

**Lake Superior State University
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
Walker Cisler Student and Conference Center
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
September 23, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 23, 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 September 23, 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”:

Ms. Sheri Davie
Mr. Jon P. DeRoo
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 Thomas Bailey, Richard Barch, and Patricia Caruso were recorded as absent. Trustee Pingatore joined via Zoom audio. 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; Mackenzie Maxson, Student Government President; Mr. Fred Pierce, Dean of Admissions and Marketing; and Mr. Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement.

Mr. Lukenda introduced and welcomed LSSU’s two new Board members, Mr. Jon DeRoo and Ms. Sheri Davie.

II. Approval of the Agenda for September 23, 2022

Mr. Pingatore moved for Board approval of the agenda for September 23, 2022; supported by Ms. Williams. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval of the Minutes for July 15, 2022

Ms. Williams moved for Board approval of the minutes for July 15, 2022, as presented; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

IV. Addresses to the Board

Faculty Association (FA) President, Dr. Joseph Moening welcomed everyone back to campus, shared thoughts regarding campus enrollment and communication.

Dr. Joseph Susi provided the Board with history and information on the Kinesiology program.

V. Chair's Remarks

Mr. Lukenda welcomed the Board and audience back to campus and to the first meeting of the academic year.

VI. President's Remarks

Dr. Hanley welcomed new Trustees, Mr. DeRoo and Ms. Davie. Dr. Hanley welcomed Mackenzie Maxson, the new President of the Student Government.

Dr. Hanley introduced and welcomed Dr. Christy Wenger, the newly appointed Dean of the Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts, and Criminal Justice and Emergency Responders; and Ms. Anya Alexander as the Associate Dean of Students.

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

- On August 24, the university held a ribbon-cutting for the new U.S. Coast Guard Great Lakes Center of Expertise in the Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education. U.S. Senator Gary Peters, along with Rear Admiral Jo-Ann Burdain – Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Response Policy, Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Don Gerrie, and Dr. Hanley, all spoke at the event. The new Center will examine the impacts of oil spills in the freshwater environments and help develop effective responses. The Center is also a partnership with the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab in Ann Arbor, and the United State Coast Guard.
- In honor of the 21st anniversary of 9/11, the university held a memorial on campus, honoring all those who lost their lives on that horrific day. State Representative, John DaMoose, Sault Ste. Marie Mayor, Don Gerrie, and Dr. Hanley all spoke at the event offering their remembrances and impacts of that day. Many students, faculty, and staff attended the event, as did large numbers of first responders and Coast Guard personnel from the area. LSSU athletes also placed flags in the ground honoring each person who was killed. Dr. Hanley gave a special thanks to those students who

took their time to place the flags. Dr. Hanley also thanked Dr. Beazley and his staff for organizing the event.

- Dr. Hanley reported from the Washington Monthly, LSSU ranks highest among all Michigan schools in “Best Bang for the Buck for Midwestern Colleges.” LSSU also placed in the top 200 Bachelor’s colleges nationwide, and ranked 7th in affordability among Midwestern colleges, 13th nationally for all bachelor’s colleges.
- LSSU will be celebrating Great Lakes State Weekend on October 21-22. There are a variety of events planned. This year LSSU will welcome the University of Michigan for hockey games in the Taffy Abel Arena.

VII. Finance Report

Dr. Alyan presented to the Board, a joint report on Admissions, Retention, and Finance. This joint report was prepared along with Dr. Alyan, Dr. Beazley, and Mr. Pierce. Dr. Alyan provided analysis and contextualization for the challenging 2022 fall recruitment season. Some higher education national trends and data include:

- A reduction in birth rates.
- A decrease in interest to pursue a college degree.
- Enrollment declines accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Leaving the state.
- Undergraduate enrollment witnessed a downturn trend from 2011 that was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. From spring 2011 to spring 2022, universities lost about 3.3 million students (around 17% enrollment). College attendance among undergraduates has fallen almost 10% since COVID started in 2020. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (NSCRC) reported in May that spring 2022 enrollment was almost 5% 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).

While the national trends witnessed an enrollment decline since the pandemic, LSSU increased new students for the last two years. LSSU was hit by the national trend this fall, new students are down by around 116 students. The primary challenge was among First Time in Any College (FTIAC) students with a drop of 76 students. LSSU retention efforts show opposite of the national trend with data reflecting a sizable increase in retention of first-year students, moving from 66% to 74%.

As of early September, the fall 22 semester student count is 1,613, down from 1,806 in fall 21. The LSSU FY23 approved budget assumed: a 3% increase in enrollment, which was not achieved. The impact of the enrollment decline on the approved tuition budget shows a budgeted tuition of \$11.2M and an actual tuition of \$9.9M. LSSU is waiting for the final census date in October, which will include dual enrolled high school students. It is estimated that there will be a revenue shortfall of \$2.1M, for FY 23. In addition to a shortfall of \$400K from the state. A total anticipated shortfall of \$2.5M. There are contingency plans in place to cover the shortfall, including:

- Maintain a balanced budget.
 - No deficit spending.
- Protect and ensure LSSU.
 - No downsizing. No layoffs.
- Rightsizing.
 - Flexible changes. Minimize financial stress.
- Freeze future projects – hiring freeze.
 - Expect to save \$1.1M

Dr. Alyan stated that a team, led by the President will review various enrollment strategies, such as the international market and the local Native American market.

Mr. Lukenda shared appreciation for the information and acknowledged the reality facing higher education. Mr. Lukenda stated that LSSU continues to defy the odds and trends. LSSU is a desirable location and culture, with desirable programs.

Ms. Williams shared thanks for the data and encouraged further outreach to non-traditional students.

Dr. Alyan presented to the Board, a summary of the FY22/FY23 General (GF) and Auxiliary Funds (AF) with the near completion of the FY22 Audit. The GF closed FY22 with a balanced budget and a \$13K surplus. For FY23, approximately 40% of revenue has been collected, normal for this time of year, with tuition recently collected.

In AF, Housing ended FY22 with a positive balance of \$330K, a gain of \$120K for the year. Cisler Operations began FY22 with a deficit of \$1.4M and ended the year with a deficit of \$750K. The FY23 budget for Cisler Operations is expected to improve the deficit to \$300K with additional work and efforts from the Senior Management Team. Overall, the AF has improved the fund balance by \$1.2M in FY22.

Dr. Alyan stated that LSSU is expected to receive another clean financial audit and complimented the Finance team for their work.

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:

- IT focusing mainly on improving efficiency and automation on campus. Dr. Alyan complimented the IT department for their efforts.
- Since the start of the Russian/Ukrainian War, LSSU has intercepted 1.5 billion connection attempt from Russia.
- Dr. Alyan thanked the grounds crew for their work towards maintaining the campus grounds.
- Facilities successfully acquired a \$500K grant for LSSU, allowing for the purchase of equipment.

Mr. Lukenda stated that the Board met with the Auditor and received a review and update. He stated that the Auditor was complimentary of the team and anticipates a clean audit.

VIII. Academic Affairs Report

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

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

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with an overview of the Post Baccalaureate Rural Nursing Residency Program Certificate. On September 15, the Curriculum Committee approved a 24-credit certificate for a Post Baccalaureate Rural Nurse Residency program. The program is one year in duration with three start dates. An Advisory Board will be established, consisting of leaders from key Healthcare organizations, as well as representatives from leading nursing professional organizations. The Rural Nurse Residency program will start with existing resources, in addition to grant and funding support. The program has applied for a \$500K grant over two years, which would cover the cost of personnel for the program. The new Residency program was submitted to HLC as required, for approval.

Dr. Gillette welcomed Dr. Wenger in her role as Dean of the Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts, and Criminal Justice and Emergency Responders.

Dr. Gillette welcomed Ms. Alexander in her new role as Associate Dean of Students.

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

- First-year retention rate of 73%. Dr. Gillette complimented faculty and staff for their achievement and growth mindset in helping students be successful.
- Fundraising efforts from Deans and faculty include:
 - Dr. Kimberly Muller and Professor Jim Devaprasad worked with two alumni to order four new robots valued at \$200K, for the cost of \$62K.
 - Dr. Steven Johnson and team have raised \$67K in naming elements of the Periodic Table, with a goal of \$225K.
 - Dr. Kathy Berchem and Mr. Scott Smith have raised \$425K in continued support of the Nursing program.
- Dr. Stephen Kolomyjec along with additional faculty, were awarded a National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation grant for \$200K. The grant will be used to purchase a microscope that will

- Professor Ben Southwell was awarded two grants from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, totaling \$17K, for 2023 Chippewa County Inland Lakes Monitoring and Microbial Source Tracking.
- Dr. Derek Wright and Professor Ben Southwell received a grant for \$22K from Flowrite, Inc. to perform in situ comparisons of commercial cannabis growth platforms.
- Dr. Joe Susi was selected to be in the American Kinesiology Association Leadership Institute Fellowship Program.
- The Superior Simulation Center received a \$3,500 grant to purchase Virtual Reality goggles and other equipment. These learning tools are part of a plan to integrate Virtual Reality learning into a Metaverse for students in Nursing and Paramedicine.
- Professional Development Day took place in mid-August, planned by the CETAL team.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke is working with the African Center of Aquatic Research and education and is mentoring two early career female scientists from Rwanda.
- The Arts Center is back up and running, with several upcoming events scheduled. Holocaust survivor Irene Miller will speak in mid-September, along with a musical group, RUNA, also scheduled to perform in mid-September.
- The Native American Center has received a lot of support. Some upcoming events planned include, Orange Shirt Day on September 30, which recognizes the legacy of Indigenous Peoples residential school experience. Dr. Veronica Pasfield will speak in the Library Commons, discussing the effects of residential schools and their legacy. Monday, October 10 is Indigenous People's Day. Since October 10 is mid semester break, LSSU will have an event on Tuesday, October 11, recognizing Indigenous People's Day. LSSU read a land acknowledgement and have Whitney Gravell, Bay Mills Chairperson speak in the Library Commons. The Native American Center has brought back Soup Tuesdays for the fall semester.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged the creativity and enthusiasm around campus.

