



Executive Summary

November 21, 2025

Finance Report Executive Summary

1. Auditor's Report

Kadra Kierczynski, CPA, MBA, and senior manager from the auditing firm Rehmann will be present (virtually) to discuss progress and findings related to the FY25 annual audit of LSSU, its component units, Information Technology, Federal Funds, and NCAA activities. The audit is still underway but is nearing completion. The Board will have an opportunity to question the auditors about their findings and to discuss any concerns that have arisen.

2. FY26 Year-to-Date Summary

Agenda Item #2 and Appendices A & B provide a snapshot of fiscal year 26 (FY26) on or around November 8th. No large "Approved Budget" vs "YTD Actual" differences were noted in the annual budget review.

The operational fund balance of \$6.4M is lower than desired for this time of year, however the realization of the \$2.5M from the LSSU Endowments has not yet occurred.

The cash balance of \$10.2M is about \$4.6M less than the historical 10 year average.

3. Infrastructure Improvement Plans

Currently proposed projects totaling about \$1.7M are presented for information/discussion. These would be funded from the \$3.25M loan. This list was requested by the Board at the last meeting. Additional information will be presented as more projects are finalized.

4. Crawford Hall Chiller Purchase Proposal (Action Item)

During the last winter, the chiller for Crawford Hall failed. LSSU seeks to replace the chiller before the next summer. The lead time for construction is about 14 weeks. A proposal for replacement is provided in Appendix C.

Suggested Actions/Motions:

The President recommends that the Board approve the purchase of the chiller, associated equipment, and the use of JCI as the vendor overseeing the project.

The President recommends the Board authorize the President and/or CFO to execute all necessary documents related to the project described under this agenda item.

Academic Affairs Report Executive Summary

1. **Academic Affairs Dashboard:** The informational dashboard has been updated.
2. **Academic Affairs Update:**
 - a) LSSU was awarded a College Success grant award from MiLEAP office as part of the state Sixty by 30 initiative in the amount of \$505,000.
3. **Charter Schools Report:**
 - a) Dashboards are included for ongoing Charter School activities and highlights
 - b) **Appointments (Action Item):** Board member appointments or reappointments for the Board of Directors of the LSSU public school academies are proposed.
 - c) **Issuance of Charter Contract (Action Item):** The issuance of a charter contract and the initial appointment of a Board of Directors for The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw, enabling it to operate as a Public School Academy.

Enrollment Management & Student Success Report Executive Summary

1. **Recruitment, Admissions & Marketing:** The recruiting team completed over 130 recruitment events across the region, maintaining steady application levels in territories supported by full-time recruiters and showing notable growth in Illinois. Pre-College partnerships continue to expand, with 198 high school students enrolled in LSSU courses this fall. The admit-to-application ratio has improved to 65%, up from 56% last year, reflecting stronger applicant quality and processing efficiency.

University Marketing continues to modernize the university's visual and digital presence, completing 70+ graphic projects and 25+ photography/videography requests this semester. Significant website updates include replacing remaining stock imagery and refreshing scholarship and financial aid pages. The team also collaborated with deans and faculty to develop new messaging for upcoming recruitment campaigns, and early advertising results for the MBA and Engineering programs show promising engagement.
2. **Financial Aid & Scholarships:** The Financial Aid Office successfully completed the State of Michigan Program Review, ensuring compliance with new verification and transcript requirements. The team also finalized and submitted FVT/GE federal reporting, a complex cross-campus effort. Spring 2026 awarding is underway, and the 2026–27 awarding cycle will launch by early December. The division's work with a consultant to implement the new scholarship model will support future awarding accuracy and communication.

3. **Student Affairs:** Student engagement remains strong across campus, with more than 1,000 students participating in Residence Life programs and 100+ attendees at large-scale events such as Yooper Fest and the Laker Hockey Game Watch Party. The Laker Success program received renewed state funding and continues to connect first-generation and at-risk students to academic and personal support. Staff across Student Affairs engaged in national and regional professional development, bringing back best practices in behavioral intervention, housing, and student engagement.
4. **Counseling Services:** Counseling Services provided 112 appointments to 45 students between September and early November while expanding proactive wellness outreach. Key initiatives included a QPR Suicide Prevention certification for senior nursing students and a Test Anxiety Workshop in collaboration with Academic Success. The department also secured a SAMHSA grant to host a substance misuse awareness campaign and is preparing to launch the Green Bandana Project to promote peer-led mental health awareness.
5. **Health Care Center:** The Health Care Center remains an essential and heavily utilized resource for the campus and surrounding community. Demand continues to be high, with a steady flow of students, faculty, staff, and local residents seeking medical care and preventative services. The clinic's consistent volume reflects both its accessibility and the community's reliance on timely, high-quality health support. As usage remains strong, the Health Care Center continues to play a critical role in promoting well-being, reducing barriers to care, and supporting student success.

