



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**DATE:** Thursday, September 17, 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, Len Komoroski, Lisa K. Kunkle, and, David Reynolds; 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; 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; Mr. 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 8:04 a.m. and confirmed the presence of a quorum. He asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of the July 28, 2020 Special Board meeting. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. Moved by Trustee DePompei, and seconded by Trustee Reynolds, the minutes were approved by voice vote.

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Gunning welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that he is impressed and proud of how the Cleveland State community is working together to overcome hurdles due to the pandemic to provide students with a positive academic experience.

**Memorial Tribute to Patrick A. Sweeney**

Chair Gunning brought forth a memorial tribute resolution honoring Patrick Sweeney, a longtime and wonderful CSU ambassador, noting his generous personality and passion for education, the arts, and the greater Cleveland community. The entire Board of Trustees moved, seconded, and approved the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION 2020-42**

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO PATRICK A. SWEENEY**

**WHEREAS**, with a heavy heart, Cleveland State University stands with the Sweeney family and the Greater Cleveland Community in mourning the loss of the Honorable Patrick A. Sweeney, who passed away September 7, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Patrick A. Sweeney was a veteran of the United States Air Force, earned a Master of Public Administration degree from The Kennedy School at Harvard University, and was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives when he was 28 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, after a remarkable career of more than thirty years in the Ohio State Legislature, serving his home district in Cleveland, Ohio, and serving as House Majority Whip, Assistant to the Majority Leader, and Minority Leader, Patrick A. Sweeney joined Cleveland State University as an Executive-in-Residence and Assistant to the Vice President of Governmental Relations; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure in the State Legislature, Patrick A. Sweeney was diligent in his dedication to education, public service, and the arts, making significant progress for our community in the development of many Cleveland landmarks including Playhouse Square, the Gateway District, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sweeney devoted his time, talent, and treasure to the betterment of the University and its students, including teaching and coordinating the Columbus Seminar class that provided students with direct experience with state government, independent agencies, the media, and non-governmental organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Patrick A. Sweeney having first met his wife on campus, celebrated both his wife and daughter graduating from Cleveland-Marshall Law School, was known for avidly cheering for Viking athletics from the center court of the Wolstein Center and exemplified the idea of being a “Viking for Life,”:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that on behalf of the Cleveland State University community, the Board of Trustees extends its deepest sympathy to Patrick A. Sweeney’s wife and daughter, Emily Sweeney and Margaret Sweeney, as well as other members of his family. He will

be remembered for demonstrating exemplary leadership in public service and contributing significantly to the betterment of Northeast Ohio.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Sands emphasized two main priorities that have been at the forefront of planning for the fall semester in the midst of the pandemic: to provide a fall semester, as normal as possible, and to come together to reimagine the university's future, while integrating what has been learned, and put it on a path to become "CSU 2.0."

President Sands noted that Cleveland State continues to play an important leadership role at the state level for the Inter-University Council (IUC) Work Group, and that Governor DeWine has regular interactions and communications with the IUC President's Group. He mentioned other state-related updates including the passage of House Bill 606, providing state-law immunity from civil lawsuits and COVID-19 related issues through the end of 2021; CSU's plans to apply for additional CARES Act funds held by the state for COVID-19 related expenses; and that an extension has been issued to continue to allow public governing boards to continue to meet remotely.

President Sands provided enrollment figures showing an overall change of -1.78% in total student headcount from the 2019-2020 academic year and an increase in the number of graduate students for the first time in nine years. He noted that this is overall good news, especially compared to other state universities and community colleges facing greater declines in enrollment.

President Sands commented that early in the planning process, decisions were made to invest in student initiatives and they have been impactful; the University's 2-for-1 Tuition Promise may have resulted in increased undergraduate interest as shown by increases in late-cycle applications and orientation registration.

Chair Gunning noted with thanks, that the University's Admissions team is working diligently to provide information and help with enrollment issues to new and late-cycle admit students.

President Sands reported that the percentage rate of first-to-second year retention rate by cohort increased to 76.6%. He noted the increase as a success because the statistic is difficult to increase and it is a bellwether for the University's role in educational leadership and is dependent on a strong faculty.

