



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 16, 2024; 8:00 a.m.

PLACE: Hybrid Meeting— Student Center, Glasscock Family Ball Room and via Zoom; livestreamed for public view.

PRESENT: Board Chair David M. Reynolds; Trustees Nikki C. Byrd; Timothy J. Cosgrove, Patricia DePompei, Paul J. Dolan, Lisa K. Kunkle, Alan G. Starkoff, P. Kelly Tompkins, and Vanessa L. Whiting; Student Trustee Akshat Shah; Faculty Representatives Dr. Judy Ausherman and Dr. Anup Kumar; Ex Officio Trustee Karen A. White; President Laura Bloomberg; and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, General Counsel and Vice President, Legal Affairs and Compliance Sonali B. Wilson.

Others in attendance: Provost and Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs Nigamanth Sridhar; Sr. Vice President of Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer David Jewell; Int. Vice President of Enrollment Management Janet Stimple; Vice President, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Roy Gifford; Vice President of Advancement Julie Rehm; Executive Director, Government Affairs, Vice President and Athletics Director, Kelsie Gory Harkey; Vice President, Student Belonging and Success Tachelle Banks; and Special Assistant to the President, Caryn Candisky; Chief of Staff Patricia L. Franklin; and Assistant Board Secretary Heather A. Link.

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m., confirmed that a quorum was present, and noted that the meeting was being livestreamed for public viewing.

He called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024 meeting and the April 9, 2024 special meeting. Trustee Kunkle provided the motion, and Trustee Dolan seconded. Board Secretary Wilson called the roll and the minutes were approved.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Reynolds announced that three resolutions were being brought forth to recognize the service of members who were wrapping up their terms, and that each would be considered individually.

Recognition of Judith A. Ausherman for Distinguished Service

Trustee Cosgrove moved the approval; and Trustee Whiting seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll which was approved with applause.

Trustee Cosgrove noted appreciation to Dr. Ausherman, in part, for her input and insight of faculty matters which helps members to be aware of the current realities on campus. Trustee Whiting noted Dr. Ausherman's advocacy and engagement efforts with students and faculty of the University.

RESOLUTION 2024-34

RECOGNITION OF DR. JUDY A. AUSERMAN AS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, Judy A. Ausherman, Ed.D., a tenured Professor in the Department of Health Science and Human Performance, College of Health, was twice elected by the Faculty Senate to serve as a Faculty Representative to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees for one-year terms commencing in 2022 and 2023; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ausherman joined the CSU faculty in 1993 and is an accomplished scholar and teacher focused on critical thinking, health literacy, and promoting education for health and healthy living, and has since made her mark by being recognized with the Distinguished Faculty Award for Service (2023), as the coordinator of the school health education licensure program (1993-2020), by developing online courses that have Quality Matters approval, serving on national and local committees, publishing in peer refereed journals, integrating approaches to teaching using school gardens, and presenting more than 60 times at the international, national, state, and local level; and

WHEREAS, during her term of service, Dr. Ausherman was a member of the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and has been dedicated in her duties, as well as to representing and giving voice to her colleagues by presenting their questions and concerns while respectfully acknowledging the work of the administration:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. Judy Ausherman for her contributions and support of Cleveland State University and its students during her two terms of service on the Board

of Trustees, and wishes her every future success as she continues to focus on educating future generations of students.

Recognition of Anup Kumar for Distinguished Service

Trustee Dolan moved the approval; and Trustee Whiting seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll which was approved with applause.

Chair Reynolds commented that Dr. Kumar has provided thoughtful counsel and guidance to the board and has always made sure that he represented his faculty colleagues in board deliberations. Trustee Cosgrove noted the academic research work of Dr. Kumar and that he is looking forward to staying in touch with him.