Human Resources Report Executive Summary

1. **Title IX Quarterly Report:** A regular Title IX report is shared with the Board of Trustees. Two new reports were opened and closed with no formal complaints being filed. There are no open reports and no reports that involve an LSSU employee.
2. **Public Safety Update:** The LSSU Public Safety Department welcomed a new Staff Officer on October 21, 2025.
3. **Safety and Risk Updates:** Risk Management initiatives include updates to the University Emergency Management Plan, closed out the insurance claim related to the CASET fire, and hosted a series of presentations on campus on loss control held in November. Topics covered were: Fleet Risk, Labs and Shops, Animals on Campus.
4. **ESP Contract Proposal (Action Item):** The University and the Education Support Professionals (ESP) completed negotiating the renewal of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The 2025-2028 CBA was ratified by the ESP on November 7 and is presented to the Board of Trustees for approval today. Annual Benefits Open Enrollment is in process.

Information Technology Report Executive Summary

Verbal report only, given the recent cyber security incident on campus.

Athletics Report Executive Summary

The report provides an update on the achievements and activities of the athletics department from October 03, 2025, to November 06, 2025. Key highlights include:

1. **Equity in Disclosures Act (EADA) Report:** LSSU submitted its 2025 Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA) Report to the Office of Postsecondary Education on October 14, 2025, reaffirming the University's commitment to equitable athletic opportunities and compliance with federal reporting standards. The report details participation, financial aid, and operating expenses across ten varsity sports, reflecting 171 unduplicated student-athletes (95 men and 76 women) and total athletic aid of \$2.08 million, distributed 57% to men's teams and 43% to women's teams. Total athletic expenses for the reporting year were \$6.41 million, including \$3.58 million in direct team operations and \$1.16 million in shared expenses. Overall, the 2025 EADA results demonstrate LSSU's continued dedication to gender equity, transparency, and the holistic development of student-athletes in alignment with institutional priorities.
2. **NCAA Division Academic Progress Rate (APR):** LSSU Athletics is proud to report outstanding academic results for its Division I Men's Ice Hockey program in the 2024–25 NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) Report, submitted on October 8, 2024. The Lakers earned a **perfect single-year APR score of 1000** and a remarkable multi-year rate of 991. This is well above the NCAA benchmark of 930. These exceptional results reflect the unwavering commitment of our student-athletes, coaches, faculty and academic support staff to excellence. LSSU's performance underscores a culture of accountability, persistence, retention and pride that continues to define Laker Hockey, and this exemplary achievement.
3. **Norris Center Usage:** The Norris Center remains a cornerstone of student and community engagement, averaging **804 weekly check-ins** across diverse user groups and activities from September through October 2025. The Arbuckle Center hosted a variety of student, athletic, and community events, while the Aquatics Center averaged 25 daily users before closing temporarily for ceiling repairs. Despite this closure, the facility generated **\$16,667 in revenue**, including a 9% increase in October memberships compared to last year—reflecting strong and growing campus and community participation.
4. **Department Accomplishments Overview:** Since September 19, 2025, LSSU Men's Ice Hockey has earned multiple CCHA weekly honors, underscoring the team's strong start to the season and individual excellence on the ice. **Calem Mangone** was named *CCHA Rookie of the Week* (Oct. 6) after leading all NCAA Division I rookies in goals during opening weekend, while **Adam Barone** earned *CCHA Defenseman of the Week* (Oct. 13) for his standout two-way performance in the home opener. Most recently, **William Ahlrik** was recognized as *CCHA Forward of the Week* (Nov. 3) after leading all NCAA Division I scorers with five points against St. Lawrence and Clarkson. These honors reflect both the program's competitive momentum and the individual talent within the Laker Hockey roster.
5. **Social Media Impressions:** LSSU Athletics experienced a substantial surge in social media engagement across all platforms. Across all platforms, Athletics experienced

more than a **500% increase** in impressions, compared to last year at this time. This trend reinforces the importance of continued investment in social media strategy as a key tool for fan engagement, recruitment visibility, and brand elevation across our athletic programs.

Advancement Report Executive Summary

1. **Fundraising:** FY25-26, through 11/9/25 in Q2 - \$2,657,098. Already surpassing the five-year average of \$2,590,729.
2. **Major Gifts and Grants:** Major gifts include an anonymous \$200,000 gift in support of three campus & community signs located on campus, in the Soo, and a digital sign near the International Bridge U.S. point of entry visible to all 1.5M vehicles passing through annually.
3. **Annual Fundraising & Alumni Relations Update:** A comprehensive review of GLSW and a calendar of upcoming events.
4. **Legislative Affairs update:** The state budget has passed. FY26-27 budget planning is underway. President Travis continues to communicate with our State elected officials regarding the budget.