numbers show that student-athletes are becoming more comfortable with the idea of the Transfer Portal as a resource to further their education and playing careers.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with information regarding Athletic Corporate Sponsors. Sponsorship relations have improved dramatically in 2021-22 including support from:

- Bay Mills Resort & Casino - \$15K package including video board signage.
- MyMichigan Health - \$22K annually on 3-year package including video board signage.
- Video Board sponsorship space has sold out.

Ms. Williams asked to be updated regarding potential plans to honor Abby Roque next season.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged Dr. Diles for his efforts.

## **XII. Fundraising Report**

Mr. Smith presented to the Board with an updated dashboard, comparing year-to-date fundraising to the previous five years by quarter. The average annual

fundraising over the past five years has been \$2.4M. Through the third quarter of the current fiscal year, fundraising is 94% of the five year average, at \$2.25M.

Mr. Smith provided an update on recent major gift activities in support of the University's current key initiatives:

- An anonymous donor gave \$42K to their Fisheries and Wildlife Scholarship
- Old Mission Bank gave \$25K to endow the Steven Glezen Memorial Endowment.
- A \$10K memorial gift was made to the William R. Gregory Trust Fund.

Mr. Smith thanked the Provost and Dean Johnson for their efforts in securing the \$200K gift from Lion Labs.

Mr. Smith provided the Board with a final CFRE Campaign update and a successful Grand Opening. The event was well received with over 300 people in attendance. There will be a VIP reception held in the future. Requests for tours and interest in the facility has far exceeded expectations. LSSU hosted a Sault Area Chamber of Commerce, After 5 Networking Event at the Barch CFRE in mid-February. The Chamber reported it was their largest turnout for an After 5 event, with over 100 people in attendance.

Mr. Smith provided the Board with a summary on annual fundraising and Alumni Relations activities.

- The annual phonathon began in late January. This year's goal is \$20K, an increase from \$13K.
- Laker Lofts are sold out for the 2021-22 season. There are currently fourteen on the waiting list.
- Basketball Alumni Weekend took place in late February, with close to forty basketball alumni in attendance.
- Lake State Night at the Red Wings took place in late January in support of the Laker Club.
- LSSU will be gathered for a Detroit Tigers baseball game in mid-July, with LSSU receiving a portion of the ticket sales.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lake State Golf Classic will take place in early August at the Wild Bluff.

## **XIII. Other Business**

Mr. Bailey referenced the current events in Europe and suggested if possible, that LSSU provide the opportunity for Ukraine students to come to LSSU for shelter and to continue their education.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Mr. Bailey moved for adjournment at 10:40 a.m.; supported by Ms. Williams.  
The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

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Timothy L. Lukenda  
Chair

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Rodney S. Hanley  
President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary.  
A draft of these minutes was completed on March 31, 2022.