

**Lake Superior State University
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
Kenneth J. Shouldice Library
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
August 1, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2024, in the Kenneth J. Shouldice Library, 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 August 1, 2024. 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. Richard Barch
Ms. Patricia Caruso
Dr. Kevin Cooper
Ms. Sheri Davie
Mr. Jon P. DeRoo
Ms. Whitney Gravelle
Mr. Timothy L. Lukenda
Ms. Cynthia Williams
Dr. David Travis, President

Seven Trustees were recorded as present, with Trustee Richard Barch recorded as absent. Present for the University were Dr. Michael Beazley, Dean of Student Affairs; Ms. Kate Bergel, Director of Human Resources, Safety and Risk; Mr. Tory Lindley, Director of Athletics; Dr. Kimberly Muller, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Fred Pierce, Dean of Enrollment and Communications; Mr. Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement; and Mr. Morrie Walworth, Interim Vice President for Finance and Operations.

II. Approval of the Agenda for August 1, 2024

Ms. Williams moved for Board approval of the agenda for August 1, 2024, as presented, supported by Ms. Davie. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval of the Minutes for May 17, 2024

Ms. Williams moved for Board approval of the minutes for May 17, 2024, as presented, supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

IV. Addresses to the Board

Herb Henderson, President of the Faculty Association (FA) introduced himself as the new President of the FA. Mr. Henderson stated he is meeting with Dr. Travis regularly and looks forward to progressing through open discussions. Faculty express concerns regarding a recent HLC report. Mr. Henderson shared support, to develop a Finance Committee and a University Senate.

V. Chair's Remarks

Mr. Lukenda welcomed new Trustee Whitney Gravelle. Mr. Lukenda expressed best wishes for the upcoming academic year.

VI. President's Remarks

Dr. Travis thanked all those in attendance for the welcome to campus. Dr. Travis expressed support for different ideas, listening and learning, and an open-door policy. In early observations, and discussions with students and parents and the community, there are some challenges facing LSSU. Some challenges include, moral-trust, attention to facilities, and the budget and enrollment. Dr. Travis believes in the shared governance approach.

Mr. Lukenda shared support for Dr. Travis's intent for a fresh start and work collaboratively.

VII. Finance Report

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with an update on the FY24 operational dashboards, FY24 fund balance summary, and FY24 budget year-end status. The GF shows revenues are expected to reach 100% of the budget. Expenses are 99.5% to date with an expected deficit of \$600K-\$700K. Due to increased fund balance deficits in Athletics, the Health Care Center, and Cisler Operations, the Auxiliary Fund (AF) is expected to end the year with a deficit of about \$1.7M. Year-end operational fund balances are down about \$2M from FY23 year-end balances. This is consistent with the budgets that were approved.

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with an update and comparative review of various financial metrics of LSSU and to demonstrate how they are used by external agencies. Mr. Walworth presented data on the history of LSSU's Composite Financial Index (CFI).

Mr. Walworth presented to the Board, a recommendation to appoint members to the Campus Housing Corporation (CHC). Per the CHC By-Laws, the Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University are to appoint three members of the University's Board of Trustees to serve as voting members of the CHC.

Mr. Lukenda stated that there are no current plans with the CHC. The University is looking at options to improve housing.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval to reappoint Tim Lukenda, appoint Kevin Cooper, and appoint Cynthia Williams as Board members to the Campus Housing Corporation, supported by Ms. Davie. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with an update on activities related to campus-wide facilities and Information Technology, including:

- Replaced several steam traps in the steam tunnels throughout the two-week annual steam plant shutdown. More work is needed and will be addressed during next year's shutdown.
- Complete onsite boiler training.
- Norris Lap Pool is open. Fixed tile and structure in/around the lap pool. The dive pool is currently closed. Staff is looking into options to reopen the dive pool.
- The sidewalk replacement project will be starting soon.
- IT continues to upgrade Access Points across campus, with residence halls mostly complete at this time.
- IT completed the network security plan and are currently drafting policies for submission to the Senior Management Team.