RESOLUTION 2024-35

**RECOGNITION OF DR. ANUP KUMAR
AS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS, Anup Kumar, Ph.D., a tenured Professor of Communication in the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education, was elected President of the Cleveland State Faculty Senate in 2022 for a two-year term and in that capacity, has since served as a faculty representative to the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, not only is Dr. Kumar an accomplished scholar, teacher, and mentor who is dedicated to the success of our students, he is impactful in the offices of the student publications *The Cauldron* and *The Cleveland Stater*, as well as *The Plain Dealer*, through co-authored commentary and opinion articles with Dr. Richard Perloff, “Using our very human brains to outthink AI, before it outthinks us,” and “In moments of crisis like the Israel-Hamas war, we need more speech - not less”; and

WHEREAS, during his term, Dr. Kumar updated Board members on the work of the Faculty Senate including the reviews of the University’s writing across the curriculum requirements, core curriculum offerings, and the student evaluation of instruction, as well as the collective joint statement from Faculty Senate and AAUP Chapters (CSU & Law) on Senate Bill 83, the Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act; and

WHEREAS, experience gained throughout his CSU career provided Dr. Kumar with valuable insights, in part, from his service as chair of the School of Communication, he exercises institutional memory to communicate clearly, thoughtfully, and punctually with faculty and students regarding their issues, while also connecting them appropriately to administrative offices; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kumar has been dedicated in his duties as a member of the Academic Affairs and Student Success and Athletics Committees of the Board of Trustees, representing the faculty perspective during these meetings and at Board of Trustees meetings:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. Anup Kumar for his contributions to the discussion of issues that come before the Board and administration, and looks forward to keeping in communication as he continues to positively contribute to the fabric of Cleveland State University.

Recognition of Lisa K. Kunkle for Distinguished Service

Trustee DePompei moved the approval; and Trustee Whiting seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll which was approved with applause.

Trustee Starkoff recognized the work of Trustee Kunkle and appreciated the opportunity to work together. Trustee Cosgrove noted that Trustee Kunkle was a valuable member of the Board.

RESOLUTION 2024-36

**RECOGNIZING LISA K. KUNKLE FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ON
THE CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS, Lisa K. Kunkle was appointed to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees by Governor Mike DeWine on September 6, 2019 to fulfill a term ending on May 1, 2024;

WHEREAS, joining the Board of Trustees at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, she served on the Academic Affairs and Students Success and Governance Committees from 2019-2021 and provided guidance and support for the University throughout the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunkle was elected in 2021 to serve as Treasurer and an officer of the Board of Trustees and has consecutively held this position since; and

WHEREAS, in her capacity as Board Treasurer, Ms. Kunkle served as Chair of the Financial Affairs Committee, and revamped and served as the Audit, Compliance and Risk Subcommittee Chair, bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance procedures; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunkle has generously given of her time, expertise and resources, through her support of Cleveland State University students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees acknowledges with sincere appreciation the dedication and contributions of Ms. Lisa K. Kunkle, to the State of Ohio and the Cleveland State University community and students; furthermore, the Board of Trustees wishes her every success in her new entrepreneurial chapter.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Bloomberg reported that many different celebratory events have been occurring on campus this spring semester and that she is grateful for the opportunity to celebrate student achievements on campus. Her report highlighted some impactful numbers from the spring semester focused on students: 281 engineering students participated in the senior design symposium; 352 students took advantage of an opportunity to coordinate professional attire as they begin their professional careers; 300 attendees and 110 volunteers participated in the Special Olympics basketball clinic hosted by CSU; the faculty and staff service awards recognized 2,531 cumulative years of service to the University and its students; 14 athletic teams competed in conference tournaments and 280 student-athletes were recognized for academic achievements; and that 2,387 students graduated in the spring 2024 semester (861 of them graduated with honors).

President Bloomberg thanked members for their participation in commencement events, which were well-received by students, their families, and the campus community, and she showed a joyful montage of video footage from the ceremonies for undergraduate, graduate and PhD students. She expressed gratitude for the ceremonies being safe, respectful, and meaningful.

Ratification of the Appointment of Kelsie Gory Harkey as Director of Athletics

President Bloomberg brought forth the ratification of the one-year appointment to director of athletics, and voiced support of Kelsie Gory Harkey for that position.

