

**Lake Superior State University  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Meeting  
Walker Cisler Student and Conference Center  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
July 15, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 15, 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 July 15, 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  
Mr. Richard Barch  
Ms. Patricia Caruso  
Mr. Timothy L. Lukenda  
Ms. Cynthia Williams  
Dr. Rodney S. Hanley, President and ex-officio

Five Trustees were recorded as present with Trustee Randy Pingatore recorded as absent. 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; and Mr. Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement.

**II. Approval of the Agenda for July 15, 2022**

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the agenda for July 15, 2022; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**III. Approval of the Minutes for May 13, 2022**

Mr. Barch moved for Board approval of the minutes for May 13, 2022, as presented; supported by Ms. Williams. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**IV. Addresses to the Board**

Faculty Association (FA) Vice-President, Herb Henderson shared appreciation for the campus grounds crew. Mr. Henderson acknowledged the FA and Administrative contract negotiation teams and shared support for the FA approved contract and recommendation for Board approval.

Dr. Ed Smith shared thoughts regarding the LSSU Foundation.

**V. Chair's Remarks**

Mr. Lukenda commended all parties involved in the Faculty contract negotiations. Mr. Lukenda shared appreciation for the efforts of the campus grounds crew.

**VI. President's Remarks**

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

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

- The annual salmon release from the University Fish Hatchery and the Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education took place in early June. 27,000 plus Atlantic salmon yearlings that had been spawned and raised were released into the St. Mary's River. The event honored Martin Vanderploeg, CEO and Co-founder of Workiva, Inc., a cloud-based software technology company. Mr. Vanderploeg is an avid fisherman and is a major donor to CFRE. The University designated the salmon release the "Vanderploeg Class of 2022" in recognition of Marty's late father. LSSU also hosted Dick and Theresa Barch at the event. LSSU is profoundly appreciative for their continued support.
- The day after the salmon release, there was a major oil spill into the St. Mary's River that originated from Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Approximately 5,300 gallons of oil was accidentally released into the river, and the spill temporarily closed all shipping as the impact of the spill was being assessed. Many of the same students who a day earlier released thousands of Atlantic salmon into the river, now deployed oil pollution sensors along the shoreline. The sensors form part of a pilot initiative to help establish a monitoring network to detect oil spills in the Great Lakes.
- In early July, Lake Superior State University renewed its long-standing annual tuition agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The collaboration, dating to 2009, encourages active-duty personnel, their spouses, and dependents to pursue higher education at

LSSU by lowering the cost of study to do so. This agreement epitomizes LSSU's mission of enhancing the quality of life of the Great Lakes region, reinforces community partnerships that are part of the strategic plan and furthers LSSU's vision of identifying potential, enabling success, and driving social mobility.

**VII. Agreement Between Lake Superior State University and the Lake Superior State University Faculty Association MEA-NEA**

Dr. Gillette presented to the Board, an action item requesting approval of the contract with the Lake Superior State University Faculty Association MEA-NEA. On July 6, 2022, the Faculty voted to ratify the proposed contract. The proposed agreement is a five-year contract. The previous contract was for three years, and the contract before was for one year. The new contract represents a comprehensive review of the entire agreement.

Ms. Williams and Mr. Bailey commended those involved in the negotiations.

Ms. Williams moved for Board approval of the contract between Lake Superior State University and the Lake Superior State University Faculty Association MEA-NEA as presented; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**VIII. Finance Report**

Dr. Alyan presented to the Board, a summary of the FY22 General (GF) and Auxiliary Funds (AF). Dr. Alyan noted that the fiscal year has not yet been closed out and there will be adjustments over the next few weeks. The GF year-to-date revenue is at 98% of budget. The GF year-to-date expenditures are at 97%, with about \$470K in unexpended funds. Several outstanding transactions will use a majority of those funds. However, it is expected that the GF will end the year with a small surplus.

In AF, the Cisler Operations budget for FY22 has collected approximately 93% of the budgeted revenue. Expenditures are around 93% of budget, with about \$212K unexpended. In the Athletics budget, 70% of the budgeted revenue has been collected. Expenditures are around 106%, with an anticipated deficit around \$700K. Adjustments still need to be made, which are anticipated to reduce the deficit substantially.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update on cash balances. The overall balance has decreased by approximately \$1M since the last Board meeting, consistent with previous years at this time.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update on activities related to campus-wide facilities. A number of items have been accomplished or are underway since the last Board meeting, including:

- Investing in and improving the grounds for the spring and summer seasons.

