Lake Superior State University
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
Walker Cisler Student Center
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
May 15, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 15, 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 May 15, 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
Dr. Peter Scornaienckі
Ms. Cynthia Williams
Dr. David Travis, President

Five Trustees were recorded as present, with Trustee Davie joining virtually. Trustee Jon DeRoo joined in person after roll call, at 8:37 a.m. Trustees Michael Day and Whitney Gravelle were recorded as absent. Present for the University were Dr. Philip Espinosa, Associate Vice President of Human Resources & Chief Human Resources Officer; Herb Henderson, Faculty Association President; Julie Hober, Chief Information Officer; Marcus Izzard, Education Support Professionals President; Trevor Liddle, Vice President for Finance and Operations; Tory Lindley, Director of Athletics; Dr. Kimberly Muller, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement, Legislative, & Alumni Affairs.

II. Approval of the Agenda for May 15, 2026

Dr. Scornaiencki moved for Board approval of the agenda for May 15, 2026, supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval of the Minutes for February 13, 2026

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval of the minutes for February 13, 2026, as presented, supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

IV. Approval of the Special Minutes for April 17, 2026

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the special minutes for April 17, 2026, as presented, supported by Dr. Scornaiencki. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

V. Addresses to the Board

None

VI. Chair's Remarks

Ms. Williams reflected on the recent commencement ceremony and thanked faculty and staff for their role in supporting those students.

Trustee DeRoo joined the meeting in person at 8:37 a.m.

VII. President's Remarks

Dr. Travis thanked the grounds and custodial staff for their preparations for the commencement ceremony. He reminded the audience that campus beautification week was taking place May 26-29.

Dr. Travis provided updates and highlights on many campus projects and activities, including the upcoming docuseries set to begin filming at the end of May. In addition, Dr. Travis showcased a new transportation service to the community

Dr. Travis introduced the new Vice President of Finance and Operations, Trevor Liddle, and thanked Morrie Walworth for his work at LSSU and for his continued work on campus projects over the summer months.

Dr. Travis addressed comments and concerns regarding the LSSU Health Care Center, stating that no decisions have been made to close the center. LSSU is looking at better options, including a Student Wellness Center.

Dr. Travis presented plans that are in development with multiple partners to provide transportation services using the LSSU bus and provide a source of revenue.

VIII. Faculty Association Report

Faculty Association (FA) President, Herb Henderson, recognized efforts from faculty in supporting students both on and off campus. Mr. Henderson praised the faculty for their roles in facilitating several end-of-year events. Mr. Henderson stated that the FA continues to work on concerns associated with benefits and continues a positive working relationship with the Provost.

Mr. Henderson stated he elected not to run for another term as President. Dr. Chris Smith has been elected as the next President.

IX. Education Support Professionals Report

Education Support Professionals (ESP) President, Marcus Izzard, stated he did not have any updates to share. Mr. Izzard noted a profound change in attitude on campus, observing more positivity and forward movement on campus.

X. Student Government Report

No Student Government representative in attendance to give a report.

XI. Finance Report

Ms. Caruso moved that the Board approve Trevor Liddle, Vice President of Finance and Operations, as the Treasurer to the LSSU Board of Trustees, and appoint Mr. Liddle as an authorized signer at Lake Superior State University financial institutions; supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Liddle provided the Board with an updated FY26 year-to-date summary. The Auxiliary Fund (AF) is expecting a greater loss than originally budgeted. Mr. Liddle will be working with departments to address issues. Cash balances remain healthy.

Mr. Liddle provided the Board with the results of the Higher Learning Commission findings on institutional financial health. The University's current financial rating from the HLC is 3.95. A score of 3.0 is the generally accepted benchmark for healthy institutional financial status.

Mr. Liddle provided the Board with an update on the status of the endowment and investment performance. The LSSU endowment has outpaced both the Average and Median College & University Fiscal Year Returns in seven out of the last eight fiscal years.

Mr. Liddle informed the Board of progress on the annual Single Audit, performed by accounting firm Rehman Robson, LLC. The firm noted ten process deficiencies that required management responses. All responses are in process and on target for completion in FY26 as indicated to the auditors.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the write-off of the recommended uncollectable accounts in the amount of $66,619.82, supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Liddle presented to the Board for approval to allow the University to enter into a $2M line-of-credit agreement with Central Savings Bank to complete various needed deferred maintenance. Some projects include roof replacement/repair for Crawford, the Library, Considine, portions of housing units, sidewalk and parking lot repairs, and repairs to the pool/facility.

Mr. Liddle stated that LSSU has a very healthy debt position with a debt to revenue ratio of .8.

Dr. Travis stated that donations would be used to pay for the loan.