Trustee Starkoff moved the approval; and Trustee Byrd seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll, resulting in adoption of the following resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-37

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF KELSIE GORY HARKEY AS DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

WHEREAS, Kelsie Gory Harkey has served admirably for several months as the Interim Director of Athletics following the departure of Vice President and Director of Athletics Scott Garrett; and

WHEREAS, the Administration wishes to retain her services as Director of Athletics for a one-year period during which time the University will conduct a search for a permanent Director of Athletics; and

WHEREAS, the parties have negotiated the essential terms and conditions of Ms. Harkey's employment as the Cleveland State University's Director of Athletics, and further committed to

develop a definitive Employment Agreement for Ms. Harkey, which is attached hereto in substantial form:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees ratifies the appointment of Kelsie Gory Harkey as Director of Athletics for a one-year term and hereby authorizes the Cleveland State University Administration to negotiate and finalize the Employment Agreement with Kelsie Gory Harkey containing the essential terms as attached hereto, subject to any changes negotiated and deemed appropriate by University General Counsel; and that the University Administration is authorized to negotiate and execute any and all documents and agreements to effectuate the terms of a final Employment Agreement.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEE

Student Trustee Shah spoke about issues in the commuter lounge and with the Wi-Fi connections across campus during the last two weeks of classes. He also expressed concern that the small retail store, Market on the Edge, continues to be closed and inaccessible to students and that there is not clear communication about the timeline to re-open.

President Bloomberg acknowledged that the administration is aware of the connectivity issues and that a member of her team will follow-up with him. Trustee Tompkins thanked Trustee Shah for his candor and for voicing student concerns.

REPORT FROM FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Ausherman read a statement regarding a job posting for a dean of students, noting that the description may not align with the Higher Learning Commission's recommendations for the University, and that the minimum requirement for the position is a bachelor's degree. Because it is such an important position for student's welfare, she hopes that the minimum requirements would not jeopardize the University's credibility. She plans to do further research to compare the job posting to those of CSU's academic peers and submitted a copy of the job description for the Board Office records.

Noting that faculty are committed to the financial stability of the University, Dr. Ausherman also expressed concern about a more equitable alignment of administrative and faculty positions.

Dr. Kumar questioned the minimum requirement for the position, noting that there is no bachelor's degree in higher education.

He then spoke about his observations that the University is again at an inflection point, similar to when he began his tenure in the early 2000s. He noted that his faculty peers at CSU have been recruited from some of the best universities in the nation and are able to transfer their skills and knowledge to enable our students to continue to have the opportunity for upward social mobility.

Dr. Kumar acknowledged that while the number of residential students on campus is growing, commuter students still make up the majority of those at CSU, and that immigrant and first-generation students are also an important prospective pool for enrollment.

He concluded his broad observations asking that due diligence be given to the non-academic side of the University's budget, while keeping focused on the success of our students and aligning structural changes to the new vision for the University.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the May 9, 2024 Meeting

Committee Chair Cosgrove reported that the meeting began with an update from Provost Sridhar, who reported that 20 academic programs have been sunset through the curriculum approval process based on faculty recommendation during the 2023-24 academic year, and that meanwhile several new innovative and interdisciplinary programs were approved and are at the Ohio Department of Higher Education for final acceptance.

Furthermore, additional programs will go through a review in the upcoming academic year and these programs have temporarily suspended admission of new students to programs until they go through the review process. Some of these programs will be sunset and some will come back with an improved and refashioned presence.

The committee considered three items for action, including two new degree programs and approval of the 2024 ODHE College Completion Plan, all were approved by the committee and are included on the consent agenda for approval by the full Board.

The committee received an update from Dr. Banks on student belonging and success, including data on mentoring programs, number of students who have been served, and persistence and retention rates for first year and first-year to second-year students.

Updates on legislative activity, including President Bloomberg's senate testimony, were provided by Executive Director of Government Affairs Candisky.

Committee Chair Cosgrove also noted that the committee met in Executive Session, and as a result the committee considered one item under new business, the acceptance of the steering committee's transformation plan. The acceptance of the plan does not mean an endorsement or approval of all sections of the plan, and a component of the resolution is that the administration will come back to the board with an implementation plan, he reported.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Report of the May 9, 2024 Meeting

Committee Chair Kunkle reported that the committee included updates from Dave Andrews (external audit partner, RSM), CFO Jewell, and Int. VP of Enrollment Management Stimple.

The committee received information on the forecast for FY 2024, year-to-date actuals, and cash and investments. Mr. Jewell also provided a status update on facilities and deferred maintenance planning, including that President Bloomberg had the opportunity to testify before the Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee to help bolster identified facilities needs of the University.

