

**Lake Superior State University  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Meeting  
Walker Cisler Student and Conference Center  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
February 17, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023, 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 February 17, 2023. 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 the roll. The following members responded, “present”:

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

Seven Trustees were recorded as present, with Trustee Barch and Pingatore joining via Zoom, and Trustee Sheri Davie recorded as absent. Present for the University were Dr. Nafez Alyan, Vice President for Finance and Operations; Dr. Michael Beazley, Dean of Student Affairs; Ms. Kate Bergel, Director of Human Resources, Safety and Risk; Dr. David Diles, Director of Athletics; Dr. Lynn Gillette, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Ethan Lang, Student Government Vice President; Mr. Fred Pierce, Dean of Admissions and Marketing; and Mr. Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement.

**II. Approval of the Agenda for February 17, 2023**

Ms. Williams moved for Board approval of the agenda for February 17, 2023; supported by Mr. Barch. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**III. Approval of the Minutes for November 18, 2022**

Mr. Pingatore moved for Board approval of the minutes for November 18, 2022, as presented; supported by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**IV. Approval of the Minutes for January 17, 2023**

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

**V. Addresses to the Board**

Student, Gabriel Mindersma, spoke on behalf of student Riley Gilman, and shared thoughts on a recent FOIA request, communication, and housing conditions.

Former LSSU Director of Financial Services, Craig Krouth shared thoughts on the morale and culture of the institution.

Faculty Association (FA) President, Dr. Joseph Moening acknowledged the President and Provost for attending the Engineering student presentations and shared thoughts on communication and enrollment at LSSU.

Ms. Williams motioned for Board approval to rescind the December 17, 2021 resolution of the LSSU Board of Trustees concerning the LSSU Foundation, and to move forward to resolve issues; supported by Ms. Caruso. Ms. Williams stated that the LSSU Board of Trustees took the action of a resolution consistent with its fiduciary responsibilities and at the advice of legal counsel. The dispute has been a distraction to the Board when other matters need to be addressed at LSSU. This action would be a good-faith effort to reset the relationship with both boards and return the focus to where it has always been, which is what is in the best interest of the University.

Mr. Bailey stated the resolution should be suspended pending resolution of the issues.

Ms. Williams appreciated Mr. Bailey's input and stated that the Board maintains the authority to dissolve the relationship, although the resolution was drastic and matters can be resolved with the Foundation Board. It is time to rest and move forward.

Mr. Lukenda stated that it has been over a year in terms of trying to resolve issues with the Foundation Board, and Mr. Lukenda stated he fully supports the motion and that it is the right time to bring the parties back to the table and work through the issues and move forward.

Mr. Pingatore shared support for the motion and agreed with the other Trustee's comments about the Foundation

The motion carried with majority voice vote and one abstention by Mr. Bailey.

Bob Kjolhede thanked the Board for their approval to rescind the resolution to the LSSU Foundation.

**VI. Chair's Remarks**

Mr. Lukenda stated that the agenda had several important topics to be presented, including faculty promotion and tenure and conferral of degrees. Mr. Lukenda also acknowledged the MSU tragedy.

**VII. President's Remarks**

Dr. Hanley acknowledged the faculty candidates for promotion and tenure.

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

- After a national search, Lake Superior State University selected Kate Bergel as the new Director of Human Resources, Safety and Risk, and Title IX Coordinator and member of the university Senior Management Team. Ms. Bergel is coming to the role after previously serving as the Deputy Title IX and Payroll Coordinator at LSSU for the past two and half years. Ms. Bergel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Oakland University and a Master of Education degree in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Louisville. Dr. Hanley welcomed Ms. Bergel and thanked Dr. Lynn Gillette who chaired the search committee and all the committee members for their diligence and efforts in this search.
- Dr. Hanley welcomed Crystal Wilcox as the new Director of Finance for the university. Ms. Wilcox comes to Lake State with over twenty-five years of accounting experience in a variety of accounting roles, and several industries. Ms. Wilcox earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from North Carolina Wesleyan College.
- Over the next thirty days, Dr. Ashley Moerke and team will put together a series of grant proposals for the Canadian Multi-Partner Research Initiative that over the next five years will invest \$30 million in oil spill research, much of which focuses on freshwater systems. Collectively, these proposals represent the largest in the history of the university. If awarded, Lake State would partner with institutions around the Great Lakes in both the U.S. and Canada. It would also place the university as a global leader in the study of oil spills in freshwater environments.