VIII. Academic Affairs Report

Mr. DeRoo moved for Board approval of the conferral of the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for spring 2024; supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Muller provided some highlights and major initiatives from the area of Academic Affairs and Marketing:

- LSSU Criminal Justice students successfully completed their Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Certification this summer. In addition, 100% of these graduates passed their Masters Certification exam on the first attempt.
- The Arts Center is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in the 2024-2025 season.
- Professor Ben Southwell, Dr. Derek Wright, and Dr. Thu Nguyen have received a \$1M funding renewal for wastewater evaluation, monitoring, and reporting of communicable diseases.
- LSSU has been awarded a \$65K Quick Start Grant through the Michigan MiLEAP Sixty by 30 Initiative. This program aims to fund the development of assessment processes that will generate data essential for crafting a comprehensive Sixty by 30 Student Success grant application.
- The new website redesign is heading into the final drafting phases, with an anticipated launch in early August.

- Since the last Board meeting, twenty-two grant proposals were submitted, twenty-three have been awarded and \$2.9M of grant funds have been received in FY24.
- Marketing created an online orientation video for the incoming MBA cohort, highlighting key areas the MBA students will be exposed to.

Mr. Lukenda asked for an update on the MBA and Prison Programs.

Dr. Muller stated that eighteen students have been admitted to the MBA program and fourteen have registered. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved the prison program. The U.S. Department of Education authorized Pell to be offered to pay for textbooks. The Prison Program kickoff event and convocation will be held next week.

Chris Oshelski, Executive Director of Charter Schools, provided the Board with dashboard information for Charter Schools.

Mr. Oshelski presented to the Board, an action item to change the initial contract resolution for Ascend Academy, to amend the original timeline established from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029 to July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2023. This revised timeline is due to delays in facility readiness. Ascend Academy is working with state entities to bring the facility up to code.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the resolution for Ascend Academy to amend the original timeline established, as presented; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Oshelski presented to the Board, an action item to approve Board member appointments or reappointments to public school academies.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the appointments or reappointments of the presented nominees to their respective Board of Directors for the terms listed; supported by Ms. Williams.

Advanced Technology Academy:

Marquis Scott nominated for a reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Bay City Academy:

Robert Anderson nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Concord Academy Boyne:

Jennifer White nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

iCademy:

William Johnson nominated for a reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Momentum Academy:

Carrie VanZant Rohrbach nominated for a reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

WAY Academy of Detroit:

Laura Chavez-Wazeerud-Din nominated for a reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

WAY Academy of Flint:

Stephen Murphy nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

IX. Enrollment Management Report

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update on the progress associated with enrollment management, highlighting applied, admitted, and first time in any college dashboards.

Mr. Pierce provided an update on the progress in Admissions. Since early May, LSSU visited six college fairs and nine high schools and hosted seventy prospective students, higher than the twenty-one students in 2023 during the same period. LSSU hosted sixteen group visits with 527 students compared to four groups with 159 students in 2023 for the same period. Charter School visitation continues with four group visits in May and June. Additionally, two open houses took place in May and July. Summer camps programs continue to grow including Kids Camps with an increase of 52 students compared to 40 last year, and a growing waitlist.

The fall 2024 recruitment cycle shows an increase in applications and admits. Application activity is ahead of last year by 4.8% and admits are ahead of last year by 15.6%. First Time In Any College (FTIC) data showed 4.9% ahead in applications and 17.4% ahead in admits, surpassing 2,000 admitted. Multiple student orientations took place in June, with 265 students in attendance. Additional orientations are scheduled with 332 registered to attend. Pre-College activities remain strategic. To date, 117 high school students have registered in dual enrollment courses.

Mr. Pierce provided an update on the progress in Financial Aid. FAFSA submissions are down at LSSU and much of the nation due to delays from the Department of Education. The Financial Aid team continues to provide outreach and encourage the completion of packages. Currently, 1,337 students have been packaged and 387 accepted. The Michigan Achievement Scholarship eligibility qualifications changed, allowing more students to apply. The LSSU Board of Trustees scholarships have been packaged since March. There was an 11.65% increase in students eligible for scholarships compared to the 2022-2023 recruitment cycle.

X. Human Resources Report

Ms. Bergel presented to the Board quarterly Title IX information and reports made to the Title IX office from May 7, 2024, through July 19, 2024. Since the last Board report, the Title IX Office has received zero (0) reports of alleged prohibited conduct.