An update was provided to the committee including summer and fall 2024 forecasted enrollment, how the FAFSA Simplification Act rollout has been impacting CSU, and how CSU's staff and community partners are addressing students who may need extra support.

Committee Chair Kunkle reported the review and approval of one item for action related to spending authority for the first quarter of FY25; an Executive Session was held and resulted in two items which were approved under new business and all of the items are included on the consent agenda (Funding Authorization for Phase 1 of Rhodes Tower Asbestos Remediation Project and the Authorization to Execute an Exclusive Pouring Rights Contract with ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages).

Trustee Cosgrove asked to pull Item E from the Consent Agenda to be discussed in greater detail (FY25 Budget - Q1 Spending Authority). He expressed concern of the amount included in the resolution without knowing more about the decisions in moving forward and understanding how the budget will be impacted by voluntary separations and enrollment numbers.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Report of the May 13, 2024 Meeting

Committee Chair Starkoff reported that the committee met in Executive Session and that following the session, the committee considered one item under new business related to the President's Performance Review. The committee noted that President Bloomberg had achieved and, in some cases, exceeded many of her performance objectives for FY24. The Committee is now referring the matter to the full board for further review and consideration.

REPORT OF THE CSU FOUNDATION

VP Rehm reviewed FY24 fundraising reports through the Q3, noting more than \$30 million in attainment. She noted that President Bloomberg and the Advancement team have had meetings with the lawyers from the estate of Walter and Katherine McCombs to discuss how best to use funds realized from the \$16 million bequest, including scholarships and more flexible allocations toward student success initiatives.

VP Rehm thanked members for their support and attendance at the recent Radiance fundraising event.

CSU Foundation Chair White updated members on Foundation news including that the endowment currently stands at \$130 million. She asked members to consider how the Foundation can support the Board of Trustees.

In closing, Foundation Chair White opined that Cleveland State University is a unique, special, and excellent university and should be considered as such, rather than trying to describe the campus as "residential" or "commuter".

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Reynolds stated that routine matters, or those recommended by committees and discussed previously, are considered on the Consent Agenda, and he noted that Item E, FY Budget – Q1 Spending Authority, was being removed for further review. He asked if there were any other items that Board members wished to discuss or remove; there were none.

Trustee Kunkle moved, and Trustee Cosgrove seconded, the motion to approve the following consent agenda items: New Degree - BA in Digital Humanities; New Degree - PhD in

Transdisciplinary Health, Science & Technology; ODHE 2024 College Completion Plan; Funding Authorization for Phase I of Rhodes Tower Asbestos Remediation Project; Authorization to Execute an Exclusive Pouring Rights Contract with ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages, LLC; and Accepting Gifts and Pledges, 3rd Quarter, January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024.

RESOLUTION 2024-38

APPROVAL OF NEW BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DIGITAL HUMANITIES

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences has proposed to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Digital Humanities; and

WHEREAS, if students have experience in the interdisciplinary study of digital media and history they will have a more well-rounded education; and

WHEREAS, the BA in Digital Humanities will provide students with the knowledge and skills to present historical and humanities content to broad audiences using engaging digital technologies; and

WHEREAS, the BA in Digital Humanities will translate to careers in a variety of fields, such as web design, geographic information systems, market research, non-profits, social media, communication coordinators, archivists, and other communication and public humanities fields; and

WHEREAS, there is a demonstrated need for such a program in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the proposed degree program has been reviewed and approved by all appropriate faculty entities and academic administrators, including approval by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on April 3, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed the proposed new degree program as submitted by the University Administration and recommends full Board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees approves the new Bachelor of Digital Humanities to be housed in the College of Arts and Sciences.

RESOLUTION 2024-39

APPROVAL OF NEW PHD IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Health and Engineering have proposed to offer the PhD in Transdisciplinary Health, Science, and Technology; and

WHEREAS, if students have experience in the interdisciplinary study of health, science and engineering they will be able to contribute to health-related fields in more comprehensive ways; and

WHEREAS, the PhD in Transdisciplinary Health, Science, and Technology will provide students with the knowledge and skills to do research and contribute new knowledge across disciplinary boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the PhD in Transdisciplinary Health, Science, and Technology will translate to careers in a variety of fields, such as health, science, engineering, and technology and

WHEREAS, there is a demonstrated need for such a program in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the proposed degree program has been reviewed and approved by all appropriate faculty entities and academic administrators, including approval by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on April 3, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed the proposed new integrated degree program as submitted by the University Administration and recommends full Board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees approves the new PhD in Transdisciplinary Health, Science, and Technology.