Ms. Williams stated she was pleased to have the Arts Center back open. Mr. Williams asked if LSSU was collaborating with the Sault Theater renovation project. Dr. Gillette stated he would look into it.

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.

Ms. Williams 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:

Lyndsey Ball nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2024.

Detroit Service Learning Academy:

Douglas Bartell nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

iCademy:

David Barry nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

Innocademy Allegan Campus:

Jody Vogelzang nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

Oakland County Academy:

Melonee Monson nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

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

IX. Admissions and Marketing Report

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in Admissions and Summer Camps – Camp LSSU. The admissions group, collaborating with academic affairs, planned a series of academic camps that were reflective of previous offerings. Two new experiences were offered for the summer 2022 season. LSSU collaborated with the EUPISD MiSTEM network to host a nationally delivered science camp. Higher Orbits – Go for Launch camps was free to any student enrolled in a public school district in the eastern Upper Peninsula. The three day commuter camp featured opportunities for 46 students to work collaboratively on scientific experiments alongside a NASA astronaut. LSSU delivered a 7-week Kids Camps for students ages 5-12. The camp was well received and carried a full daily roster, along with maintaining a waiting list of students. The primary constraint with identifying and hiring camp counselors.

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) opens October 1. LSSU has had the opportunity to present at nine regional high schools, six in the EUP and three down state. FAFSA completion was down 12% nationally for the 2022 recruitment cycle. The 2023 FAFSA's will be ready for download in mid-October which will initiate packaging in November. An evaluation of select components of LSSU's aid inventory provides insight into the percentages of students leveraging state and federal programs designed to impact students with financial need:

- Tuition Incentive Program - 12.7%
- Pell Grants - 38.7%
- Direct Federal Loans - 94.1%

- Supplemental Opportunity Educational Grant - 12%
- Federal Work Study - 10.3%

In addition, examining elements of LSSU's institutional aid programs highlights:

- 58.7% of students entered with a 3.0 GPA or higher (Board of Trustees Scholarships)
- 25.6% of students are supported by Advancement Scholarships
- 11.9% being from Northern Michigan and living on campus (Anchor Award)
- 5.9% eligible for the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver

Mr. Pierce stated, the state of Michigan announced and budgeted a scholarship program, but did not define it. LSSU is waiting for more information.

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 generated eight press releases. Throwback Thursday was the top social media post for July and the LSSU *Washington Monthly* 2022 rankings was the top social media post for August.

Ms. Williams asked for more information on the call for TEDx speakers.

Dr. Gillette stated that 60 applications were received and six of those will be chosen. The series will be in April with the focus on identity.

Ms. Davie expressed support and appreciation for the Summer Camps program, and asked if there was much media support for the camps.

Mr. Pierce stated the Higher Orbitz camp was highlighted on local news channels.

X. Student Affairs Report

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with an update of Student Affairs operations and programs. Dr. Beazley welcomed Ms. Alexander to the department.

Dr. Beazley thanked those involved with supporting students and student retention. Dr. Beazley stated that the academic year started out well. The move-in process was condensed into a single day for all on-campus residents, accomplishing the goal of boosting participation in start-of-year programs.

Dr. Beazley stated the new contract with Sodexo for Food Services was finalized in early August. Services remain as they have been, with anticipation that they will improve during the lifetime of the contract. Relatedly, concessions operations are expected to be run through Sodexo in the athletic season ahead. Applications for the liquor licenses for the Norris Center are in-process. The senate has voted in favor. The bill is expected to pass and move to the Governor for approval.

Dr. Beazley stated that the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency renewed LSSU as a Gold Level Veteran-Friendly School, for the second consecutive year.

Student Government (SG) President, Mackenzie Maxson provided the Board with an update on SG activities. Ms. Maxson thanked the administration for the new Chosen Name Policy, and for the positive change that it brings to campus. The SG will be working towards filling remaining seats on the SG Board during the fall semester.

Mr. Lukenda welcomed Ms. Maxson in her new role as SG President.

