Lake Superior State University
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
Walker Cisler Student Center
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
July 17, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in regular session beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 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 July 17, 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
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki
Ms. Cynthia Williams
Dr. David Travis, President

Six Trustees were recorded as present, with Trustee Davie joining virtually. Trustees Jon DeRoo 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; Julie Hober, Chief Information Officer; Trevor Liddle, Vice President for Finance and Operations; Tory Lindley, Director of Athletics; Dr. Kimberly Muller, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Chris Smith, Faculty Association President; and Scott Smith, Vice President of Advancement, Legislative, & Alumni Affairs.

II. Approval of the Agenda for July 17, 2026

Ms. Williams moved for Board approval of the agenda for July 17, 2026, supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval of the Consent Agenda for July 17, 2026

Ms. Williams presented the following consent agenda items for July 17, 2026:

- Minutes for May 15, 2026
- Conferral of Spring 2026 Candidates for Degrees
- Charter Schools Board Member Appointments/Reappointments
- 2026-2027 Regular and 2027-2028 Tentative Board of Trustees Meeting Schedules

Dr. Cooper moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, supported by Dr. Scornaiencki. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

IV. Addresses to the Board

None

V. Chair's Remarks

Ms. Williams recognized the various updates and improvements on campus and acknowledged the progress of the Taffy Abel renovations following a tour of the facility.

VI. President's Remarks

Dr. Travis thanked Trevor Liddle and Morrie Walworth for managing the many projects on campus.

Dr. Travis acknowledged the historic $30M state-funded Capital Outlay announcement and the support of Senator John Damoose and Representative Parker Fairbairn.

Dr. Travis provided several updates, including an update on the Health Care Center, stating that Alcona Health would be taking over management of the center starting in early 2027, offering continued support to students. LSSU recently partnered with Elior as the new dining services provider. Donations to the LSSU Campus Community Partnership fund recently paid for several new signage projects both on campus, at Barch CFRE, and downtown Sault Ste. Marie.

VII. Faculty Association Report

Recently appointed Faculty Association (FA) President, Dr. Chris Smith thanked Dr. Herb Henderson for serving two years as President of the FA, in addition to thanking Joe Susi and Sandi King for their terms in the FA.

Dr. Smith acknowledged the continued work of faculty throughout the summer months.

VIII. Education Support Professionals Report

No Education Support Professionals Report.

IX. Student Government Report

Student Government President Addy Chwalek provided several goals for the upcoming year, some of which include an update and modernization of the student constitution, a fund initiative with SAM funds, more resources for student success, more collaboration with Student Government and student organizations, and collaboration with University administration, faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees.

X. Finance Report

Mr. Liddle provided the Board with the FY26 year-to-date financial summary. He reported that no significant differences were noted between the approved budget and year-to-date actuals. Cisler Operations is expected to end the fiscal year with a deficit greater than the approved budget, including one-time expenses related to the transition in food services. The June 30 cash balance was approximately $9.2 million.

Mr. Liddle provided updates on the expansion of services that Alcona Health would be providing for students and the community at the Health Care Center.

Mr. Liddle also reviewed the FY26 Assurance Services - Professional Services Plan and provided an update on physical plant projects. Seven major projects, representing approximately $8.1 million in campus infrastructure investment, were underway.

XI. Academic Affairs Report

Dr. Muller provided an Academic Affairs update. Dr. Muller provided the Board with an update on program enrollment over the last ten years. The Board was advised that the Higher Learning Commission assurance argument must be submitted by August 31, with the comprehensive evaluation visit scheduled for September 28-29, 2026. Dr. Muller also discussed the State of Michigan's approval of the $30 million capital outlay project to renovate and expand CASET Hall and recognized the faculty and staff involved in developing the proposal.

Dr. Muller reported that three grants totaling $31,754.96 had been awarded since the previous Board meeting to support sea lamprey monitoring, workforce development in aquaponics, and mobile robotics research and educational initiatives.

Dr. Muller acknowledged Jim Devaprasad for receiving the Association for Advancing Automation 2026 Educator of the Year award.

Mr. Chris Oshelski, Executive Director of the Charter Schools Office, presented a request for approval of a second site for Concord Academy.

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the additional site located at 8700 Mercer Road, Charlevoix, MI for Concord Academy; supported by Ms. Caruso. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

XII. Enrollment Management & Student Success Report

Dr. Zamjahn provided updates on recruitment, admissions, marketing, financial aid, student affairs, and counseling services. Fall 2026 applications and admits had increased approximately 10 percent since the previous update, while registrations remained below the prior year. The team continued focused outreach and melt-prevention efforts.

Orientation participation continued to grow, with 106 students having attended and 110 additional students registered for upcoming sessions. The Board also discussed dual-enrollment trends and the need to evaluate the University's pricing model in light of competition from other institutions.

Financial Aid continued preparations for the upcoming recruiting cycle, recently welcoming Kristen Gast as Interim Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships.

Student Affairs reported 435 fall housing assignments. Counseling Services was transitioning toward a broader Student Wellness Center model, including the planned addition of a mental health clinician in collaboration with Athletics.

XIII. Human Resources Report

Dr. Espinosa provided the Board with the quarterly Title IX report. One report had been received during the reporting period involving an LSSU employee as respondent and remained open under assessment or investigation.

Dr. Espinosa also provided campus safety, risk management, and Human Resources updates. Public Safety continued OSHA and HAZWOPER training, a campus safety audit was scheduled for July 21-22, and HR/Payroll continued work to modernize employee data, applicant tracking, and benefits management systems.

XIV. Information Technology

Ms. Hober provided updates on enterprise systems, cybersecurity, campus technology, and the University website. IT continued Banner and administrative system modernization, infrastructure improvements, and business process work with Human Resources.

Cybersecurity monitoring remained stable, with no critical alerts or new incidents requiring escalation during June. Ms. Hober also reported continued website modernization and accessibility improvements, including deployment of a major WordPress platform upgrade.

XV. Athletics Report

Mr. Lindley provided the Board with Athletics achievements and key highlights. Eighty-three student-athletes earned GLIAC All-Academic or All-Academic Excellence recognition, and student-athletes posted a spring semester GPA of 3.275 and a cumulative department GPA of 3.329.

Laker Athletics generated more than 1.25 million social media impressions during the reporting period, completed more than 3,550 hours of community service during the past year, and reported record corporate partnership revenue of $264,955 during the first nine months of its partnership with Taymar Sales U. The Norris Center generated nearly $37,000 in revenue during the reporting period.

XVI. Advancement Report

Mr. Smith presented the Board with a year-end fundraising update. FY25-26 fundraising totaled approximately $14.6 million, representing the University's best fundraising year and approximately 464 percent of the five-year fundraising average.

Mr. Smith reported that more than $1.35 million had been committed toward the $1.5 million Laker Hockey Challenge, which will continue through December 31, 2026. Annual fundraising campaigns were also tracking ahead of the previous year.

Mr. Smith also provided a legislative affairs update. The State's capital outlay appropriation provides $30 million, or 75 percent, toward the $40 million CASET renovation and expansion, with LSSU responsible for a minimum $10 million match. He also reviewed other higher education budget items affecting the University.

XVII. Other Business

Dr. Cooper moved for Board approval of the recommendation of the 2026-2027 Board Officers as follows:

Ms. Patricia Caruso – Chair
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki – 1st Vice Chair

Mr. Michael Day – 2nd Vice Chair
Mr. Trevor Liddle – Treasurer
Ms. Lauren Pierce – Secretary

The Chair requested a roll call vote. The results of the vote were:

Ms. Patricia Caruso	"Yes"
Dr. Kevin Cooper	"Yes"
Ms. Sheri Davie	No response due to technical difficulties
Mr. Michael Day	"Yes"
Dr. Peter Scornaiencki	"Yes"
Ms. Cynthia Williams	"Yes"

The motion carried with five affirmative votes.

XVIII. Adjournment

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

Patricia Caruso
Chair

David Travis
President

Minutes prepared by Lauren Pierce, Board Secretary