



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**DATE:** Thursday, November 19, 2020, 8:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Conducted remotely through Zoom Meeting

**PRESENT:** Chair David H. Gunning II, Trustees Thomas W. Adler, Timothy J. Cosgrove, Patricia M. DePompei, Stephen Kirk, Lisa K. Kunkle, David Reynolds, and Vanessa L. Whiting; Student Trustees Arlindo Ahmetaj and Allison K. Younger; Community Board Members Robyn N. Gordon, Thomas E. Hopkins, Heather Lennox, Linda McHugh, and Joseph D. Roman; Faculty Representative Dr. Rachel K. Carnell; President Harlan M. Sands; and General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Sonali B. Wilson.

Others in attendance: Dr. Jianping Zhu, Provost; Jonathan Wehner, Vice President and Dean of Admissions, Enrollment Management and Student Success; Michael Biehl, Sr. Vice President of Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Forrest Faison, Sr. Vice President of Research & Innovation and Chief Healthcare Strategy Officer; Jeanell N. Hughes, Chief Talent and Human Resources Officer; Dr. Julie M. Rehm, Vice President, University Advancement; and Heather A. Link, Assistant Board Secretary.

Chair Gunning called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. and confirmed the presence of a quorum. He asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of the September 17, 2020 Board meeting. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. Moved by Trustee Cosgrove, and seconded by Trustee Kunkle, the minutes were approved by voice vote.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Gunning welcomed newly appointed Trustee, Vanessa L. Whiting, to the Board, noting her wealth of professional experience and service, and that all trustees are looking forward to working with her.

Chair Gunning thanked the students of the University for their resiliency and flexibility during the semester, acknowledging that they must once again pivot to a remote learning environment; he encouraged them to continue to be diligent with safety precautions during the COVID pandemic.

Chair Gunning also reminded Board members of the yearly ethics training requirement.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Sands began his report by recognizing that these are challenging times and that our students, faculty, and staff have done an extraordinary job of keeping our campus safe. Given the current community trends reflecting the significant spread of COVID-19, the decision to pivot to remote instruction after the Thanksgiving break was made to minimize the risk of infection to the campus community.

President Sands brought forth a resolution to recognize long-time staff member Violet Lunder for her 31 years of service to the University. Trustee DePompei moved and Trustee Cosgrove seconded the motion. The following Resolution was passed by voice vote and with applause.

### **RESOLUTION 2020-47**

#### **RECOGNITION OF VIOLET LUNDER**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Violet Lunder began her service at CSU on March 31 1980 as Secretary for the University President and Secretary for the Executive Assistant to the University President; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1989, when the CSU Faculty Senate first came into being, Ms. Lunder began a 31-year tenure as the Administrative Coordinator for the Faculty Senate, working tirelessly behind the scenes, providing support for the officers of the Faculty Senate, pursuing faculty members for membership on the various Faculty Senate committees, and coordinating committee membership rosters; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1999, Ms. Lunder assumed the additional responsibility of coordinating the Retired Faculty and Staff Association, an organization which she cares deeply about, which she supported throughout its growth from 50 retired faculty members to over 600 retired faculty and staff members; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Lunder has through these decades shown herself to be loyal not only to the Faculty Senate, but to the entire University community; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Lunder's service as the Administrative Coordinator for the Faculty Senate has been consistently helpful, friendly, courteous and cheerful, bringing dignity to the Faculty Senate office and proving vital to the successful conduct of practices of shared governance and the operation of the office of the Faculty Senate at Cleveland State University; and

**WHEREAS**, upon her retirement it is our wish the Ms. Lunder is able to fully pursue her passions and hobbies, such as ballroom dancing and bowling; and

**WHEREAS**, we hope that Ms. Lunder will remain connected to Cleveland State University for many years to come:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the University President, University Administration and the Board of Trustees expresses its gratitude and sincere appreciation to Ms. Violet Lunder for her extraordinary contributions and decades of service to the Cleveland State University and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.

An overview of the President's report included an environmental scan of the higher education landscape since the pandemic began, updates on Cleveland State University's investments to address the pandemic issues on campus, finances, pandemic response, academics, and the CSU 2.0 processes.

President Sands noted that highly volatile, COVID-driven enrollment patterns are serious, though Cleveland State's focus on our value proposition may well-position the University in enrollment efforts. He announced that the 2-for-1 Tuition Promise had a strong impact on 2020 enrollment and that it will extend to Fall 2021.

The University will continue to invest in itself by recruiting 40 new faculty next year in fields supporting the strategic initiatives of the University. President Sands also acknowledged that the University remains financially stable, received a re-confirmed S&P rating of A+ with a negative outlook, received a clean audit opinion from the external auditors, and that the current budget gap is at approximately \$9.3 million, which is down from earlier forecasts.

Dr. Forrest Faison, Sr. Vice President of Research & Innovation and Chief Healthcare Strategy Officer, spoke about the pandemic response on campus. He noted that data is showing that the increasing positivity rate is likely from community spread and not from campus contacts.

The President provided an academic update including the pivot to remote instruction for most classes after the Thanksgiving break and revised calendar for the Spring semester. He reminded Trustees that there will be a virtual commencement in December, and information will be distributed soon. Plans for the Spring semester include both face-to-face instruction and remote learning options, similar to the Fall semester.

President Sands informed Board members of the CSU 2.0 Task Force progress, ensuring that input will be gathered from the campus community about how to best reimagine the University's future and emerge from the pandemic a stronger and more focused institution, ready to meet the future needs of our students, our city, and the region.

President Sands introduced Marjorie Shorrock who made a \$1 million gift to the "Forward Together" student success fund in honor of her late husband, former faculty member and administrator, Dr. William Shorrock. Chairman Gunning thanked Mrs. Shorrock for the transformational gift, her continued support of scholarships, and for her faith in the University's mission.

A video clip was shared to highlight student successes, and faculty and staff long-term service and commitment to the University. President Sands remarked that the support and hard work of the campus community is especially significant during this unprecedented year.

### **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS and STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Cosgrove reported that the Committee met on November 5, and received reports on enrollment and retention, an update on Fall 2020 course delivery and plans for Spring 2021, and information provided by Provost Zhu on major grants, accreditation, and investments in faculty.

Trustee Cosgrove noted that the Committee is bringing forth two resolutions: approval of the ODHE Campus Completion Plan and Title IX Policy revisions. Both are included on the consent agenda.

Mr. Cosgrove encouraged Board members to read the Campus Completion Plan, noting that the document provides data on the University's continuous improvement to identify and implement strategies to increase the number and percentage of students earning meaningful postsecondary credentials.

### **REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Kirk reported that the Committee met on November 4 and received updates on financials and CARES Act funds, including a review of the University's financial scorecard which provides snapshot data on the financial drivers of the institution.

The Committee also met the external auditors from RSM and Trustee Kirk noted that the audit came back with no material deficiencies and was completed on time. He thanked the CSU budget management team and the external auditors for their work, conducted virtually, throughout the audit process.

### **REPORT OF THE ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Director of Athletics, Mr. Scott Garrett, reported on the Athletics Committee meeting of October 19, on behalf of Committee Chair Komoroski.

Mr. Garrett provided athletics highlights including coach and student athlete recognitions and awards; of special note is the best ever cumulative grade point average of 3.66% and the 92% graduation rate for 2019-2020.

Mr. Garrett noted that the University is working proactively with the NCAA on safety protocols for sports, including daily health screenings and full adherence to masking requirements; current plans include both men's and women's basketball teams to take the court in December.

### **REPORT OF THE CSU FOUNDATION**

Trustee Hopkins thanked Marjorie Shorrock for her major gift to the University, adding that the impact of the gift will benefit students for years to come. Mr. Hopkins reported that the CSU Foundation remains committed to raising funds for student success under the Radiance brand, and focusing on the student success continuum (recruitment efforts, student support, and last-mile scholarships). Mr. Hopkins also noted that the Foundation's portfolio remains strong.

University Advancement Vice President Julie Rehm conveyed that the Foundation decided to keep the annual fundraising goal at \$11 million, and is on a good track at the end of the first quarter.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Gunning stated that routine matters, or those recommended by committees and discussed previously, are considered on the consent agenda. He asked if there were any items that Board members wished to discuss; there were none.

Trustee Cosgrove moved, and Trustee DePompei seconded, the motion to approve the following consent agenda items:

**RESOLUTION 2020-48  
CAMPUS COMPLETION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Department of Higher Education mandated in 2014 that each public university in the State of Ohio complete a Campus Completion Plan that would be approved by the University Board of Trustees and submitted to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation further mandated that the board of trustees of each institution of higher education update its plan at least once every two years and provide a copy of their updated plan to the chancellor upon adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cleveland State University developed and implemented a Campus Completion Plan in 2014 through a joint effort led by the Provost's Office involving both the university administration and faculty; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cleveland State University has reviewed the progress in student success since the original CSU Campus Completion Plan was adopted in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the University set completion goals for 2018 to 2020, and outlined strategies to reach the new completion goals in the updated Campus Completion Plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed and recommends to the full board the approval of the Campus Completion Plan:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the updated Cleveland State University Campus Completion Plan, and further instructs the University Administration to submit the plan to the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

**RESOLUTION 2020-49  
RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE NEW TITLE IX POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, in May 2020, the United States Department of Education issued new regulations, which define how schools implement Title IX and requiring that all parties are treated fairly by schools, that decisions that impact students are made without bias or conflict of interest, and that schools implement detailed new processes for adjudicating allegations of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct; and

**WHEREAS**, to implement the new regulations, the University has created a new Title IX Policy and related Grievance Procedures for Addressing Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment under the May 19, 2020 Title IX Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the University Administration recommends the approval of the new Title IX Policy to ensure compliance with the new federal regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed and recommends to the full board the approval of the new Title IX Policy:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the new Title IX Policy, and further instructs the University Administration to file the new Title IX Policy with the Ohio Legislative Services Commission after which time said Policy shall become final, subject to any changes or revisions deemed necessary by the General Counsel.

**RESOLUTION 2020-50  
ACCEPTING GIFTS AND PLEDGE PAYMENTS  
1st Quarter, FY 2021  
July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020**

**RESOLVED**, that the gifts and pledge payments totaling \$1,367,709 received by the Cleveland State University Foundation during the period July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 are hereby accepted with thanks, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President is hereby directed to use these gifts subject to their terms and conditions.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Vice Chair Cosgrove moved to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing imminent and pending litigation with University General Counsel, collective bargaining matters, personnel matters involving public employees' compensation, and other matters required by law to be kept confidential. Trustee Kirk seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken by the Secretary of the Board; voting in the affirmative were Mr. Adler, Mr. Cosgrove, Ms. DePompei, Mr. Kirk, Ms. Kunkle, Mr. Reynolds, Vanessa L. Whiting, and Chair Gunning. The motion carried.

Chair Gunning excused everyone except the voting and community trustees present, President Sands, General Counsel and Board Secretary Wilson, Sr. Vice President Faison, and Chief Talent and Human Resources Officer Hughes. The executive session began at 9:55 a.m.

Chair Gunning announced at 10:59 a.m. that the Board had finished its business in Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gunning noted that the next Board of Trustees meeting will be January 21, 2020 and encouraged Board members to attend the December 13 Virtual Commencement ceremony. He ended the meeting by thanking the students, faculty, staff, and administration for their diligent work throughout the Fall semester.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPROVED ON JANUARY 21, 2021**

Sonali B. Wilson  
General Counsel and  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**APPROVED ON JANUARY 21, 2021**

David H. Gunning II  
Chair, Board of Trustees