In closing, Dr. Hanley acknowledged two tragedies that have affected the Lake State Community, including, the fatal gun violence earlier in the week on the campus of Michigan State University. Lake State held a brief memorial service to honor those who lost their lives, those who were injured, and those who are suffering. Dr. Hanley also remembered the loss of two Laker alums – Jerry and Tara Weaver. Jerry and Tara were tragically killed in a car crash while driving to Sault Ste. Marie to watch their son play basketball. Jerry and Tara became college sweethearts after they met at Lake State. They married in Escanaba, where they were raising their three children. Dr. Hanley and

Provost, Dr. Gillette attended the funeral service in Escanaba, and witnessed an outpouring of community support for the Weaver family.

Dr. Hanley asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of those killed at Michigan State University and for LSSU alums, Jerry and Tara Weaver.

**VIII. Academic Affairs Report**

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the conferral of the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for fall 2022 and winter 2022/2023; supported by Mr. DeRoo. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Gillette acknowledged the significance of presenting to the Board, the opportunity to recommend faculty promotions and tenure for approval. Dr. Gillette presented six faculty members for approval and highlighted various accomplishments and praise for each faculty member.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval of tenure and/or promotion for the following faculty members: Ms. Jaimee Gerrie promotion to Associate Professor, Ms. Charlotte Kostelyk promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure, Dr. Joni Lindsey promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure, Dr. Thomas Meacham promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure, Dr. Adam Mosey promotion to Professor, Mr. Ben Southwell promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure, and Dr. Derek Wright promotion to Professor; supported by Mr. DeRoo. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with an action item to approve the presented course fee changes for the 2023-2024 academic year. The recommended course fee changes are due to the addition of new courses which require a fee, changes in courses and teaching pedagogy over time, and an increase in the cost of supplies due to inflation.

Mr. DeRoo moved for Board approval of the presented course fee changes for the 2023-2024 academic year; supported by Mr. Bailey. 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. Jon P. DeRoo	“Yes”
Mr. Randy Pingatore	“Yes”
Ms. Cynthia Williams	“Yes”
Mr. Timothy Lukenda	“Yes”

The motion carried with seven affirmative votes.

Dr. Gillette presented to the Board for approval of a partnership with Focus EduSolutions for Micro-Credentials and Bootcamps. In the special meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 17, 2023, this item was tabled to acquire additional information related to an out clause in the contract and references. Dr. Gillette stated the contract may be terminated for cause, and without cause,

both at any time within 120 days after written notice. Multiple individuals at different institutions were contacted and gave positive reports regarding their working relationship with Focus EduSolutions.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of a five-year micro-credentials partnership and six-year bootcamps partnership with Focus EduSolutions, supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with an update on the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) program. LSSU will offer the Associates Degree in Health and Fitness Specialist. The MDOC expects there will be significant demand for the program. A formal signing of the MOU with approval from the MDOC of the Associate Degree in Health and Fitness Specialist is anticipated within the next six weeks.