Ms. Bergel provided the Board with an update on Title IX Regulations. In July 2024, the District Court for the District of Kansas granted an injunction regarding the 2024 Title IX Regulations in several states as well as for any school attended by a member or child of a member of three plaintiff organizations. The notices were filed on July 15 and LSSU appeared on the notices. Due to this development, the new regulations are no longer applicable to LSSU. The injunction could be lifted after additional litigation. LSSU will maintain the 2020 policy, procedures, and training information. The Title IX team will continue to develop a 2024-compliant policy and set of procedures if the injunction is lifted.

Ms. Bergel provided the Board with an update from the Offices of Human Resources, Safety and Risk, Public Safety, and Title IX. Ms. Bergel presented the Board with data to provide context to the current turnover at LSSU. Ms. Bergel provided a CASET update, stating electrical has been restored in the Robotics Annex and the fire systems are slated for replacement later today. The Risk team is working to finalize a new campus-wide lithium battery policy to go into place in the fall. Also in Safety & Risk, property insurance has been successfully renewed with Zurich.

XI. Athletics Report

Mr. Lindley provided the Board with an update on conference athletes of the week since the last Board meeting. Mr. Lindley provided the Board with a review of the current social media impressions data from May 1, 2024 – July 15, 2024, showing a decrease in social media impressions, expected during the off-season. Plans are in place to revise the Athletics website.

Mr. Lindley provided the Board with an annual Community Engagement and Community Service review. Between December 2023 and May 2024, 470 student-athlete participants put in just over 1200 hours of community service and engagement.

Mr. Lindley provided the Board with an overview of the incoming first-year students for LSSU athletics rosters for the 2024-25 academic year, showing sixty incoming first-year students in Division 1, Division II, and ACHA programs.

XII. Advancement Report

Mr. Smith presented, to the Board, a dashboard on year-to-date fundraising compared to the last five years. To date, just over \$1.6M towards the \$3M goal has been raised.

Mr. Smith provided an update on major gift activity, including a gift of \$25K from Marc Calcaterra, in support of the Laker Men's Basketball Locker Room renovation campaign. A gift of \$10K was received from John and Kelly Berry, in support of the Dr. Madan Saluja Endowed Scholarship.

Mr. Smith provided the Board with a summary of LSSU fundraising and Alumni Relations activities. The Laker Club achieved the highest revenue in the last five years and closed the year with \$60K in revenue. Two new Laker Club programs contributed to the year's success. The Pledge Per – pledge per goal and assist for hockey and/or pledge per rebound or 3-pointer in basketball; and the Laker Meal Sponsor Program, alumni can now sponsor a hockey team meal on the road. All sports will be included within the year. Work has begun to put together a Laker Women's Basketball and Volleyball Locker Room renovation campaign. The 35th Annual Lake State Golf Classic will take place on Friday and has sold out for the second year in a row. Great Lake State Weekend is set for October 18-19, 2024. The homecoming celebration includes Laker hockey games, Alumni Awards, and a Hall of Fame ceremony.

Mr. Smith provided the Board with an update on the State of Michigan Capital Outlay \$29M request, with plans to have more information in late fall.

XIII. Student Affairs Report

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with an update on the status of the pools in the Norris Center Natatorium since the last Board meeting. Necessary repairs have been made to the lap pool, allowing it to reopen. The dive pool needs structural repairs and is currently closed.

Dr. Beazley provided the Board with an update on Student Affairs operations and programs. Student move-in for fall 2024 begins August 21. Multiple events are scheduled to take place after move-in and into the first week of classes, including Lakerpalooza, Soo Locks Boat Tour, a trip to Tahquamenon Fall or Mackinac Island, an outdoor movie showing, and fireworks. To date, there are 516 students placed in residence halls for the fall semester, lower than in fall 2023. Counseling Service received \$1,500 from the Perkins grant to purchase assessment resources and materials.

There was no report from the Student Government.

XIV. Other Business

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the recommendation for the regular Board meeting calendar for 2024-2025 as follows:

- September 20, 2024
- November 22, 2024
- February 21, 2025
- May 16, 2025
- July 18, 2025

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

Mr. Lukenda invited the audience to attend the Investiture of Dr. Travis as the 11th President of Lake Superior State University on August 20 in the Arts Center.

XV. Adjournment

Dr. Cooper moved for adjournment at 10:35 a.m.; supported by Mr. DeRoo. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Timothy L. Lukenda
Chair

David Travis
President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary.