

**Lake Superior State University
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Special Meeting
Walker Cisler Student Conference Center
Crow's Nest
May 26, 2017**

The Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University met in special session beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017 in the Crow's Nest of the Walker Cisler Student Conference Center, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and with Board of Trustees members connected via teleconference and in attendance. The meeting was pursuant to Section 1.03 of the Bylaws of said Board.

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 26, 2017. Any material considered by the Board, which was distributed at the time of the meeting, is so designated in these minutes. Copies of all such material are contained as appendices to these minutes.

At the call to order there were several members in the audience and one member of the press.

I. Roll Call

Chair James P. Curran, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and asked Ms. Kaye M. Batho, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members responded "present":

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey
Mr. Douglas R. Bovin
Mr. James P. Curran
Dr. Mark W. Mercer
Mr. Rodney M. Nelson
Ms. Ann Parker
Mr. Randy Pingatore
Ms. Sandi Frost Steensma
Dr. David R. Finley, Acting President and Ex-Officio

Eight Trustees were recorded as present and Trustees Bovin, Parker and Pingatore were via teleconference. Present for the University were Mr. Dakota Baker, Student Government President; Mr. Thomas Coates, Executive Director of the Foundation; Ms. Jen Constantino, Interim Athletic Director; Mr. Philip Espinosa, Associate Vice President for Human Resources; Mr. Matthew Jurvelin; Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs; Mr. Derric Knight, ESP Union President; Mr. Morrie Walworth, Vice President for Finance and Operations; and Dr. Aaron Westrick, Faculty Association President.

II. Approval of the Agenda for May 26, 2017

Dr. Mercer moved for Board approval of the agenda for May 26, 2017 as presented; supported by Ms. Frost Steensma. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval of Initiation and Continuation of Litigation Recommendation

Mr. Nelson moved for Board approval of the recommendation to affirm, approve and ratify the initiation and continuation of litigation in the case against the LSSU Faculty Association and Michigan Education Association, Chippewa County Circuit Court Case No. 17-145888-CL; and that LSSU Counsel request a delay in the litigation so that mediation can be given an opportunity to resolve the litigation; supported by Dr. Mercer.

Dr. Westrick expressed concern regarding this recommendation and suggested some of the Trustees participate in negotiations.

Mr. Nelson suggested that Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service be requested to participate to bring the parties together and litigation would be addressed in on-going negotiations to assist the University in moving forward.

The Chair called for a vote. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

IV. Update on Presidential Transition

Ms. Parker informed the Board of the progress for appointment of an interim president following the passing of President Tom Pleger. She stated that the Human Resources Committee is gathering information on search firms for a potential interim president and researching assessment services for the position. There was discussion regarding timelines, scope of the project and processes for the appointment and assessment.

Dr. Mercer moved for Board approval of the recommendation to interview Dr. Peter T. Mitchell and possibly others before June 16, 2017; supported by Ms. Frost Steensma.

Trustee Parker expressed disagreement with the motion due to the lack of due process and a need for a pool of candidates to select from.

The Chair called for a vote. The motion carried with majority voice vote.

V. Addresses to the Board

Faculty member Katie Kalata addressed the Board regarding concern with her recent denial of tenure and subsequent litigation decisions.

Faculty member Marshall Werner addressed the Board thanking the administration for the recent funding support and installation of NMR equipment. He also addressed the Board as a

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previous chair of the grievance committee and emphasized that litigation is not a favorable way to collaborate.

Faculty member Kirk Mauldin addressed the Board regarding his concern for more opportunities for input by the University employees in regards to presidential characteristics, available demographic data and enrollment trends.

Former student Christy Kalata addressed the Board and commended the faculty at the University and stated the need to work together to move the University forward.

VI. Other Business

Trustee Bovin requested Mr. Jurvelin contact him regarding Michigan State University Extension office.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Pingatore moved for adjournment at 3:15 p.m.; supported by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

James P. Curran, Chair

David R. Finley, Acting President

Minutes prepared by Ms. Kaye M. Batho, Secretary. A draft of these minutes was completed at 10:00 a.m. on May 31, 2017.