- Working on a pilot project to upgrade some housing units to be used in the future for staff and/or faculty.
- Annual building maintenance.
- IT continues to improve efficiency through automation in many areas around campus.

Mr. Lukenda asked if the current financial numbers reflected received COVID dollars.

Dr. Alyan stated that COVID funding received is not included in the presented financial report.

## **IX. Academic Affairs Report**

Dr. Gillette presented to the Board, an action item for approval to confer the appropriate degrees for spring semester 2022.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval to confer the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for spring semester 2022 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with an update on progress in the area of Academic Affairs. Some highlights include:

- Nine students in the Lukenda School of Business participated in an international consulting experience at Global Brigades. Students were divided into three teams for a 5-week intensive consulting and marketing plan experience.
- The School of Engineering and Technology attended the automate tradeshow in Detroit. Over 75 alumni visited the LSSU booth.
- The 54<sup>th</sup> MCOLES Police Officer Candidate Class graduated seven students in late June.
- LSSU finalized a negotiated lease with U.S. Coast Guard for the Center of Expertise. Planning is in place for a ribbon cutting with Senator Peters' office in August. In addition, the Senator's staff will have an opportunity to tour and learn more about CFRE.
- LSSU participated among nine aquatic and fisheries societies at the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting held in Grand Rapids in May. Dr. Ashley Moerke presented the opening welcome, gave a presidential address, and coordinated and participated in several workshops.

Mr. Lukenda commended Dr. Muller's presentation at Thursday's meeting. Mr. Lukenda commended faculty and students for their efforts, creativity, and initiative in activities.

Ms. Williams stated she was impressed with her recent visit to CFRE.

Ms. Becky Clawson, Director of Charter Schools, presented to the Board, action items for Board approval of appointments or reappointments of Charter School Board of Directors.

Mr. Barch moved for Board approval of the recommendation for the appointment or reappointment of the following individuals to their respective Board of Directors of public schools academies for the terms listed:

**Charlton Heston Academy:**

Lynn Boc nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**Concord Petoskey Academy:**

Tennessee Davenport nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**Innocademy:**

Jessica Parker nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**Innocademy Allegan Campus:**

Julia Sopko nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**Momentum Academy:**

Robert Terwilliger nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**Oakland County Academy:**

Bobby Thomas nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**Tipton Academy:**

Therese Mulholland nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**WAY Flint Academy:**

Angela Izzo nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**WSC Academy:**

Denise Couling nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

Karyn Goven nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

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

**X. Admissions and Marketing Report**

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in the area of Admissions. The recruitment cycle in June has shown delayed decision-making. Upcoming orientations are anticipated to bring between 200-300 more applications and admits through the start of the semester. The National Student Clearing House Research Center reported in May that spring 2021 enrollment was 4.7% below 2021, a decline of 1.4 million students nationally. Data for Michigan indicated the drop was 5.8% overall, one of the highest in the nation. The decline since spring 2020 is 9.4% nationally. Current fall 2022 new student data shows 3% ahead in admits from the 2021 cycle. First Time in Any College (FTIAC) data indicate LSSU is 1.2% ahead of the 2021 cycle in applications and 3.6% ahead in admits. However, applications are 20% ahead and admits are 47% ahead of the 2020 cycle. Cancellations are down 70% from the 2020 cycle.

Since the last Board meeting, pre-college enrollment activity included onsite enrollment visits to schools in the Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD and Charleton Heston Academy Charter School. As of the first week of July, 125 students are registered as pre-college students for fall enrollment. In fall 2021, 100 students were registered. Seven students have transitioned to LSSU for their 13<sup>th</sup> year and are on track to earn Associates degrees in the spring of 2023. As part of the return to school activity, LSSU will be hosting Sault Area High School students for a dedicated pre-college orientation in mid-August. LSSU hosted 287 charter school students in May. In addition, summer camp programs have been going well.

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in the area of Financial Aid. LSSU data continues to be reflective of national trends. First Time in Any College (FTIAC) is currently lagging at 18% and returning students at 16.7%. Fall scholarship offers to prospective incoming students are ongoing and will continue through the academic year. As of the first week in July, 45.3% of scholarships awarded have been to FTIAC students within a GPA threshold of 3.75 or higher. As part of the state budget development, funding was allocated to a new Postsecondary Scholarship Fund, with details yet to be defined.

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in the area of Marketing and Communications (MarComm). Since the last Board meeting, five press releases have been generated, covering: Commencement, Atlantic Salmon Release, St. Mary's oil pollution, and the U. S. Coast Guard tuition renewal. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary branding will be ending in early fall. New banners will replace those that are coming down.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged Mr. Pierce for his efforts.

## **XI. Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with an overview of the mental health resources in place at LSSU. Trends related to mental health needs among college-going people were already moving upward quickly before the onset of COVID, the effects of which have been exacerbated since the pandemic. Research about mental health needs among college students suggests that students in the 18-25-year-old bracket arrive to campus at a sensitive time in their development. LSSU

is active in monitoring mental health among its student population and offers multiple campus resources, including:

- Counseling Center Services
- Laker Success
- Title III Implementation Team
- Educational programming
- Behavioral Concerns Team
- External Support – Diane Peppler Resource Center and Hiawatha Behavioral Health Center

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with an update on Student Affairs operations and programs. Staff have dedicated the summer for the arrival or return of students to campus. The Norris Center has new leadership in Mr. Steve Habusta, who is working to revise operations of the Norris Center.

## **XII. Athletics Report**

Dr. Diles provided the Board with an athletics update for the spring 2022 semester. The term ended with an average GPA of 3.218. The Women's Basketball team led the way with a 3.74. Graduating athletes performed well as a unit, with an average of 3.4 for the semester. Dr. Diles acknowledged coaches for their role in the academic success of student-athletes.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with information regarding the Soo Blue Liners. The Soo Blue Liners were founded in 1982 for the purpose of supporting Laker Hockey. The organization was an important source of external fund development and supported a variety of programs designed to advance Laker Hockey, the department, and the University. With declining membership, the Soo Blue Liners decided to pause activities. Dr. Diles acknowledged the Soo Blue Liners for their commitment to the Laker Hockey program. Planning has begun to develop a new Laker Hockey support program.

Ms. Caruso shared appreciation for the Soo Blue Liners' support.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with an overview of the Athletics Department GLIAC Awards. Sixteen LSSU student-athletes were recognized for a GPA between 3.0 and 3.49. Fourteen LSSU student-athletes were recognized for a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

## **XIII. Fundraising Report**

Mr. Smith presented to the Board with an updated dashboard, comparing year-to-date fundraising to the previous five years by quarter. To date, pending the FY22, fundraising totals \$2.7M, with a five-year average of \$2.4M.

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

- New scholarships - \$573K raise in existing scholarships.

- First endowed faculty position from Marty Vanderploeg.

Mr. Smith provided the Board with a summary of annual fundraising and Alumni Relations activities, and upcoming events, including:

- 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lake State Golf Classic.
- Alumni – Great Lake State Weekend in October – Alumni Award Recipients.
- Several upcoming championship anniversaries.

#### **XIV. Human Resources Report**

Ms. Beach provided the Board with an update on cases reported to the Title IX Office from May 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022. Since the last Board meeting, the Title IX Office has received one report of alleged prohibited conduct. The reporting party did not want to move forward with an investigation and the case has been closed. Title IX complaint findings for FY22 total 32, up from 21 in FY21. However, prior to COVID, 36 cases were reported in FY19.

Ms. Beach provided the Board with an update on activities and events from the Offices of Human Resources, Safety and Risk, Public Safety, and Title IX:

- Opioid Overdose Response Program – Narcan response boxes across campus in all buildings. The first training session for faculty, staff, and students was held in late June, with additional sessions scheduled for the fall. Training will be mandatory for Public Safety and Residential Life staff. LSSU is the first university in the Upper Peninsula to have a campus-wide Narcan Program.
- Fire Science and EMS faculty members are leading a program for EMS students to get hands-on experience and assist the campus Public Safety Department in emergencies. Currently, the program will be made up of volunteers that will assist at various campus events. Ultimately, the program will be state certified and eligible for grants from the state.
- The Title IX Office has been working with a third party to review all Title IX related policies and procedures. This process is required by the state and the Title IX Office has worked to meet the requirements and fully revamp the Title IX related policies.
- The Title IX Office is preparing programs and training for faculty, staff, and students, for the upcoming fall semester.

#### **XV. Other Business**

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the recommendation for the regular Board meeting calendar for 2022-2023 as follows:

- September 23, 2022
- November 18, 2022
- February 17, 2023
- May 12, 2023
- July 14, 2023



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

**XVI. Adjournment**

Mr. Bailey moved for adjournment at 9:40 a.m.; supported by Mr. Barch. 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 July 29, 2022.