

**Lake Superior State University  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Meeting  
Walker Cisler Student Conference Center  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
July 14, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 14, 2023, in the Walker Cisler Student 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 14, 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  
Ms. Sheri Davie  
Mr. Jon P. DeRoo  
Mr. Timothy L. Lukenda  
Mr. Randy Pingatore  
Ms. Cynthia Williams  
Dr. Lynn G. Gillette, Interim President and Ex-officio

Eight Trustees were recorded as present, with Trustee Pingatore joining via Zoom. Present for the University were Dr. Michael Beazley, Dean of Student Affairs; Ms. Kate Bergel, Director of Human Resources, Safety and Risk; Dr. David Diles, Director of Athletics; Dr. Kimberly Muller, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Fred Pierce, Dean of Admissions and Marketing; Mr. Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement; and Mr. Morrie Walworth, Interim Vice President for Finance and Operations.

**II. Approval of the Agenda for July 14, 2023**

Ms. Davie moved for Board approval to approve the agenda for July 14, 2023, as presented, supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**III. Approval of the Minutes for May 19, 2023**

Mr. Pingatore moved for Board approval of the minutes for May 19, 2023, as presented, supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

**IV. Addresses to the Board**

Dr. Martha Hutchens, Secretary of the Faculty Association (FA) spoke on behalf of the FA, expressing concerns about the College of Great Lakes and Education Board agenda item. Dr. Hutchens personally expressed appreciation for the regular campus updates regarding the presidential search as well as the regular updates regarding various office personnel changes.

Dr. Derek Wright, Chair of the School of Natural Resources and Environment stated he was attending the meeting to gather more information on the College of Great Lakes and Education, and expressed concern for transparency and hope for collaboration.

**V. Chair's Remarks**

Mr. Lukenda stated that the Board had a full agenda, including a thorough financial review, an Academic report, and important strategic initiatives. Enrollment continues to be an important and primary focus for the Board. The Presidential Search has kicked off under the leadership of Trustee Cynthia Williams. A search firm has been selected and a survey and listening sessions are planned for the fall. The thorough search process is expected to go into 2024. Mr. Lukenda thanked the faculty, staff, and senior leadership for all of their efforts and dedication to LSSU.

**VI. President's Remarks**

Dr. Gillette thanked Drs. Hutchens and Wright for their comments.

Dr. Gillette highlighted several speaking engagements and meetings with community members since the last Board meeting, including:

- Meeting with Bay Mill Community College President, Duane Bedell, MyMichigan President, Kevin Kalchik, Dr. Kimberly Muller, and Dr. Kathy Berchem, to discuss joint Nursing programs.
- Tour of the Chippewa Prison Facility with Trustee Pat Caruso, Warden Jaime Corrigan, Dr. Berchem, and Dr. Johnson, with exciting opportunities for the prison program.
- Dr. Gillette spoke at the 55<sup>th</sup> LSSU MCOLES graduation. Of the nine graduates, 100% passed the mastery exam.
- Dr. Gillette spoke at the Chamber Leadership Program with several members interested in Lake State's new MBA program. Dr. Gillette also discussed educating and preparing students.

Dr. Gillette stated LSSU needs to boldly address ways to increase student enrollment among traditional and non-traditional students. Dr. Gillette stated that the Board meeting would include information and actions around increasing enrollment, such as 55-60 projected new students with the addition of the swimming and diving program. The Student Affairs report will provide a retention and housing update. Fundraising had a successful year with upcoming events and opportunities. The Admission report will include current numbers related to new students for the upcoming fall semester. Marketing has hired two new employees for social media and the webpage. The Academic Affairs report will provide an update on the MBA program, prison program, and the concept behind a new college. The Human Resources report will include campus safety and active shooter training, and Title IX updates. The Finance report will review the FY23 financials and plans for FY24.

Dr. Gillette stated that LSSU is a great University that does an incredible job educating students. Given the demographic issues, LSSU must have the courage to be creative and bold.