Ms. Williams expressed enthusiasm to see the campus improvements and momentum to move forward.

Dr. Cooper moved that the Board approve the line of credit agreement in the amount of $2,000,000.00 and authorize the Chief Financial Officer to execute all of the required financial and contracting documents, including final scopes of work, on behalf of the Board for this deferred maintenance physical plan project; 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. Jon DeRoo	"Yes"
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki	"Yes"
Ms. Cynthia Williams	"Yes"

The motion carried with six affirmative votes.

XII. **Academic Affairs Report**

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval to reduce the minimum credit hours required to complete an associate's degree to 60 and a bachelor's degree to 120, supported by Dr. Scornaiencki. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval to award emeritus faculty status to Dr. Alexei Iretski, as presented (Appendix A), supported by Dr. Scornaienski. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Muller provided the Board with updates in Academic Affairs, including preparing for the Assurance Argument in advance of the fall comprehensive visit by HLC, the upcoming 40th Atlantic Salmon Release in early June at the fish hatchery, showcasing the campus wide senior research symposium on April 24 with 114 students presenting 83 capstone projects, and the restructuring of Academic Affairs into three colleges, effective July 1. Dr. Kathy Berchem will assume the role of Associate Vice President for Assessment and Accreditation in the Provost's Office.

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 an action item to approve the Way Academy relocation of second site.

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 Dr. Scornaienckі.

American International Academy:
Peter Rome nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Natalie Evans nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Ascend Academy:
Patricia Oldham nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Barbara Russell nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Cheryl Peters* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Advanced Technology Academy:
Kenneth Williams nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Bay City Academy:
Lynne Vlk nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Amy Leel nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Charlton Heston Academy:
Veronica Bridson nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Hollie Morse nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Concord Academy Petoskey:
Brittney Grzesiak nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Shawna Messing nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Detour Arts and Technology Academy:
Misty Barbeaux nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Darci Newell nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Detroit Service Learning Academy
Idowu Jegede nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Airlene Gross nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Allen Richardson nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Grand Traverse Academy:
Rebekah deVries nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

iCademy:
Audra Thompkins nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Innocademy:
Nick deVries nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Megan Scheerhorn* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Innocademy Allegan:
Leanne Geisterfer nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Macomb Montessori Academy
Jennifer Johnson nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Shana Giles nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

John Marks III nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Regent ParkScholars Charter Academy:
Jillian Stelma nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

WAY Academy Flint:
Venetta Tucker nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Sanford Edwards nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the relocation site from 19321 W. Chicago, Detroit, MI to 9600 Leverne, Redford, MI for Way Academy; supported by Dr. Scornaiencki. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

XIII. Enrollment Management & Student Success Report

Dr. Zamjahn provided the Board with updates in recruitment, admissions, and marketing. Significant progress has been made in strengthening the recruiting team with the hiring of Cory Walters for Southwest Michigan, who has already logged the highest number of high school visits across all territories. Momentum in outreach continues to build, with the team completing 81 high school visits, 38 fairs, and over 2,000 student touchpoints since the last update. The current focus is on converting admitted students into enrolled students, prioritizing orientation and housing registrations. Laker Decision Day was a success, yielding immediate conversions. The University Marketing team continues to see positive growth across social media platforms, particularly on Instagram and TikTok, and has successfully implemented new online request forms and targeted PR outreach campaigns. A new AI agent is in development and is anticipated to be launched soon.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval to update the admissions policy, tying changes in international placement scores to national equivalences, with the Registrar serving as the final decision maker, supported by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Zamjahn provided the Board with updates on Financial Aid and scholarships. The Financial Aid Office has prioritized essential functions to maintain student service, successfully processing summer financial aid for approximately 150 students. Recruitment to fill open positions is actively underway, with one candidate having accepted an offer and another decision pending. The office is also actively managing the scholarship cycle: departmental and non-departmental scholarship awarding is currently in progress, and new student scholarship applications remain open through May 17.

Dr. Zamjahn presented to the Board for approval of the new dining services provider and to establish the base food rate for fiscal year 2027. Lake Superior State University recently conducted a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) process for enhanced dining services. Three qualified vendors participated in the RFP for full-service campus dining operations. After completing the review process, the selection committee recommended Elior Collegiate Dining to provide campus dining services.

Dr. Scornaiencki moved for Board approval to negotiate and sign the final contract with Elior Collegiate Dining as its next dining services vendor. Board requested amendments that include a) ensuring student organizations and small group gatherings within the Cisler Student Center are excluded from utilizing Elrio-only food options for events under a budget cap of $500, and b) a meal plan opt-out option for students living in one or more residence areas with full service kitchens. If negotiations are successful, the Board authorizes the President, or the President's designee, to execute the final dining services contract on behalf of the University. The Board also approves a base dining rate not to exceed $7,100 for the 2026-2027 academic year. Supported by Dr. Cooper.