Sr. Vice President of Research & Innovation and Chief Healthcare Strategy Officer, Dr. Forrest Faison, provided an update on the campus repopulation, noting that every inch of the University's footprint has been programmed to provide a safe as possible campus experience.

President Sands announced a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to develop pathways from high school to college for Cleveland Municipal School District students interested in computer science and information technology. Dr. Debbie Jackson, Dr. Chansu Yu, and Dr. Brian Harper are the lead faculty for the project which will, in part, create a transition for CMSD students to 2- and 4- year degree programs at Cleveland State and Cuyahoga Community College. The program also includes a mentoring component and internships with area businesses.

President Sands introduced a panel of faculty and students who discussed their academic experiences throughout the pandemic and how they have been able to establish connections within their classes and address challenges. The panel noted benefits from synchronous and asynchronous formats, increased access to faculty and lectures, and increased use of the Tutoring and Academic Success Center. Participants included:

- John Holcomb, Ph.D. – Interim Vice Provost and Professor of Mathematics
- Rachel Carnell, Ph.D. – Faculty Trustee and Professor of English
- Barbara Modney, Ph.D. – Association Professor, Biological, Geological and Environmental Science
- Allison Younger – Undergraduate Student Trustee, Criminology, Sociology and Philosophy Pre-Law
- Arlindo Ahmetaj – Graduate Student Trustee, Master of Business Administration

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

Committee Chair Cosgrove reported that the Committee met on September 3, and thanked Provost Zhu and Vice President Wehner for providing data on enrollment and retention. He noted that the increased number of graduate students is due, in large part, to the foresight of President Sands in connecting recruitment efforts with Global CSU, and that the Committee will continue to analyze the impact of the 2-for-1 Tuition Promise initiative on enrollment.

Mr. Cosgrove reported that the Committee received updates on the Higher Learning Commission re-accreditation process currently underway, including a site visit in 2021, and that the mandated Ohio Department of Higher Education College Completion Plan report will be presented to the Committee and full Board in November.

He finished by reporting that the Committee is recommending Board approval to award tenure at the rank of Associate Professor to Dr. Grace L. Schultz in the Department of Urban Studies, the Resolution is included on the Consent Agenda.

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

Committee Chair Kirk recapped the Financial Affairs Committee meeting held on September 1, noting that the Committee reviewed the CSU financial scorecard including “monthly days of cash on hand” and “debt service to total expenditures”. The Committee also received a verbal report on leases and the East 13<sup>th</sup> Street Building.

Mr. Kirk reported that the Committee is recommending Board approval for the proposed revisions to CSU Purchasing Policies, which is included on the Consent Agenda.

Chair Gunning thanked Mr. Kirk for the report and reminded trustees that while the University is currently in good financial standing, there may be less resources available next year and future financial challenges will need to be addressed.

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

Trustee Hopkins reported that details of FY21 attainment and annual giving are included in the Board materials and are trending well (**ATTACHMENT A**). He acknowledged that the Foundation is working with clear and focused efforts on fundraising and the impact on the continuum of student and university needs, including recruitment and wrap-around services.

Vice President Julie Rehm reported that after serious discussions, the Foundation has decided to keep the last year fundraising goals in place, and continue dedicated efforts to raise awareness and support for the 2-for-1 Tuition Promise guarantee. Vice President Rehm also noted that planning has begun for the 2021 Radiance fundraiser, emphasizing that throughout the pandemic, communication with previous donors and partners has been ongoing.

### **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 DePompei moved, and Trustee Reynolds seconded, the motion to approve the following consent agenda items: Faculty Promotion and Tenure Recommendation, Dr. Grace Schultz, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs (**ATTACHMENT B**); Revision of Purchasing Policies (**ATTACHMENT C**); and Accepting Gifts and Pledges, 4th Quarter, FY20.