## **VII. Finance Report**

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with a review of FY23 financials. The General Fund (GF) revenues, as of June 26 are at \$32.9M and expenditures at \$34.8M. To date, revenues are at \$35M; a significant shortfall from the Board approved budget. Over several board meetings in the past year, a plan was discussed to address the shortfall. The plans projected revenues of \$35.5M and expenditures were expected to align within the revenue. As of June 26, 2023, the GF showed a \$1.9M deficit. Based on data pulled from early July, revenues are expected to increase to about \$35.5M, and expenditures are expected to increase to about \$36.9M at year-end, leaving a \$1.4M deficit. The reasons for the increase in expenditures and the reason the University is not aligned with the plan that was presented to the Board are:

- Salaries did not decrease by \$500K as planned.
- There are no funds available to address the \$650K overspent in scholarships.
- Remaining debt service commitments must be paid.
- Utility budgets for FY23 were reduced from FY22, when they should have been increased.
- Supply expenditures have increased greatly since the last Board meeting, reducing the cushion once perceived.
- About \$350K will be needed for unexpected year-end transfers into non-GF funds that are currently in deficit.

Housing revenues are currently at 101% of budget and expenditures are at 88% of budget. Transfers are at 94% of budget. Expenditures are well below where they are expected to be for this time of year. The annual fund balance is at \$515K. Housing is expected to end the year with a surplus.

Cisler Operations revenue is at 88% of budget and expenditures are at 109% of budget. Transfers are at 78% but will end at 100%. There is currently a deficit of \$400K in Cisler Operations. The Business Office and Student Life will meet with Sodexo to reconcile books at year-end and review the contract after its first year of execution.

Athletics revenues are at 57% of budget and expenditures are at 104% of budget. Transfers are at 69% of budget. Several transfers are expected to take place in the next few weeks which will reduce the current deficit of \$1.1M to a \$750K deficit in Athletics at year-end.

The overall cash balance has decreased by about \$2.5M since the last Board meeting. The balance is about \$1M less than this time last year.

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with an update on other financial events. The University completed the annual interview with Standard and Poors (S&P), which went well. Most questions pertained to the change in leadership debt service, and the FY23 budget. LSSU is waiting for the final findings and report from S & P.

Mr. Lukenda asked if the S & P review had an impact on the current or future ability to borrow.

Mr. Walworth stated that it does affect that future ability to borrow, however, the institution has no plans to borrow in the near future.

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with financial impacts to LSSU from the Charter School Office (CSO). Mr. Walworth stated that \$80M flows through LSSU every year for the operation of the charter schools authorized by LSSU. LSSU can elect to capture 3% of the funds for oversight of the charter schools, CSO operations, and activities that benefit K-12 students. Several positions on campus are partially funded by charter school funding. About \$1M in funding is directly utilized to support and enhance LSSU's K-12 activities.

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with an overall picture of the financial status of LSSU. The update pertains to data pulled on June 26, 2023. During FY22 and FY23, significant changes to past operational practices occurred. The funds included in the update are the General Fund (GF), Auxiliary Fund (AF), Designated Funds, Reserve Funds, and Plant Funds. Areas excluded from the update are Agency Funds, Loan Funds, Endowment Funds, and Foundation Funds.

The General Fund (GF) update pertains to fund 1000. The overall balance of the GF is a deficit of about \$1M. The GF balance has changed over the last three years due to operational savings of about \$1.5M from Fy20 to FY21 and an influx of HEERF funds for losses that occurred in FY20. FY22 appears to have been operationally stable. However, FY23 has proven to be difficult due to the lower than expected enrollment. In FY23, enrollment dropped after the budget was approved and a plan was created to address the budget. The plan was not fully implemented. Instead of bringing a new budget to the Board, areas were expected to cut expenditures. When areas overspent in any "account" they were asked to find funds in their budgets and transfer funds to that "account" to cover

the overage. Since the budgets were never adjusted internally, there appeared to be plenty of funds to support any overspending, which was not the case. Although FY23 appeared to be stable, funds were actually transferred into the GF to support operations. Now that the deficit is evident, discussions have begun to address the deficit in FY24.

There are approximately sixty Auxiliary Funds (AF), most of the funds are grouped into functional areas like Housing, Cisler Operations, and Athletics. In FY23, the fund balance for AF areas decreased by \$1.3M with the bulk of the decrease coming from Cisler Operations and Athletics. There are fourteen funds currently in a deficit, compared to five in the previous two years. Designated funds have also decreased by \$600K. There are about twenty-five plant funds. There is currently a balance of about \$2M in the Plants Funds. There is a lot of outstanding activity in these funds, which are typically used for high-cost capital projects. The state still owes LSSU two payments for the CFRE project. One CFRE pledge has also defaulted, therefore any outstanding deficit will need to be covered by the GF. The Plant Fund is expected to end the year with a balance of \$1.3M.

The overall fund balance of all funds discussed is currently \$3.2M less than FY22 year-end. \$2.9M of the loss is showing in the GF and AF.

Mr. Lukenda asked if reporting in the past was incomplete and did not fully reflect the picture of the University's financials.

Mr. Walworth stated that previous reports only reported on the GF and parts of the AF and did not report much on the other funds.

Mr. Lukenda asked if the enrollment declines and other expenditures, along with inaccurate records, lead to a \$1.4M shortfall in the GF.

Mr. Walworth stated, yes.

Mr. Lukenda stated that enrollment and budget expenditure management is critical with focus and urgency.

Ms. Williams asked if there were any updates on possible savings from changes to the MPSERS debt.

Mr. Walworth stated that LSSU pays approximately \$2M a year for MPSERS. The state has recently enacted legislation that would save LSSU \$1M in MPSERS expenses starting FY24.

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with an update on GF budget planning for FY24. LSSU is currently using the following parameters in revenue estimation.

- 4% tuition increase (approved by the Board),
- 5% increase in State appropriations,
- 975 continuing students, 477 new students, and 200 high school students,
- 1,652 students on opening day, and

- 1,623 students persisting to the census date of October 1.

Information from the State indicates that base appropriations will increase by 5%, full MITW funding will continue, and some MPERS and deferred maintenance funding will be included. Continuing student enrollment is trending ahead of historical data by 2% and new student counts are about 4.4% behind a goal set internally. Given the presented assumptions, a revenue of about \$36.3M is expected for FY24.

There are no significant changes for debt service in FY24. The total debt service is expected to be about \$2.1M for FY24.

A number of salary assumptions and known factors have been incorporated into planning documents. The following list provides an overview of the major factors:

- Contractual salary increases for faculty (>3.2%) and ESP Staff (2.5%),
- AP raises,
- Funding for Foundation staff,
- Incorporation of Sodexo staff displaced by the contract,
- Increased health insurance costs,
- Reduced MPERS costs,
- Adjustments to abatements, and
- Reduction in staffing levels where appropriate.

Total salaries for FY24 are expected to be equal to FY23.

Transfers in and out of the GF have been reset to levels similar to FY20.

LSSU is behind in FY24 planning. The tool previously used for budget planning was discontinued and new processes for BANNER have been implemented. No current staff have had training in the new tools and very little work had been done in testing budget development in BANNER.

Current goals for FY24 are as follows:

- Revenue - \$36.5M
- Salaries - \$21.3M
- Supplies - \$11.8M
- Debt Service - \$2.1M
- Transfers - \$1.7M

Total Expenditures: \$36.9M

The administration does recognize that this is a deficit goal, but it also recognizes that the current financial situation did not occur over a short time period. It occurred over a period of two years. The administration has begun to discuss strategies to address the situation and plans to involve the campus community in the near future, after complete disclosure to the Board.