Dr. Travis thanked Sodexo for their service at LSSU over the past several decades.

Dr. Cooper asked if Elior would provide any donations to LSSU.

Dr. Zamjahn stated that Elior would offer $40K in donations to provide events for faculty, staff, and students. In addition to refreshing the dining facilities.

Mr. DeRoo shared thanks for bringing this initiative to the Board for approval and for adding the requested amendments.

The results of the roll call vote were:

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

The motion carried with six affirmative votes.

Dr. Zamjahn provided the Board with updates in Student Affairs. Student engagement saw significant growth, with the four areas under Student Affairs hosting 215 tracked events this year and total tracked attendance reaching 7,751. Spring 2026 was the strongest semester in recent memory, with tracked attendance growing 87% over Spring 2025. The 2026-2027 housing application cycle is tracking strong, with 409 total applications received and 228 Fall 2026 room reservations currently secured, reflecting sustained demand for on-campus living. Student housing continues to receive renovations, including bathroom renovations in Brady scheduled for the upcoming summer.

Dr. Zamjahn provided the Board with updates in Counseling Services. Counseling Services supported 99 unique clients, representing an 11.24% increase in utilization from the previous academic year. The implementation of a standardized national best practice triage model allowed the office to serve more students efficiently without placing any students on a waitlist. Campus wellness activities remained a priority, with Counseling Services facilitating evidence-based screenings, behavioral health discussions, grief workshops, and harm reduction education at various campus events throughout the spring semester.

XIV. 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.

Processing of annual property/casualty insurance renewals has started for policies ending July 1, 2026. Following an RFI process, LSSU changed brokers for property and cyber coverage from Gallagher Risk Management Services to Cottingham & Butler (C&B). A campus safety audit is planned for this summer with Safety Management Services Company, a division of C&B.

The HR office welcomed two (2) new staff members. Anita Ficke, Payroll Coordinator, and Alexandria Loughran, HR Generalist. A payroll and workflow review and update is currently underway, with efforts to reduce paper and move to digital processing.

XV. Information Technology

Ms. Hober provided the Board with updates in the IT Department. IT partnered with campus departments to streamline Financial Aid processes, improve reporting accuracy, and support Institutional Research in completing a significant federal IPEDS reporting requirement under tight timelines. Enhanced monitoring processes are improving visibility and enabling faster identification and response to potential risks. A recent event identified by the LSSU network team was quickly analyzed with Merit SOC, resulting in proactive containment before impact. LSSU continues active participation in EUPISAC, strengthening regional coordination and shared threat awareness. As part of this partnership, LSSU will host a FEMA-supported cybersecurity training in July, reinforcing its commitment to supporting cybersecurity preparedness across the region.

XVI. 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 continued to earn significant conference and program-level recognition across multiple sports. Highlights include the University’s first NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving Championships qualifier, All-GLIAC honors and record-setting performances in basketball and track and field, and multiple CCHA weekly and monthly awards in men’s ice hockey. These achievements reflect continued competitive progress and the emergence of LSSU student-athletes on both conference and national stages.

LSSU Athletics maintained strong digital momentum, generating more than 3.5 million social media impressions during the reporting period, a 45% increase over the prior year. Growth was driven primarily by Men’s Ice Hockey and main Athletics accounts, with Instagram continuing to lead engagement. These results underscore the effectiveness of strategic content development and the expanding reach of the Laker Athletics brand.

The department continued to prioritize holistic student-athlete development through targeted programming in career readiness, life skills, and personal growth. Workshops focused on resume development, networking, and interview preparation, complemented by guest speakers and hands-on nutrition education initiatives. These efforts reinforce LSSU's commitment to preparing student-athletes for success beyond their competitive careers.

Athletics generated diversified revenue through corporate partnerships, ticket sales, facility utilization, and conference distributions. Corporate sponsorships remained the leading revenue source, followed by strong contributions from ticketing and premium seating. These efforts highlight continued progress toward strengthening the department's financial sustainability while supporting the student-athlete experience.

Game-day experience initiatives played a central role in building community and enhancing fan engagement. A comprehensive strategy of theme nights, interactive promotions, and personalized fan experiences created a high-energy and inclusive environment across events. Corporate partnerships were effectively integrated into these experiences, shifting from passive branding to active engagement and strengthening connections between sponsors, fans, and the broader community.

The Norris Center continued to serve as a vital campus and regional hub, with average weekly usage exceeding 1,000 participants across students, community members, and partner organizations, like the Sault Tribal members. Facility usage supported a wide range of athletic, recreational, and community events, while generating more than $39,000 in revenue during the reporting period, a significant increase over the previous year. These results reinforce the Center's role as a key asset for both campus life and community engagement.

Mr. DeRoo acknowledged the Athletics Department for building great programs and community relationships.

XVII. Advancement Report

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

Fundraising for FY25-26, Q4 through 5/04/26 - $13,660,453 with seven weeks remaining in the fiscal year, and 427% over the five-year fundraising average.

In major gifts, planned gifts, and grants, an anonymous$3.7M gift in support of repairs of the Taffy Abel Arena. Five other major gifts over $10K were also recorded this cycle. Two grant proposals are being submitted in Q4, totaling nearly $300K.

Annual fundraising and alumni relations updates include the Laker Hockey Challenge – in celebration of 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 $1.35M has been committed to date.

In legislative affairs, the $1M LDSI proposal was approved in the House, now moves to the Senate and if approved, then on to the Governor. The proposal addresses infrastructure needs for utility upgrades and IT security. Capital Outlay may have movement in Dec of 2026 after the election.

Mr. Smith presented to the Board for approval of a resolution (Appendix B) authorizing the President or designee to apply for and obtain Special Liquor Licenses from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for University sponsored events, and to take any related administrative actions necessary to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the proposed resolution authorizing applications for special liquor licenses as presented, supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Trustees DeRoo, Cooper, and Davie commended Mr. Smith and the Advancement team for their efforts.

XVIII. Other Business

Ms. Williams stated that the Board would start implementing a consent agenda effective at the next meeting in July.

Ms. Caruso moved for Board approval to appoint Trustees Cooper, Davie, and Scornaienski to the Nominating Committee, supported by Dr. Cooper.

XIX. Adjournment

Dr. Cooper moved for adjournment at 10:33 a.m.; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Cynthia Williams Chair	David Travis President

Minutes prepared by Lauren Pierce, Board Secretary

RESOLUTION
from the
Lake Superior State University
Board of Trustees

Whereas, *Dr. Alexei V. Iretski faithfully served Lake Superior State University from his initial appointment as a sabbatical replacement in 2002, transitioning to a full-time role in 2003, earning promotion to Associate Professor with tenure in 2007, and achieving the rank of Professor in 2013, until his retirement; and*

Whereas, *Dr. Iretski taught at Lake Superior State University for over two decades, elevating the academic standing of our institution through a rigorous dedication to teaching, scholarship, and service within the School of Chemistry, Environmental, and Geosciences; and*

Whereas, *Dr. Iretski taught a vast array of courses including Life Chemistry, General Chemistry, Survey of Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, and Advanced Inorganic Chemistry, ensuring that generations of students graduated with technical proficiency through his management of intensive, hands-on laboratory experiences; and*

Whereas, *Dr. Iretski established a substantive record of scholarly achievement directly addressing pressing global energy and environmental challenges, such as biomass conversion into fuel, heterogeneous catalysis, and advanced* CO_2 *adsorbents; and*

Whereas, *Dr. Iretski's prolific research output is evidenced by his authorship of 78 peer-reviewed publications and his holding of 11 patents related to chemical processing and biomass conversion; and*

Whereas, *Dr. Iretski acted as a global ambassador for LSSU, modeling lifelong learning and collaboration through extensive work as a Visiting Professor during his 2009 sabbatical and beyond, representing the university at prestigious institutions including Interkat Catalyst GmbH in Germany, the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Pierre and Marie Curie University in France, Mississippi State University, and the University of California, Santa Barbara; now, therefore be it*

Resolved, *that the Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University formally extends to Dr. Alexei V. Iretski its sincere appreciation for his loyalty, varied contributions, dedication to his profession, distinguished teaching, and service to this University by bestowing upon him the rank of Professor Emeritus with all the honors, rights, and privileges appertaining thereunto; be it further*

Resolved, *that a copy of this resolution of recognition appear in the minutes of this meeting of the Board of Trustees, so that this sincere tribute of respect and gratitude will be included in the permanent records of this University.*

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees and given by our hands this 15th day of May 2026.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSES

WHEREAS, from time to time Lake Superior State University hosts events and activities at which the service of alcoholic beverages may be appropriate and permitted under Michigan law; and

WHEREAS, such events may require the issuance of a Special License by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University authorizes the President of the University, or the President's designee, to prepare, sign, and submit applications and supporting documentation necessary to obtain Special Licenses from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for University-sponsored events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President or designee is authorized to take any additional administrative actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission related to such licenses.

Adopted by the Lake Superior State University Board of Trustees on this 15th day of May *2026*.