### **RESOLUTION 2020-43**

#### **AWARD OF TENURE TO DR. GRACE L. SCHULTZ**

**WHEREAS**, an external search was conducted to fill the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Studies, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the search attracted a substantial pool of well-qualified candidates, including Dr. Schultz, Associate Professor, Portland State University; and

**WHEREAS**, the credentials of Dr. Schultz have been reviewed by the appropriate faculty peer review committee in the Levin College of Urban Affairs, the Chair, the Dean, the Provost and the President; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Schultz has fulfilled the requirements for tenure at the rank of Associate Professor as set forth in Article 12.10 of the Faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed and recommends to the full board the awarding of tenure to Dr. Schultz:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the award of tenure at the rank of Associate Professor to Dr. Grace L. Schultz in the Department of Urban Studies, effective the first day of fulltime employment, January 4, 2021, at Cleveland State University.

#### **RESOLUTION 2020-44**

##### **AUTHORITY TO REVISE PURCHASING POLICIES**

**WHEREAS**, the University Administration has recognized the need for a revision to Purchasing Policies 3344-65-02, 3344-65-05 and 3344-65-21 to coincide with the Execution of Documents Policy revisions approved at the May 21, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, further, the University Administration has determined that the bid thresholds and approval levels are not at the appropriate level and need to be increased in order to procure more efficiently.; and

**WHEREAS**, the University Administration recommends the following Purchasing Policy revisions:

- 3344-65-02 Definitions for procurement terms – policy needs revision to increase bid threshold definition for goods and supplies from \$24,999 to \$49,999 and to add a definition for “sole source procurement”;
- 3344-65-05 Purchases below bid threshold – policy needs revision to increase value of small purchases exempt from competitive selection process; lower the number of quotes required for services and goods valued below bid threshold purchases; and add clarifying language regarding required use of bid waiver form;
- 3344-65-21 Approval of purchase orders and change orders – policy revisions needed to increase purchase order and change order approval levels, to reflect changes in University titles authorized to approve purchases, and to clarify that approval levels are based on a total amount of the purchase; and

**WHEREAS**, the Financial Affairs Committee has reviewed the Purchasing Policy revisions and recommends their approval by the full Board:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the revised Purchasing Policies, and further instructs the University Administration to file the revised Policies with the Ohio Legislative Services Commission after the thirty-day comment period at which time said policies shall become final, subject to any changes or revisions deemed necessary by the General Counsel.

**RESOLUTION 2020-45**

**ACCEPTING GIFTS AND PLEDGE PAYMENTS**

4th Quarter, FY 2020  
April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020

**RESOLVED**, that the gifts and pledge payments totaling \$3,855,394 received by the Cleveland State University Foundation during the period April 1, 2020 to June 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 matters involving imminent and pending litigation with University counsel and collective bargaining matters. 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, Mr. Komoroski, Ms. Kunkle, Mr. Reynolds, and Chair Gunning. The motion carried.

Chair Gunning excused everyone except the voting and community trustees present, President Sands, and General Counsel and Board Secretary Wilson. The executive session began at 9:46 a.m.

Chair Gunning announced at 10:25 a.m. that the Board had finished its business in Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.



**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Gunning announced that a Resolution is being brought forth to approve a one-year extension agreement of the current collective bargaining agreement for the AAUP CSU Chapter and the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Chapter.

The Resolution was moved by Trustee Kunkle and Trustee Reynold seconded the motion. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

**RESOLUTION 2020-46**

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS CSU CHAPTER AND  
CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW CHAPTER**

**WHEREAS**, the University and the American Association of University Professors, CSU Chapter, and the American Association of University Professors, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Chapter, have reached a final tentative agreement for a one-year extension of the current collective bargaining agreements for both the University-wide bargaining unit and the law faculty bargaining unit extending from August 16, 2020 through August 15, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the bargaining unit members of the American Association of University Professors, CSU Chapter and the American Association of University Professors, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Chapter, have ratified the tentative agreement;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees hereby directs the Administration to execute and implement the one-year extension of the collective bargaining agreements between Cleveland State University and the American Association of University Professors, CSU Chapter and the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Chapter, covering the one-year period from August 16, 2020 through August 15, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gunning noted that the next Board of Trustees meeting will be November 19, 2020, ending the meeting with a thank you to the discussion panelists and the Cleveland State community.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPROVED NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

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

**APPROVED NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

David H. Gunning II  
Chair, Board of Trustees