Mr. Lukenda stated that it is important to find a balance, but not hinder efforts to grow and provide a quality education and experience to students.

Mr. Walworth stated that LSSU is behind in FY24 Auxiliary Fund budget planning. Discussions have taken place in Housing, including a plan to capture the FY22 approved incorporation of the Environmental Fee in Housing, and other areas that were not properly funded. The Business Office has reviewed the current Sodexo contract and will make adjustments that will be necessary for FY24 budget planning. It does appear that the contractual relationship with Sodexo provides a profit to LSSU. LSSU plans to increase funding to Athletics to support operations. Athletics is expected to request a budget deficit for FY24

Mr. Lukenda asked Mr. Walworth to come back to the Board with potential plans or changes that may be considered regarding the Sodexo contract.

Mr. Bailey suggested going forward to include multi-year budget projections for future planning purposes.

Mr. Walworth acknowledged both requests and shared the administration's commitment to address all of the financial issues and concerns, and plans to move forward with transparency.

Mr. Walworth presented to the Board for approval to sign a contract with Sailor Creek Contracting to construct a new boat storage and workshop building at CFRE. The construction quote is for \$300K and to be completed by late fall 2023. External funding has been secured for the entire project, including a \$250K grant to CFRE from the U.S. Coast Guard. The remaining funds will be provided by existing private donations, including a contribution from Randy and Julie Pingatore.

Mr. DeRoo moved for Board approval to enter into a contract with Sailor Creek Construction for approximately \$300,000 to construct a new storage and workshop facility for the Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education; supported by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Walworth presented to the Board for approval to execute an easement agreement with DTE for the installation and maintenance of a gas line and associated hardware. DTE needs to upgrade equipment in order to better serve and safely deliver gas to LSSU and the community of Sault Ste. Marie. The easement covers two sites, one on each side of Easterday Avenue.

Mr. Barch moved for Board approval of an easement agreement as generally presented and that the Board appoint the President and/or the CFO to act on behalf of the Board to execute the easement; supported by Ms. Davie. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Walworth presented to the Board for approval to utilize AHP as the auditing firm for the FY23 audit.

Mr. DeRoo moved for Board approval of the appointment of Andrews Hooper Pavlik as the firm to conduct the FY23 audit for LSSU and further authorizes the President and/or the CFO to execute any necessary paperwork to engage AHP; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Walworth presented to the Board for approval to develop a multi-year lease agreement with Summit High School (Leona Group) to lease LSSU property located at 728 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona. The property was donated to LSSU several years ago and has been continuously leased by Leona Group for Summit High School. The current lease is set to expire in July of 2023. Revenue from the lease is used to fund scholarships for LSSU students, support Foundation operations, and maintain the Arizona property.

Mr. Barch moved for Board approval to authorize the University to engage in negotiations with Summit High School (Leona Group) for the purpose of achieving lease terms for LSSU property located in Phoenix, Arizona. The proposed lease will be brought back to the Board for approval; supported by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with an update on activities related to campus wide facilities. The majority of work conducted on campus since the last Board meeting has been with the focus on student housing and preparations for students' return to campus.

## **VIII. Academic Affairs Report**

Mr. DeRoo moved for Board approval of the conferral of the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for Spring 2023 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements; supported by Mr. Barch. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Muller provided the Board with information on the consideration of a College of Great Lakes and Education. The following strategies are listed in the 2020-2025 LSSU Strategic Plan as approved by the Board of Trustees on April 24, 2020.

- 1.1.2 Add new academic programs and delivery methods for certificates, associates, and baccalaureate degrees that meet student and market needs for traditional and nontraditional students in the LSSU broader service region.
- 1.1.4 Expand and leverage the identity and successes of the Center for Freshwater Research and Education through the addition of new academic programming with it.
- 3.1.1 Identify and develop new learner-focused academic programs and delivery methods that will meet local, regional, and larger market demands, while increasing enrollment and net value.
- 3.2.5 Develop the Center for Freshwater Research and Education to offer



academic programs and to become financially sustainable.

- 5.1.3 Expand the mission of the Center for Freshwater Research and Education to include sustainability-related academic programming.

At this time, the only academic programs offered through CFRE are workshops and career-technical education programs for K-12 students. To remedy the lack of expansion of academic programming at CFRE, Academic Affairs is considering the creation of a College of Great Lakes and Education, with Dr. Ashley Moerke serving as the dean of the college. The name of the college is not final and could be adjusted with a focus on enrollment. Education has always been part of the vision of CFRE as evidenced by their goal to create freshwater stewards through Great Lakes-based education programs for K-12 students and other community members that engage undergraduate students and build on CFRE's unique location. CFRE has had overwhelming success at creating K-12 experiential learning opportunities. Place-based education is a proven research-based model that increases K-12 students' academic performance, graduation rates, and preparedness to enter STEM fields.

The College of Great Lakes and Education could initially include the following programs:

- Fisheries and Wildlife Management
- Conservation Biology
- Parks and Recreation Management

Additionally, the College of Great Lakes and Education could pursue a Master of Science program in Fisheries and Aquatic Science and other programs in aquaculture and environmental education.

Mr. Bailey stated that this item fits the Strategic Plan and would be appropriate to pursue.

Mr. Lukenda asked for more information on pairing with education.

Dr. Muller stated that the alignment fits with the Michigan Department of Education guidelines and recent changes, including hands-on learning activities for the teacher candidates.

Ms. Williams expressed reservations about putting the School of Education with CFRE. Ms. Williams stated that there is a real opportunity for enrollment growth in education.

Dr. Muller provided the Board with an action to approve a change to Strategic Plan Goal Strategy 3.2.1, adjusting the enrollment headcount number from 2,400 students to 1,925 students by 2025 to reflect and respond to statewide and nationwide declining data trends in postsecondary enrollments. The fall 2022 headcount at LSSU was 1,653. The revised headcount goal of 1,925 was developed based on proven mathematical models, consideration of the creation of the College of Great Lakes and Education, new admissions and marketing

strategies, the new MBA program, and the prison initiative. The 1,925 goal is both realistic and challenges LSSU to continue to target new demographics and to be innovative.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of an adjustment to Strategic Plan Goal Strategy 3.2.1, changing the stated enrollment headcount from 2,400 to 1,925 by 2025; supported by Ms. Davie. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval to direct the President to move forward to establish the College of Great Lakes and to take all steps necessary to set it up for success, including consultation with faculty as appropriate and to report to the Board; supported by Mr. Pingatore. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pingatore praised Dr. Muller for bringing this initiative to the Board and invited others to present other enrollment opportunities to the Board.

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

- Dr. Kathy Berchem is working with MyMichigan and Bay Mills Community College on a pathway project to attract more students into the healthcare field with the help of Kevin Kalchik, Sault MyMichigan President.
- The School of Nursing graduated eleven students from a Certified Nursing Assistant course in May 2023.
- The Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) approved the current MBA program modification proposal at their June meeting. LSSU received positive feedback from peer institutions. HLC has provided possible dates in the fall to come to campus to discuss the MBA program.
- Drs. Berchem and Johnson attended a conference at Calvin College for institutions that offer or plan to offer prison programs. The conference provided valuable information to continue the growth and development of the LSSU prison program. A visit was also made to the Chippewa Correctional Facility with a tour and discussion of the future prison program.
- Four LSSU engineering students are working for Michigan Tech's Advanced Power Systems Laboratory, working directly with research engineers and graduate students.
- Trustee DeRoo, along with Mr. Scott Smith attended Automate 2023 in Detroit, MI in May. There were over 800 visitors to the LSSU booth.
- The College of Science and the Environment received multiple awards from the LSSU Student Government, including Dr. Hannah Clause selected as Professor of the Year, and Professor Ben Southwell selected as Advisor of the Year.

Mr. Chris Oshelski, Director of Charter Schools, provided the Board with an update on dashboard items, including a new Academic Support Dashboard.

Mr. Oshelski provided the Board with an update on Ascend Academy. Since the last LSSU Board meeting, the Ascend Academy Board has had three Board meetings. Plans are in place to bring a contract to the LSSU Board in November for approval to open for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Oshelski provided the Board with an update on the closure of Oakland County Academy of Media and Technology. The LSSU Charter School Office will continue to support the process until it concludes.

Mr. Oshelski presented the Board with an action item to terminate the charter contract with WSC Academy at the request of their Board.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the resolution of the termination of the charter contract with WSC Academy; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the appointment or reappointment of the presented nominees to their respective Board of Directors for the terms listed.

**Detroit Service Learning Academy:**

Allen Richardson nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2026.

**Grand Traverse Academy:**

Audra Tomkins nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2026.

**Momentum Academy:**

Andrew Whitsitt nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2026.

**IX. Admissions and Marketing Report**

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress associated with Admissions. There are six weeks left in the recruiting cycle and on track to have between 3,200 and 3,330 applications and 2,200 admits. Since the last Board meeting, several Charter School visits have taken place. June orientation events brought in over 300 students. Three remaining orientations are scheduled in August. It is predicted to have between 470 and 514 new students registered at Census on October 1. Some new student initiatives include the partnership with REUP. REUP has contacted 3,513 potential students and is currently engaged with 87 potential students. Pre-College activities since the last Board meeting include signing a new contract with Newbery High School, bringing the total number of pre-college contracts to twelve for the 2023-2024 academic year. A preliminary discussion has also taken place with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District about possibly direct admitting all high school seniors across the district.

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress in the area of Financial Aid. FAFSA completion rates are up 6% over the 2022 cycle. LSSU is experiencing a 6.3% increase in First Time in Any College completion rates, and

an 18.9% increase in returning student completion. NCAN reported that only 39% of high school seniors have completed the FAFSA. The Michigan completion rate is 43%. Mr. Pierce recognized Anne Van's promotion from Assistant Director of Financial Aid to Director.

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with updates on the progress in the area of Marketing and Communications (MarComm). Two offers have been made for a web administrator and a social media specialist, waiting for final acceptance. Deb Cook has retired as a graphic designer after 29 years at LSSU. It was decided to outsource graphic design and printing. An RFP has gone out for bid.

## **X. Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Beazley presented to the Board for approval to obtain a liquor license to sell and serve alcoholic beverages at athletic events in the Norris Center – whether in Taffy Abel, Bud Cooper Gym, or Student Activity Center – during the 2023-24 competition season. An application for a permanent license has been submitted but has not yet been approved.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval to apply for temporary liquor licenses for the hockey season in the Norris Center if the permanent liquor license for the Norris Center remains in pending status; supported by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with an update on Student Affairs operations and programs. There are currently 933 students registered for the fall semester. Students who have not registered, continue to receive outreach. It is common for LSSU students to register late into the summer.

Revenues for the Norris Center achieved 130% of revenue goals. Plans are in place to pursue membership goals. The new fitness equipment, greatly improved area layout and improved hours will serve as three main draws to membership. The Health Care Center is purchasing new computer hardware and converting paper files to an electronic medical record program to streamline the billing practice of the clinic.

In staff updates, Anya Alexander was promoted to Executive Director of Campus Life and Engagement and was also appointed as the Region IV-East Representative to the NASPA Student Affairs Partnering with Academic Affairs Knowledge Community. A search is underway for Residence Halls Coordinators and the Director of Residence Life and Housing.

Since the last Board meeting, multiple Housing projects have been underway with multiple renovations as well as delivery and installation of new washers and dryers, mattresses, hot water heaters, Wi-Fi, and new furniture expected in late July/August.

Ms. Davie commended the staff for their speed and efficiency in completing the renovations and upgrades to student housing.

There was no representative from the Student Government in attendance.

## **XI. Athletics Report**

Dr. Diles provided the Board with an update on the NCAA Graduation Rates of student-athletes in the Department of Athletics. This year's NCAA Graduation Report surveyed the 2016-2017 Freshman Cohort. The cohort had an academic success rate of 84%. The national average was 76% for NCAA Division II Schools.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with department and staffing updates. Liam Cound will come to LSSU Athletics as a Strength and Conditioning Coach. Matt Parker has been named the head men's and women's golf coach. Abbie Laajala was promoted to Associate Athletics Director/Senior Women's Administrator. Head Athletic Trainer, Becky Nassen has resigned. A search will be launched for her replacement, along with a search for a men's and women's tennis coach with the resignation of Luke Ogren. The search for the head swimming and diving coach has provided a good pool of candidates, and interviews have taken place with a plan to host candidates on campus soon.

Dr. Diles provided the Board with information on the new student-athlete population and department updates. To date, fall 23 will welcome 52 incoming student-athletes, 48 of whom are incoming freshmen. In addition, 16 international students will be joining LSSU Athletics. Summer sports camps and clinics have proven to be a busy summer with multiple participants on campus.

## **XII. Fundraising Report**

Mr. Smith presented to the Board with an updated dashboard, with one week remaining in the fiscal year. To date, a total of \$2.9M has been raised, the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year of increased fundraising. Fundraising has increased by 43% in the last two years. FY24 will start with \$900K in pending gifts.

Mr. Smith provided a summary of the LSSU Foundation's recent Annual Fundraising and LSSU Alumni Relations activities, including:

- Hudson Foundation committed \$10,000 to the Nursing Sim Center.
- A \$70,000 gift was made by Richard and Theresa Barch in support of their CFRE pledge.
- Annual Lake State Golf Classic – scheduled for Aug 4.
- Great Lake State Weekend – scheduled for October 13-14.

## **XIII. Human Resources Report**

Ms. Bergel provided the Board with an update on cases reported to the Title IX Office from May 6, 2023, through June 30, 2023. Since the last Board meeting, the Title IX Office has received two reports. Each of the two reports received, closed with no formal complaint entered and the Title IX Office informed the reporting parties of on and off-campus resources. Zero cases are currently open

Ms. Bergel provided the Board with an update on anticipated upcoming changes to Title IX regulations from the Department of Education. The Department of Education announced a delay in the publishing timeline for the proposed changes

to the Title IX regulations regarding hearing procedures and rights for pregnant students on campus to October 2023. There is no current estimated publish date for the proposed changes regarding transgender student participation in sports.

Ms. Bergel provided the Board with updates from the Offices of Human Resources, Safety and Risk, Public Safety, and Title IX. The employee evaluation process has been launched. AP evaluations are expected to be completed and submitted to HR by July 14 and ESP evaluations will be submitted by August 15. Employees now receive reduced basis point costs, a more stable and intuitive automated investment model through TIAA. All LSSU insurance policies were renewed in May and June. LSSU continues to successfully negotiate a rate lock for the third year in a row. The situational awareness training is currently being finalized with plans for training in the fall. The HR department is planning to launch a new onboarding process in the fall for new employees.

#### **XIV. Other Business**

Due to recent scheduling conflicts, Mr. Lukenda recommended that the Board approve the date for the next Board meeting, and for the subsequent meeting dates to be approved at the following Board meeting.

Mr. Bailey moved for Board approval of the next Board meeting date of September 15, 2023; supported by Mr. Barch. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pingatore moved for Board approval to defer the remainder of the Board meeting calendar for approval at the September meeting; supported by Ms. Davie. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey acknowledged the importance and need for new academic and extracurricular programs as well as the current programs offered at LSSU.

#### **XV. Adjournment**

Mr. Pingatore moved for adjournment at 11: 39 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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Lynn G. Gillette  
Interim President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary.  
A draft of these minutes was completed on August 10, 2023.