

**Lake Superior State University
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
Walker Cisler Student Center
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
February 13, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026, in the Walker Cisler Student 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 13, 2026. 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

Ms. Cynthia Williams, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Chair Williams asked Ms. Lauren Pierce, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members responded, "present":

Ms. Patricia Caruso
Dr. Kevin Cooper
Ms. Sheri Davie
Mr. Michael Day
Mr. Jon DeRoo
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki
Ms. Cynthia Williams
Dr. David Travis, President

Seven Trustees were recorded as present, with Trustee Day joining virtually. Trustee Whitney Gravelle was recorded as absent. Present for the University were Riley Adams, Student Government President; Dr. Philip Espinosa, Associate Vice President of Human Resources & Chief Human Resources Officer; Herb Henderson, Faculty Association President; Julie Hober, Chief Information Officer; Tory Lindley, Director of Athletics; Christina Messer, Education Support Professionals representative; Dr. Kimberly Muller, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement, Legislative, & Alumni Affairs; and Morrie Walworth, Vice President for Finance and Operations.

II. Approval of the Agenda for February 13, 2026

Ms. Davie moved for Board approval to table agenda item 2. English Proficiency Standards for International Undergraduate Admissions under XII. Enrollment

Management & Student Success Report of the agenda for February 13, 2026, supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval of the Minutes for November 21, 2025

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval of the minutes for November 21, 2025, as presented, supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

IV. Addresses to the Board

None

V. Chair's Remarks

Ms. Williams expressed condolences for the passing of retired LSSU Professor Tom Kelly.

Ms. Williams asked Trustee Caruso for an update from the Finance and Investment Committee.

Ms. Caruso stated that the committee serves to provide oversight for the University and to provide updates and recommendations to the Board. The committee has met with financial advisors and helped prepare two investment policies for Board review and approval.

Ms. Williams shared a letter on behalf of former LSSU Trustee Tom Bailey, regarding his consideration as a recipient of an LSSU honorary degree. To be awarded at the 2026 commencement ceremony.

VI. President's Remarks

Dr. Travis shared updates regarding campus improvements and plans to have the University look very different a year from now. Dr. Travis announced that Morrie Walworth has moved into the position of Chief Projects Officer, and Interim CFO Richard Maestas will be working temporarily to assist until the new VP of Finance and Operations arrives.

VII. Faculty Association Report

Faculty Association (FA) President, Herb Henderson, recognized efforts from faculty in assisting with Charter School events/activities over various weekends.

Mr. Henderson stated that a formal grievance has been submitted regarding issues with health care benefits as it relates to the current faculty contract. Mr. Henderson acknowledged Dr. Espinosa for working on solving the issues, while some items remain unresolved.

VIII. Education Support Professionals Report

Education Support Professionals (ESP) Vice President, Christina Messer, stated that the Infrastructure Improvement Plan is encouraging. Ms. Messer stated that the 9.1% ESP pay increase may not reflect changes in total compensation, as benefit changes may result in a decrease in net take-home pay for some employees.

IX. Student Government Report

Student Government President, Riley Adams, provided the board with updates regarding the Student Government governing structure, including a rewrite of their bylaws.

X. Academic Affairs Report

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the conferral of the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for fall 2025 and winter 2025-2026 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements, supported by Ms. Davie. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. DeRoo moved for Board approval of tenure and/or promotion to Dr. Chad Barbour, promotion to Professor; Dr. Paul Bartus, promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure; Prof. Koral Brady, promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure; Dr. Jennifer Gorman, promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure; and Dr. Eric Statt, promotion to Professor; supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the presented course and program fee changes for the 2026-2027 academic year, supported by Dr. Scornaiencki. The results of the roll call vote were:

Ms. Patricia Caruso	"Yes"
Dr. Kevin Cooper	"Yes"
Ms. Sheri Davie	"Yes"
Mr. Michael Day	"Yes"
Mr. Jon DeRoo	"Yes"
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki	"Yes"
Ms. Cynthia Williams	"Yes"

The motion carried with seven affirmative votes.

Dr. Muller presented to the Board a request for approval to delete the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Secondary Teaching program; due to no student enrollment in the program, and due to it no longer being authorized by the Michigan Department of Education.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval of the deletion of the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Secondary Teaching program, supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Muller provided the Board with various department highlights, including The School of Computer Science and Mathematics proposed significant changes to the mathematics curriculum, shifting the institution from a traditional developmental mathematics sequence to a corequisite mathematics model. The Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETAL) held its Spring Professional Development Day with Dr. Jared Tippetts as the plenary speaker. Dr. Tippetts offered strategies for advancing student retention and increasing student success. A monitoring report was submitted to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) addressing enrollment, financial sustainability, and transparency.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval to confer an honorary doctorate degree to Thomas C. Bailey, supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Chris Oshelski, Executive Director of Charter Schools Office, presented to the Board for approval of the appointments or reappointments of Board of Directors and two action items for the Board to approve the Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw contract authorization and initial Board of Directors

Ms. Davie 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 Dr. Cooper.

Ascend Academy:

Cynthia Fadel nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Concord Academy Boyne:

Cassandra Johnson nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Thomas Trahain nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Innocademy Allegan:

Erin Wyma nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Ridge Park Charter Academy:

Matthew Robles nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Chelvana Covington nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the Regent Park Scholars Charter Academy charter contract, effective July 1, 2026, through June

30, 2031; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Davie moved for Board approval of the reauthorization of the Detroit Service Learning Academy charter contract, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

XI. Finance Report

Mr. Walworth provided the Board with a FY26 year-to-date summary.

Trustee DeRoo stepped out of the meeting at 9:27 am.

Mr. Walworth, on behalf of the Finance and Development Committee, presented to the Board for approval of an Investment Policy and Investment Spending Policy for the LSSU Endowment portfolio. The LSSU Foundation had an Investment Policy for the LSSU Foundation Endowment portfolio. With the dissolution of the Foundation, the LSSU Board of Trustees now has oversight of both portfolios. This requires new policies to be drafted and approved by the Board.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval of the proposed Investment Policy and Investment Spending Policy as presented, supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with a voice vote. Trustee DeRoo was absent for the vote.

Mr. Walworth presented to the Board for approval of tuition and fee rate increases for FY27. LSSU is proposing a 4.0% increase for tuition and an increase of \$40 per year for the Student Wellness Fee. Using the State metrics currently in place, these changes would result in a \$640 increase for FY27, under the cap of \$651 currently in place for FY27.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the proposed tuition and fee rate increases as presented. However, if the State sets a tuition and fee cap lower than \$640, the Board approves LSSU's adjustment of the tuition and fees rate to a level that meets the cap requirement, supported by Ms. Davie. The results of the roll call vote were:

Ms. Patricia Caruso	"Yes"
Dr. Kevin Cooper	"Yes"
Ms. Sheri Davie	"Yes"
Mr. Michael Day	"Yes"
Mr. Jon DeRoo	Absent – stepped out of the meeting
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki	"Yes"
Ms. Cynthia Williams	"Yes"

The motion carried with six affirmative votes.

Mr. Walworth presented to the Board for approval of the Ice Arena Engineering Proposal. The Clarence "Taffy" Abel Ice Arena is a 4,000-seat hockey complex and is part of the Norris Center student athletic complex. The arena itself dates

back to 1976; it was renovated and remodeled to its current larger form in the summer of 1995. This proposal is coming forward at this time due to identified operational issues, including: Ice Cooling System Obsolescence, General HVAC and Dehumidification System Obsolescence, Deteriorating Roof Conditions, and an inability to secure appropriately certified, long-term maintenance/repair providers.

This \$300,000 contract with I.B. Storey would result in a final design and build bid package outlining the needed upgrades and replacements of most components of the ice Arena's key operating systems.

Trustee DeRoo returned to the meeting at 9:40 am.

LSSU and I.B. Storey will work to develop plans that meet the needs of LSSU well into the future, while continuing to secure external funding to support this initiative. Donors have already been identified that will offer significant support for this project. Once a better cost estimate has been developed, LSSU will return to the Board to provide architectural renderings, engineering plans, cost estimates, as well as a proposed timeline.

Dr. Scornaiencki moved for Board approval to engage I.B. Storey to perform the engineering study, provided by I.B. Storey, and dated January 16, 2026. The Board authorizes the President to sign the Terms of Agreement on behalf of the Board, supported by Ms. Caruso. The results of the roll call vote were:

Ms. Patricia Caruso	"Yes"
Dr. Kevin Cooper	"Yes"
Ms. Sheri Davie	"Yes"
Mr. Michael Day	"Yes"
Mr. Jon DeRoo	"Yes"
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki	"Yes"
Ms. Cynthia Williams	"Yes"

The motion carried with seven affirmative votes.

XII. Enrollment Management & Student Success Report

Dr. Zamjahn provided the Board with updates in Admissions and Marketing. As of February 3, 2026, Fall 2026 undergraduate admits total 1,288, down from 1,640 the prior year. This decline is driven by a 12.4% decline in applications, particularly among First-Time in Any College students, underscoring the urgency of focused yield strategies in the months ahead. Recruitment efforts remained strong into spring, with notable momentum in key territories and expanded Canadian outreach. Early results from Spring Showcase events, increased counselor visits, and new travel assignments are already supporting Fall 2026 application flow. The University Marketing team continues to modernize and unify the LSSU brand, completing over 150 projects this academic year. Highlights include new MBA, Fisheries & Wildlife, and Robotics program materials; refreshed Orientation and Housing content; and widespread updates to admissions and scholarship web pages. The team has also supported increased

visibility for LSSU athletics, academic programs, and student life through integrated campaigns and event coverage

Dr. Zamjahn provided the Board with updates on Financial Aid and scholarships. The Financial Aid Office has focused on spring aid processing and supporting enrolled students, while also preparing for the upcoming scholarship cycle. The team has reviewed over a dozen appeals for students who lost eligibility, approving most within policy to support student persistence. In partnership with an external consultant, the office is accelerating scholarship packaging and award letters for new students, targeting a February 13 launch for the updated aid offers.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the Housing Base Rate for the 2026-2027 fiscal year at \$6,000. This represents a 7.08 percent increase from the current Housing Base Rate. No Food Base Rate is being presented at this time and will be brought forward separately following completion of the dining services RFP process. Supported by Ms. Caruso. The results of the roll call vote were:

Ms. Patricia Caruso	“Yes”
Dr. Kevin Cooper	“Yes”
Ms. Sheri Davie	“Yes”
Mr. Michael Day	“Yes”
Mr. Jon DeRoo	“Yes”
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki	“Yes”
Ms. Cynthia Williams	“Yes”

The motion carried with seven affirmative votes.

Dr. Zamjahn provided the Board with updates in Student Affairs. LSSU’s inaugural CARE Team has launched successfully, holding weekly case review meetings and utilizing the NABITA Risk Rubric to assess and support students. In its first semester, the CARE Team received 25 referrals, with 80% of referred students engaging in support meetings. In parallel, Student Conduct implemented new tracking systems, emphasizing education and restorative responses. Student Life increased program offerings by 12.7% and engaged 693 unique students, 3,500 times. The Laker Success Program received over \$100,000 in state grant funding and served students through peer mentoring, five high-impact events, and nearly 400 total engagements.

Dr. Zamjahn provided the Board with updates in Counseling Services. Counseling Services conducted 185 appointments with 60 unique clients between September and January. Wellness education remained a focus, with QPR Suicide Prevention training provided to student-athletes, nursing students, and Athletics staff. Workshops on grief, test anxiety, and emotional wellness further expanded proactive outreach. A \$750 SAMHSA grant supported substance misuse education through a Winter Wellness Wonderland event, and efforts to launch the Green Bandana Project, a peer-driven mental health campaign, are underway.

XIII. Human Resources Report

Dr. Espinosa provided the Board with a Title IX update. Zero reports were filed and there are no open reports or reports that involve an LSSU employee.

The LSSU Public Safety Department welcomed two new Staff Officers. There are currently two open positions in the department.

Planning has started for our annual property/casualty insurance renewals for policies ending July 1, 2026. An RFI is being conducted as part of a broker relationship review.

The HR office has two open positions. A payroll coordinator due to a resignation, and an HR manager due to adjustments to duties and responsibilities. Last year, focused on updates to employee medical plans with a focus on cost avoidance. Additionally, LSSU changed brokers and joined the Western Michigan Health Insurance Pool (The Pool), a member-owned collective. This change allowed LSSU to avoid a 25.6% rate increase from the prior broker (approximately 10% with The Pool), saving employees and the University a sizable cost increase. LSSU is looking at other plans to identify service and offering improvements.

The Health Care Center reports to the CHRO on an interim basis and is currently undergoing an operational review regarding revenue, costs, and operational efficiencies.

Dr. Scornaiencki moved for Board approval of the resolutions for Marc Boucher (AP) and Paula Peltier (ESP) as 2025 Employee of the Year recipients, supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

XIV. Information Technology

Ms. Hober provided the Board with updates in the IT Department, Cybersecurity and Risk Management, and Website Improvements. Over the past several months, the IT department concentrated on restoring and modernizing core systems while maintaining uninterrupted academic and administrative operations.

Cybersecurity remains a top priority. Major efforts include: SOC Activation: LSSU is fully integrated with Merit's 24/7 Security Operations Center. Advanced endpoint protection tools have successfully identified and contained suspicious activity before broader network impact. Threat Prevention & Access Controls. Network access rules, permissions, and authentication practices were reviewed and strengthened across core systems. Regional Cyber Collaboration: LSSU hosted the quarterly Eastern Upper Peninsula Information Security Advisory Council (EUPISAC) meeting in the Crow's Nest, with attendance from Cloverland Electric, the EUP Intermediate School District, Chippewa County, and Merit SOC leadership.

Website initiatives continue to focus on modernization, performance optimization, and recruitment-focused enhancements that strengthen the University's digital presence and user experience. Major Updates: WordPress and the supporting

database were upgraded to improve security and platform stability. Ongoing Improvements: Content restructuring and departmental navigation simplification remain underway to improve accuracy, reduce clutter, and create a more intuitive user flow. Search engine optimization initiatives continue to enhance program visibility and discoverability through organic search. Visibility enhancements are planned to further modernize the site experience.

XV. Athletics Report

Mr. Lindley provided the Board with achievements, activities, and key highlights within the athletics department since the last Board meeting.

LSSU student-athletes across multiple sports earned significant conference, national, and international recognition during this reporting period. Highlights include multiple GLIAC Players of the Week in swimming, men's and women's basketball, and volleyball; CCHA weekly honors and national recognition for Men's Ice Hockey; and the selection of former Lakers Louis Boudon (France) and Lukas Kaelble (Germany) to their respective 2026 Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Teams. Additionally, nine ACHA Division I Women's Hockey student-athletes were named Academic All-Americans, reinforcing the department's commitment to excellence both in competition and in the classroom

LSSU Athletics continues to experience strong growth in digital engagement. From November 7, 2025, through January 16, 2026, combined Athletics social media accounts generated nearly 4 million impressions, representing a 61.7% increase over the same period last year. Men's Ice Hockey accounts led this growth with a 138.8% increase, driven by in-season success, alumni Olympic announcements, and major events such as the Kwik Trip Holiday Faceoff and the Superior Ice Showdown. Instagram and Facebook remain primary drivers of engagement, reinforcing the value of continued strategic investment in digital communications.

The Athletics Department strengthened its external partnerships during the first three months of collaboration with Taymar Sales U, adding several new corporate sponsors while maintaining a strong base of returning partners. These relationships support the long-term sustainability of Athletics programs, enhance community connections, and expand the department's revenue-generating capacity.

The Norris Center, including the Arbuckle Student Activity Center continues to serve as a vital hub for students, Athletics, and the broader community. From November 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026, the Arbuckle Center averaged 987 weekly check-ins and hosted a wide range of community groups, athletic practices, and special events. Facility usage generated \$15,433 in revenue during this period, reflecting both strong demand and the Center's role as a key campus and regional asset

XVI. Advancement Report

Mr. Smith presented, to the Board, a dashboard on year-to-date fundraising compared to the last five years.

FY25-26, through /21/26 in Q3 - \$7,571,134. Three weeks into Q3, LSSU has surpassed the most ever raised annually of \$3.6M. Forecasting over \$10M raised for FY25-26.

Richard and Theresa Barch made a gift of \$3M in support of the Barch Center for Fresh Water Research and Education, creating the first named directorship at LSSU. Their support will strengthen the Center's research, education, and outreach initiatives, ensuring a lasting impact on freshwater science and student learning.

The Laker Hockey Challenge celebrates the Laker Hockey 60th Anniversary and to build on the momentum of the anonymous hockey donor. LSSU launched a \$1.5M challenge to run until Dec 31, 2026. Over \$1.2M had been committed prior to the public launch.

In legislative affairs, Dr. Travis submitted a \$1M LDSI proposal through Senator Damoose and Rep Fairbairn. The proposal addresses infrastructure needs for utility upgrades and IT security.

XVII. Other Business

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval to amend the by-law to add language that allows remote meeting participation and quorum requirements. The new language will read: Article II, Section 2.00: Quorum and Voting Procedures, 2.01: Quorum: A quorum for any meeting shall be a majority of Trustees appointed and serving, and present physically or by interactive video or telephone. Supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

XVIII. Adjournment

Dr. Cooper moved for adjournment at 10:39 a.m.; supported by Ms. Davie. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Cynthia Williams
Chair

David Travis
President