Dr. Gillette provided the Board with a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) update. A review team from HLC will be visiting the LSSU campus on October 23-24, 2023. The Focused Visit will look closely at LSSU's finances, budget planning, and enrollment. During the last HLC visit in March 2021, which was a Four-Year Comprehensive Visit for accreditation, LSSU met all HLC accreditation criteria and received positive feedback on the much-improved assessment practices. HLC noted in 2021 that LSSU's strategic plan had a set goal to increase enrollment to 2,400 by 2025, and suggested that goal be revisited. The administration will be coming back to the Board for approval to adjust the enrollment goal in the Strategic Plan. HLC will also want to verify that LSSU's composite financial index (CFI) is within an acceptable range. The university's CFI in 2020 was -0.08 due in large part to delayed payments for 2020-2021 state appropriations. The CFI in 2021 was 4.68, the highest it has been in more than ten years, and LSSU achieved balanced budgets in FY2021 and FY2022 and is expected to have a balanced budget in FY2023. A balanced budget will be proposed again in May for FY2024. LSSU will also engage faculty and staff in the budget planning process in an open, transparent manner. Academic Affairs has strengthened its planning process for new academic programs, consulting with School Advisory Boards to first substantiate the need and demand for the programs. In addition, a new detailed budget planning document now ensures that all cost and revenue projections for new programs are clearly outlined, well-documented, and well-supported.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged the importance of the process. He reiterated that the March 2021 visit had a good review and the purpose of the October 2023 visit was to address outstanding matters.

Ms. Williams acknowledged that any changes to the Strategic Plan, including a change to the enrollment goals will be approved by the Board. She stated she was interested in the process of developing a change to the enrollment goal.

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

- The Associations for Advancing Automation (A3), the leading global automation trade association for robotics, machine vision, artificial

intelligence, and automation technologies, appointed Professor Jim Devraprasad, to the A3 Advocacy Committee.

- In early February, James Vukelich spoke to an overflow crowd about the Seven Grandfather Teachings. The Native American Center partnered with the Bay Mills Indian Community and Bay Mills College to bring him to campus.
- The School of Nursing, National Council Licensure Examination [for] Registered Nurses pass rate for LSSU's sixty-eight graduates are exceeding the average of all schools in Michigan and nationally.

Charter Schools Director, Chris Oshelski provided the Board with Charter School informational items, member appointments or reappointments, and academy reauthorizations. Mr. Oshelski explained the process for Board member appointments, reappointments, and academy reauthorizations.

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:**

Allen Sharrow nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**DeTour Arts and Technology Academy:**

Any Quick nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**Ridge Park Scholars Academy:**

Jacques Moss nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2024.

**Tipton Academy:**

Allyson Andrews nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2024.

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

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the American International Academy charter contract effective July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2028, supported by Mr. Barch. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the Bay City Academy charter contract effective July 1, 2023, thru June 30 2028, supported by Mr. Barch. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the Detour Arts and Technology Academy charter contract effective July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2030, supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the iCademy charter contract effective July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2028, supported by Mr. Barch. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the Macomb Montessori Academy charter contract effective July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2028, supported by Mr. DeRoo. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the Momentum Academy charter contract effective July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2028, supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the Tipton Academy charter contract effective July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2030, supported by Mr. Barch.

Ms. Williams asked for more information about Tipton Academy. Mr. Oshelski stated that Tipton Academy has two buildings, one for grades K-3 and one for grades 4-8. 54% of the student population are minorities, and 70% of the student population receives free or reduced lunch. The academy has shown stable leadership over the years and was a leader in adapting to COVID for online learning.

Mr. Lukenda asked for a rationale for the proposed seven-year contract term reauthorization for Tipton Academy.

Mr. Oshelski stated that a seven-year term would be appropriate based on the process and data to support the two additional years compared to a five-year term.

Ms. Williams asked that going forward, the Board be made aware of the management companies for each authorized academy. Ms. Williams stated that she would be a no-vote for a seven-year term for Tipton Academy, and expressed concern for a seven-year term.

Mr. DeRoo shared his agreement with Ms. Williams and also expressed concern about a seven-year term for Tipton Academy. Mr. DeRoo asked for more information on each academy when presented for reauthorization. Mr. DeRoo shared his preference for a three-plus two-term or five year term over a seven-year term.

Mr. Oshelski expressed opposition to offering a lesser term length as the process has already been completed.