XI. Athletics Report

Dr. Diles provided the Board with an update in the area of Athletics. The video board was installed in late August, and is fully operational. The video board features sponsor advertising from Soo Co-op Credit Union, Kewadin Casino, Bay Mills Resort & Casino, and MyMichigan Medical Center. Training on the new video board system will be completed within the week.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with an update on activities related to the 2022 sport camps. The camps brought exposure to campus, participation, and recruitment opportunities. The 2022 summer camp season brought just over 500 participants, and approximately \$100K in revenue.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with an overview of new student athletes. This year's recruiting cycle was productive for coaching staff. There are 40 new student-athletes joining LSSU for the fall 2022 semester. Eighteen of the new student-athletes are international, with the remaining mostly coming from Michigan.

Dr. Diles announced several new staff members to the Athletic Department, including:

- Drew Bowers – Strength and Conditioning Coach
- Claire Meyer – Assistant Athletic Trainer
- Dani Filipek – Assistant Track & Field/Cross Country Coach
- Chris Rodenroth – Volunteer Assistant Gold Coach
- Joshua Hentschel – Men's Basketball JV Coach
- Leonard Erickson – Women's Basketball JV Coach
- Chase Ward – Athletic Communications Director
- Danny Kinnear – Hockey Equipment Manager

Dr. Diles stated that the Department of Athletics has worked to grown external fund sources. With the Soo Blue Liners voluntarily stepping away, a new Laker Hockey fund raising organization has been established. The Friends of Laker Hockey has been designed and implemented for 2022-23. The department has also sold two additional lofts for the upcoming season, with ten people on the waiting list. Assessment is underway for the potential of creating an additional three lofts in Taffy Abel.

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. To date, Q1 of FY23 is at \$428K and anticipated to end with just over \$500K in gifts.

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

- Viridis Labs - \$50K
- Professor G. Harrison - \$25K
- Dr. Tom and Harriet Robinson estate gift valued at \$250K.
- Richard and Theresa Barch - \$70K to the CFRE Projects for the Walter F. and Virginia A. Barch, Microcosm lab.

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

- A successful 33rd Annual Lake State Golf Classic. This year brought in the highest revenue and the most golfers in five years. The 34th Classic will take place the first week of August 2023.
- Alumni – Great Lake State Weekend in October – Anniversary of the 1972 NAIA Championship and the 1992 NCAA Championship.
- Alumni Award Recipients – Chris Conklin '74- Outstanding Alumnus Award, Sophie Chandauka MBE '00 – Ken Shouldice Achievement Award, Jamie (Groos) Momber '08 – Paul Ripley Alumnus Award.
- Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Chemistry Program during GLSW and naming opportunities for an element on the Periodic Table.

XIII. Human Resources Report

Ms. Beach provided the Board with an update on cases reported to the Title IX Office from June 30, 2022 – August 31, 2022. Ms. Beach shared with the Board, the State of Michigan regulations, and stated that the State requires the Title IX Office to report the required information in a dashboard at each scheduled meeting and reports that involve a LSSU employee, as a responding party, are reviewed with the Board Title IX representative Cynthia Williams, after the completion of the investigation.

Since the last Board report, the Title IX Office has received eight reports of alleged prohibited conduct. Of the eight reports received, seven closed with no formal complaint entered and the Title IX Office informed reporting parties of on and off campus resources. One of the cases remains open. The case involves a student reporting party and an employee responding party. The investigation for the case has been concluded, and the preliminary investigative report review period has begun. One additional case was re-opened from this summer involving a student reporting party and student responding party. The parties have signed an informal resolution and the case is now closed. The case under investigation will be reviewed with Trustee Williams when complete.

Mr. Lukenda thanked Trustee Williams for involvement and oversight.

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:

- Annual Security and Fire Report – The Public Safety Office has published the University’s Annual Security and Fire Report. The report is published to comply with the Federal Law formally known as the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, renamed The Clery Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA).
- October Fire Prevention Month – The Risk and Public Safety Offices will hold a Mock Dorm Burn, and will have a fire extinguisher education station. The mock dorm room will be ignited to educate students on how quickly fire can spread in a residential hall.
- Title IX Training and Programming – The Title IX Office spent the summer completing a full review of the Title IX and related policies. Required online Title IX training is near completion. Departments will be updated on a regular basis about who still needs to complete their training.
- The Title IX Office brought back the Let’s Taco ‘Bout Sex program in mid-September. The event was very successful with 241 students in attendance.
- In October, the Title IX Office will recreate the library gallery installment Shatter the Silence: Stop the Violence exhibit.
- State of Michigan Required Reporting – The University is required and in compliance with submitting the Title IX Transparency Reporting and the Campus Safety Transparency Reporting Forms.

XIV. Other Business

None

XV. Adjournment

Ms. Williams moved for adjournment at 10:24 a.m.; supported by Ms. Davie. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Timothy L. Lukenda
Chair

Rodney S. Hanley
President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary.

A draft of these minutes was completed on September 30, 2022.