

**Lake Superior State University
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Special Meeting
Considine Hall
LaJoie Board Room
January 17, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in special session beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, in the LaJoie Board Room of Considine Hall, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The meeting was pursuant to Section 1.03 of the Bylaws of said Board.

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 on January 17, 2023. Any material considered by the Board, which was distributed at the time of the meeting, is so designated in these minutes.

At the call to order there were a few members in the audience.

I. Roll Call

Mr. Timothy Lukenda, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked the secretary, Ms. Lauren Pierce to call the roll. The following members responded “present”:

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey
Mr. Richard Barch
Ms. Patricia Caruso
Ms. Sheri Davie
Mr. Jon P. DeRoo
Mr. Timothy Lukenda
Mr. Randy Pingatore
Ms. Cynthia Williams
Dr. Rodney S. Hanley, President and Ex-Officio

Eight Trustees were recorded as present. Trustees Bailey, Barch, Davie, DeRoo, Pingatore, and Williams were connected via Zoom video/audio conference. Present for the University were Dr. Lynn Gillette, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

II. Approval of the Agenda for January 17, 2023

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval of the agenda for January 17, 2023, as presented; supported by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

III. Addresses to the Board

Lake Superior State University student, Riley Gilman shared thoughts on a FOIA that she recently submitted to Lake Superior State University.

IV. Chair’s Remarks

There were no remarks from the Chair.

V. President's Remarks

Dr. Hanley welcomed students, faculty, and staff back to campus after the holiday break. Dr. Hanley stated that the Board would hear two initiatives to consider: offering courses at the local area prison and micro-credentials. Each of these initiatives continues the University's efforts to expand the student demographics that LSSU serves. The prison initiative would place LSSU as the first public university to offer prison instruction.

Over the holiday break, the annual banished words list was released. Coverage of the word list made it to news and entertainment outlets far and wide, including *The Weather Channel*, an episode of *Jeopardy*, and *The Late Late Show with James Corden*.

VI. Additional Location – Kinross Correctional Facility

Dr. Gillette presented to the Board for approval of an additional location at Kinross Correctional and Chippewa Correctional Facility. Dr. Gillette clarified since the writing of the report, it was recommended to include the Chippewa Correctional Facility as well. Although the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) uses the term Kinross Correctional Facility to refer to both the Kinross Correctional Facility and Chippewa Correctional Facility, it is more precise to state at the Kinross Correctional Facility and the Chippewa Correctional Facility. Board approval is needed to complete the paperwork to be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

The additional location would expand LSSU offerings to non-traditional students. LSSU is proposing to offer selected programs through the MDOC. These courses would be face-to-face using a cohort model. Multiple Michigan universities are currently offering courses through the MDOC. The MDOC can move an inmate from another prison facility if an inmate wants to enroll in any of the LSSU-offered programs. The MDOC will need to approve any proposed program offerings and will not approve programs where an inmate is prohibited from working in that field. Inmates will not accrue debt and may be eligible for a Pell Grant, starting fall 23.

Some programs LSSU is considering to offer:

- Associate Degree in Health and Fitness Specialist
- 10-credit Counseling Certificate
- 14-credit Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture
- 16-credit Business Fundamentals Certificate
- 15-credit Business Entrepreneurship Certificate
- Associate Degree in Small Business Administration

HLC must approve the Kinross Correctional and Chippewa Correctional Facility as an additional location, along with one program. LSSU will propose the Associate Degree in Health and Fitness Specialist. If the Board approves, LSSU will immediately submit the proposal to HLC for their approval. The HLC review process takes approximately three to six months. After HLC approval, additional programs can be quickly added.

LSSU estimates that in the next three years, enrollment will be:

- Year 1: 10-20 students
- Year 2: 20-35 students

- Year 3: 35-45 students

The cost to offer each course will be between \$3,500 - \$5,000 and will use current full-time faculty.

Mr. Bailey asked for Ms. Caruso's comment on the proposal.

Ms. Caruso expressed full support for the proposal and stated the program could make a difference for a lot of people with great success.

Mr. Barch offered his support for the proposal.

Ms. Williams shared support for the purpose and mission of the proposal. Ms. Williams asked if the Board could amend the recommendation to include Board approval of articulation agreements related to the proposal.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of an additional location at Kinross Correctional Facility and Chippewa Correctional Facility as presented, and for related articulation agreements to be presented to the Board for approval; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

VII. Micro-Credentials and Bootcamps – Focus EduSolutions

Dr. Gillette presented to the Board for approval of a partnership with Focus EduSolutions for micro-credentials and bootcamps. Focus EduSolutions develops micro-credentials based on data and demand needs. Some examples include Smart Manufacturing, Construction Management, Trucking Operations, and Food Truck Entrepreneurship. Micro-credentials courses range in time from six to ten weeks courses. Seat learning time is ten to twelve hours per week. The courses are online and asynchronous. They are self-paced, but with a start and end date. It is not based on a cohort model. The course can start with as little as one student or as many that sign up.

Once the contract is signed, Focus EduSolutions will do market research for regional needs and will propose micro-credentials to LSSU. The courses are not for credit and do not need HLC approval. The cost of the course would range from \$800 - \$2,500 per course. LSSU would incur little cost. LSSU Marketing would advertise the course on the LSSU webpage and social media.

LSSU has a choice of signing a three-year or five-year contract for micro-credentials. According to the contract, LSSU would split the revenue based on a net of revenue, which is revenue collected under the agreement less net of any refunds. In a three-year contract, LSSU would receive 30% - in year one, 40% - in year two, and 40% - in year three. In a five-year contract, LSSU would receive 30% - in year one, 40% - in year two, 50% - in year three, 50% - in year four, and 50% - in year five.

LSSU student enrollment goals would be:

- Year 1: 10-20 students
- Year 2: 20-30 students
- Year 3: 30-40 students

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Mr. Lukenda asked if the material is prepared and delivered by a subject matter expert.

Dr. Gillette stated the material is prepared by a subject matter expert and delivered automatically to the student, there is no face-to-face instruction.

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with information on Bootcamps. Bootcamps are 24-28 weeks long, instructor-led, with seat learning time of 25-30 hours per week. Courses are synchronous and asynchronous and are structured more as a cohort with a minimum of five students. Courses are faculty-led. Focus EduSolutions assigns and pays the faculty member. Each student is assigned a mentor who will meet with them virtually.

The cost of the bootcamp course to the student is \$10K - \$15K. LSSU would incur little cost. LSSU would market the bootcamp courses on the webpage and social media. LSSU has a choice of signing a four or six-year contract for the bootcamps. According to the contract, LSSU would split the revenue based on a net of revenue, which is revenue collected under the agreement less net of any refunds. In a four-year contract, LSSU would receive 20% - in year one, 25% - in year two, 30% - in year three, and 40% - in year four. In a six-year contract, LSSU would receive 20% - for year one, 25% - for year two, and 45% for years three through six.

Dr. Gillette stated that LSSU recommends the five-year micro-credentials partnership and the six-year bootcamps partnership with Focus EduSolutions.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval of the five-year micro-credentials partnership and the six-year bootcamps partnership with Focus EduSolutions; supported by Mr. Barch.

Mr. Lukenda asked why the recommendation of longer terms.

Dr. Gillette stated that the longer terms would offer a higher percentage of net revenue and the new programs would take time to gain traction.

Ms. Williams expressed concern about the length of contract terms and asked if the contract provided flexibility or if there was a penalty if LSSU were to later decide that the agreement was not best for the institution.

Mr. Lukenda asked if the contract provided an out.

Dr. Gillette stated he would find out.

Ms. Williams stated she would not support the motion without additional information.

Mr. Bailey suggested additional research and feedback from other institutions that have partnered with Focus EduSolutions.

Mr. Lukenda stated he would like to defer the action item until the next Board meeting.

Mr. Bailey moved to table Board approval of the micro-credentials and bootcamps partnership with Focus EduSolutions until the February 2023 Board meeting; supported by Ms. Williams. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

VIII. Other Business

None

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Bailey moved for adjournment at 1:49 p.m.; supported by Mr. Barch. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Timothy Lukenda, Chair

Rodney S. Hanley, President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary. A draft of these minutes was completed at 5:00 p.m. on January 19, 2023.