Mr. Lukenda asked what the outcome would be if the vote for Tipton Academy could be postponed until the May Board meeting.

Mr. Oshelski stated it would be devastating to the school to postpone the vote until May.

Mr. DeRoo asked if the contract term could be reduced.

Mr. Oshelski stated that at any point the contract may be terminated.

Mr. Lukenda asked how often evaluations are performed.

Mr. Oshelski responded that evaluations take place annually.

Ms. Williams asked if the motion could be changed from a seven-year contract term to a five-year contract term.

Mr. Bailey stated it would not be necessary to change the contract term since the contract may be terminated at any point.

The motion carried with majority voice vote of five yea votes and two nay votes from Trustees DeRoo and Williams.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the WAY Flint Academy charter contract effective July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2028, supported by Mr. Barch. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

## **IX. Finance Report**

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with a review of the FY23 financials. The General Fund (GF) revenues are at 68% of budget and expenditures are at 60% of budget. The GF revenue is lower than expected and attributed to lower-than-expected appropriations from the state and a decline in enrollment.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged the need to tighten the budget due to enrollment and asked if Dr. Alyan was confident that the cuts being made, aren't having an impact on student experiences and program offerings.

Dr. Alyan stated yes, the process is very selective with coordination with each department.

The Housing revenue is at 100% and expenditures are at 52% of budget, lower than normal for this time of year. There are no concerns with the Housing Fund.

Mr. Lukenda asked if the budget allowed for the replacement of washers and mattresses.

Dr. Alyan stated yes, and that there are plans for those updates and changes.

Cisler Operations revenue is at 82% and expenditures are at 66% of the budget. There are no concerns with the Cisler Operations Fund.

Athletics revenues are at 49% and expenditures are at 66% of the budget. There are no concerns with the Athletics budget.

The overall cash balance has decreased about \$1M since the last Board meeting, typical for this time of year. There are no concerns with the cash balance.



In other financial events, Limestone Federal Credit Union approached LSSU with a proposal to collaborate and lease a location on the LSSU campus. The three-year lease agreement provides several educational opportunities for LSSU students.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update on planning activities surrounding the development of the FY24 General Fund budgets for LSSU. Assumptions currently utilized in the planning process include flat enrollment for the next academic year, a 3% increase in State Appropriations, tuition, and room and board. These assumptions will result in estimated GF revenues of around \$35.5M. Estimated expenditure increases are expected in health insurance, utilities, and contractual employees (ESP and Faculty), totaling close to \$1M. LSSU expects approximately \$1M in savings from MPSERS. The anticipated increase in expenditures is expected to be covered by the savings in the MPSERS cost.

Mr. Lukenda acknowledged the conservative assumptions and recognized potential cost increases that can sustain moving forward.

Dr. Alyan provided the Board with an update on activities related to campus-wide facilities. Since the last Board meeting, there has been discussion with Cloverland Electric to provide clean energy for the campus. LSSU has received a recycling infrastructure grant through the State of Michigan EGLE. IT will start the implementation process to use both the grants and the endowment modules in Banner.

## **X. Admissions and Marketing Report**

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress associated with Admissions. Since the last Board meeting, school access has been limited during the holidays, exams, and testing. During that time, primary activity was focused on application cultivation through texting, email, and phone communication. LSSU representatives will be back in the field, meeting with prospective students and families, later this month. Mr. Pierce provided recruitment activity comparisons from fall 2022 to half-season fall 2023. There were 149 high school visits in fall 2022, compared to 151 high school visits so far for fall 2023. There were 57 college fairs in fall 2022, compared to 69 college fairs so far for fall 2023. The face-to-face recruitment activities were complimented by over 11K individual texts and 19 email campaigns.

Since the November Board meeting, LSSU has hosted multiple prospective student groups on campus. Fall 2023 new student data shows LSSU is 3.0% behind last year's applicant activity, but 3.2% ahead in the admissions process. These data are also reflected in First Time in Any College (FTIAC) activity, as 2.5% behind last year's application activity, but 1.1% ahead in admission activity. Mr. Pierce stated that students are choosing not to go to college. Plans are in place for open houses, dedicated visits, as well as orientations for onboarding to summer and fall semesters. Mr. Pierce stated it is critical for faculty to engage and participate in these recruitment activities. In addition, a new Facebook site "Future Lakers 2023" has been created for new student and parent engagement.

In spring 2023 LSSU will have 245 students enrolled in concurrent and dual enrollment courses compared to 184 students in the fall. LSSU is hosting a Spring Pre-college Invitational in mid-April and all Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (EUPISD) students and their parents are invited. In partnership with the EUPISD and the MiStem network, LSSU will be hosting several events on campus this spring, including Manufacturing Day and History Day to name a few.

LSSU has partnered with Grok International to assist LSSU with identifying the most logical entry points into the international student marketplace.

LSSU has also partnered with ReUP Education, a firm dedicated to assisting students with some credit but no credentials. ReUp coaches provide support through the completion of a credential.

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in the area of Financial Aid. During the initial days of the spring semester, the Financial Aid team has been working with students who need assistance in addressing their bills and whose fall performance resulted in the suspension of federal student aid through Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) monitoring. 38 students have worked with the staff and faculty to develop a reasonable plan to return to SAP and access to Federal Aid was reinstated. 71% of LSSU students are eligible for the Board of Trustees Scholarships and 17 Charter School students have applied for the Chartering Laker Scholarships – 9 applied in 2022. The FAFSA for First Time in Any College (FTIAC) student completion rates are currently 1% ahead of this time last year.

Additional information regarding new state aid programs has been provided for the Michigan Educator Fellowship; up to \$10K per year for students who are MI residents and Michigan Future Educator Stipend; up to \$9,600 per semester of student teaching. These two programs were effective in fall 2022 and will be awarded retroactively where appropriate. The Michigan Achievement Scholarship begins in fall 2023 for students graduating in spring 2023, up to \$5K per year for students who are Michigan residents, FAFSA filers, and estimated family contribution (EFC) less than \$25K. LSSU will be seeking approval from the Department of Education to distribute Federal Aid for the Kinross and Chippewa Correctional facilities to support the Prisoner Education Program that is in development. Approval is contingent on Higher Education Commission (HLC) approval. Approval for Federal Aid will also be sought for the Postbaccalaureate rural residency certificate program in nursing.

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in Marketing and Communications (MarComm). Since the last Board meeting, LSSU generated five press releases. The Banished Words brought Lake State a lot of exposure with coverage on several National and International media outlets, TV shows, radio programs, and several interviews. 1K submissions have already been received for next year. The website continues to develop and will have fresh imagery over the year.

Mr. Lukenda asked if there was any activity on a website overhaul.

Mr. Pierce stated it was a high priority on his agenda.

Mr. Pierce provided an update on the development of summer camps for the 2023 season, which also includes charter school visits. Some upcoming charter school visitors will be from North Central Academy, Bay City Academy, and Tipton Academy. Some upcoming summer camps in development include Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Camp, Engineering and Robotics Camp, and Indigenous Health Sciences Camp.

**XI. Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Beazley presented to the Board, an action item to approve a jointly prepared motion with the Student Government for expenses in the Arbuckle Student Activity Center (SAC) of the James Norris Center. Students enrolled at LSSU pay a Student Activity & Media (SAM) fee of \$80 twice per year. The fee supports student organizations, activities, and events, and is allocated among several groups including, the “Big 6” student organizations – Student Government. A sum of \$141K unexpended SAM funds was identified at the of spring 2022. Dr. Hanley invited the student government to identify how the sum could enhance the student experience. The SAC was identified as an area that would benefit from the investment, with the purchase of new cardio and weightlifting equipment to replace equipment from 2016. Student Government Vice-president, Ethan Lang presented the motion to the Board.

Ms. Williams motioned for Board approval of the proposal to expend up to \$141,270 of accrued Student Activity & Media fee funds to purchase new exercise equipment for the Student Activity Center facility in the James Norris Center; supported by Ms. Caruso. 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. Jon P. DeRoo	“No”
Mr. Randy Pingatore	“Yes”
Ms. Cynthia Williams	“Yes”
Mr. Timothy Lukenda	“Yes”

The motion carried with six affirmative votes and one no vote.

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with planned upgrades to the University Housing operations and facilities. University Housing has approximately 850 mattresses in its inventory. Traditionally, Housing spends \$20K per year to replace mattresses each year. The most recent purchase of mattresses occurred in 2019. The mattress replacement program was disrupted in recent years, but 400 new mattresses have been purchased, along with 150 nylon slipcovers for mattresses that remain in use until they can be replaced next year. Nearly all residence halls will benefit from a \$150K investment in new furniture in living spaces or common areas by fall 2023. Parts of the water infrastructure that serves the residence halls are aging. The Maloney Hall, Brady Hall, and the Student Village will be receiving a water heating system replacement. University Housing owns

and operates its laundry machines by way of a \$95 per semester fee built into the housing costs. There are currently 135 laundry machines. LSSU is gathering pricing information to determine if maintaining machines or outsourcing the machines through a lease will be more cost-effective. Preliminary estimates suggest an outright purchase of machines would cost nearly \$200K, to be paid over a five to seven-year period. Regardless of the purchase or lease option, the expense will continue to be paid through the fee built into housing costs. Housing maintenance and work orders are funneled through the physical plant staff. Any faculty, staff, or student may create a work order. On average, 1100 work orders for residence halls are submitted each academic year. Staff performs scheduled checks of residence halls on multiple occasions throughout the year. Dr. Beazley presented the funding structure for University Housing as an auxiliary unit.

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with an update on Student Affairs operations and programs. Laker Success has conducted several programs in the last year, in addition to receiving early alert referrals, prompting outreach to each student to ensure success. Supporting data indicate a 97% retention success rate for Laker Success cohort members who worked with peer mentors or Laker Success staff. Data also indicate a 95% retention success rate for students who were “flagged” through the early alert process.

Dr. Beazley mentioned the upcoming Snowman Burn which continues to be a well-known LSSU tradition.

Mr. Lang provided the board with an update on behalf of the Student Government. Mr. Lang presented a joint statement on behalf of the Presidents of Student Government from Michigan’s public universities. The statement expressed grief and concern for campus safety in light of the recent MSU tragedy. The statement calls for policies during times of tragedy, timely communication, and resources for students in need. Mr. Lang provided the Board with an update from the last Student Government meeting and upcoming events. Mr. Lang thanked the Board and administration for the opportunity to be a part of the distribution of SAM fee funds to be used for exercise equipment.

## **XII. Athletics Report**

Dr. Diles provided the Board with an update on the Department of Athletics. For the fall 2022 semester, the department posted a 3.218 overall GPA. The Women’s basketball team performed the highest with a 3.77 GPA.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with a recap of the NCAA Convention and annual NCAA reports. LSSU continues to remain actively involved with the NCAA. Many schools are still learning about how to properly navigate NIL deals on campus. The potential for a national database could help to clearly define varying state laws and regulations to make it easier for student-athletes and potential marketing relationships. Additional topics at the convention included staffing issues with Certified Athletic Trainers. The President’s Council approved a recommendation from DII Management Council and Planning and Finance Committee to allocate a surplus to Division II schools.. LSSU recently received its

allocation of \$8K. Dr. Diles reported that all NCAA and conference reporting has been submitted for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Diles provided an overview of corporate sponsors. The department has seen growth and recovery of corporate sponsors over the past year. The annual cash value of sponsors exceeds \$100K. The video board has multi-year sponsors that will end up paying for the cost of the video board.

Dr. Diles continues to examine opportunities for improvements to Taffy Abel Arena. The potential construction of three additional lofts would help to meet the existing demand for lofts and introduce new revenue streams. The projected cost of the improvement would be between \$100K and \$120K to construct three 6-10 seat lofts. The cost recovery would be 5-6 years.

Dr. Diles welcome newly hired Communications Specialist Chase Ward.

Dr. Diles acknowledged Mr. Krouth's comments and provided clarity regarding staffing in Athletics.

### **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, Q1, Q2, and Q3 of FY23 are at \$1.3M, with the majority from Major Gifts over \$10K since the last board meeting. Some of those Major Gifts donors are:

- The Lukenda Foundation
- Bud Denker
- Michael Drouillard
- J.C. and Tammy Huizenga
- Kim and Nancy Strawe
- William and Pamela Bachelor
- Old Mission Bank
- Michael Hart to the Philip A. Hart Scholarship
- New endowed LGBTQ+ Scholarship established by Dr. Rodney Hanley and Sara Gunhus-Hanley

Mr. Smith provided the Board with a summary of the LSSU Foundation's recent annual fundraising and LSSU Alumni Relations activities. The Laker Club fundraising is ahead by \$1K from last year. The LSSU phone-a-thon is up 50% from last year. The annual Lake State Golf Classic is set for August 4<sup>th</sup> at Wild Bluff. LSSU Alumni recently hosted an event at the Red Wings game with all tickets being sold.

Mr. Lukenda thanked all of the donors highlighted and acknowledge Dr. Hanley's support.

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

Ms. Bergel provided the Board with an update on cases reported to the Title IX Office from November 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023. To date, there are currently no cases open for investigation. All reports received over this time were closed with no formal complaint or did not fall under the Title IX policy.

Ms. Bergel shared with the Board, updates from the Offices of Human Resources, Safety and Risk, Public Safety, and Title IX. The Human Resources Office has implemented and launched a recruitment and application management system called Page Up. The University has negotiated an amendment to LSSU's contract with EUPISD. The amendment provides additional office space for EUPISD use and reserves a minimum of 12 childcare slots annually for LSSU employees, faculty, and students' dependents at Superior Start. Additionally, 10 slots will be reserved annually at other childcare sites operated by EUPISD. The retiree gift program has been relaunched with gifts scheduled to go out this week. LSSU will be offering free Narcan training to campus community members in mid-February. The Public Safety Office has hired a new Public Safety Officer, Brad Newhouse. Prior to Kate Bergel's appointment to the Director of Human Resources, Safety & Risk and Title IX Coordinator position, Ms. Bergel held the Deputy Title IX Coordinator and Payroll Coordinator role within the Human Resources office. After a national search, the vacant position has been awarded to Allison Orr, an alumnus of LSSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Pingatore signed off of Zoom at 11:45 a.m.

Ms. Bergel provided the Board with an update regarding the current protocol for electing a Board Title IX Representative as required by state regulations. Moving forward, the Board will nominate a Trustee for the term of one year. Trustee Williams has served in this role during the 2022 calendar year.

## **XV. Other Business**

Nominating Committee Chair, Mr. Bailey, presented as a motion with support to the Board for approval of the recommendation of the 2023 Board Officers as follows:

Mr. Timothy Lukenda – Chair  
Ms. Cynthia Williams – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Ms. Patricia Caruso – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Dr. Nafez Alyan – Treasurer  
Ms. Lauren Pierce – Secretary  
Ms. Cynthia Williams – Title IX Board Representative

The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pingatore returned to the meeting in person at 11:53 a.m.

Ms. Caruso motioned for a closed session at 11:54 a.m.; supported by Ms. Williams. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

## **XVI. Adjournment**

Mr. Bailey moved to return to open session and for adjournment at 1:37 p.m.; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

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Timothy L. Lukenda  
Chair

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Lynn G. Gillette  
Interim President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary.  
A draft of these minutes was completed on April 07, 2023.