RESOLUTION 2024-40

APPROVAL OF ODHE COLLEGE COMPLETION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Higher Education mandated in 2014 that each public university in the State of Ohio complete a College 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 College 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 College Completion Plan was adopted in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the University set completion goals for 2022 to 2024, and outlined strategies to reach the new completion goals in the updated College Completion Plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed the College Completion Plan as presented by the University Administration and recommends full Board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees approves the 2024 College Completion Plan.

RESOLUTION 2024-41

FUNDING AUTHORIZATION FOR PHASE I OF RHODES TOWER ASBESTOS REMEDIATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Euclid Avenue Development Corporation was awarded a \$3,365,110 grant through the Ohio Department of Development's (ODD) Brownfield Remediation Program to for Phase I of a project to remediate asbestos from Rhodes Tower; and

WHEREAS, the cost of Phase I of the Rhodes Tower remediation project is estimated to be approximately \$4,480,000; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 122.6511, grants awarded through the Brownfield Remediation Program are limited to seventy-five percent of a project's estimated total cost, and the grantee is responsible to provide matching funds for the remaining twenty-five percent of estimated project costs and any additional funding that may be necessary to fully complete Phase I of the project; and

WHEREAS, the University is seeking authorization for Fiscal Year 2024 funding up to \$1,120,000 to be used for ODD Brownfield Remediation Program matching funds, and such other temporary Fiscal Year 2024 funding for project costs up to \$3,365,110 that will be reimbursed from the ODD grant, for Phase I of the Rhodes Tower asbestos remediation project; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed this matter as presented by the University Administration and recommends full Board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees authorizes purchase orders not to exceed \$1,120,000 to be used for ODD Brownfield Remediation Program matching funds, and for temporary funding totaling \$3,365,110 that will be reimbursed through ODD Brownfield Remediation Program grant funds, for Phase I of the Rhodes asbestos remediation project.

RESOLUTION 2024-42

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN EXCLUSIVE POURING RIGHTS CONTRACT
WITH ABARTA COCA-COLA BEVERAGES, LLC**

WHEREAS, the University's current cold beverage pouring rights and sponsorship agreement terminates on June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the University issued Request for Proposals #5009ME for Exclusive Pouring Rights for cold beverages on February 26, 2024 (the "RFP"); and

WHEREAS, ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages, LLC is a responsive and responsible vendor and has submitted a proposal in response to the RFP that the University administration deems to be the best value and most advantageous to the University; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the proposal are set forth in Exhibit "A" to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed this matter as presented by the University Administration and recommends full Board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees grants the Sr. Vice President for Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer to enter into an agreement with ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages, LLC, for exclusive cold beverage pouring rights in accordance with the terms and conditions attached hereto as Exhibit "A," subject to review and revisions to the agreement as deemed necessary by the University's Office of General Counsel.

RESOLUTION 2024-43

**ACCEPTING GIFTS AND PLEDGE PAYMENTS
3RD QUARTER, FY 2024
JANUARY 1, 2024 TO MARCH 31, 2024**

RESOLVED, that the gifts and pledge payments totaling \$3,727,688 received by the Cleveland State University Foundation during the period January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024 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

Chair Reynolds moved for the Board to recess into Executive Session to consider personnel matters involving the appointment and employment of public officials, to discuss imminent and

pending litigation with the University General Counsel, to discuss matters related to collective bargaining, and to discuss trade secret information required by law to be kept confidential. Trustee Whiting seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken by the Secretary of the Board; voting in the affirmative were Ms. Byrd, Mr. Cosgrove, Ms. DePompei, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Kunkle, Mr. Starkoff, Mr. Tompkins, Ms. Whiting, and Mr. Reynolds. The motion carried.

Chair Reynolds excused everyone except the voting trustees, President Bloomberg, ex officio Trustee White, Provost Sridhar, CFO Jewell, Sr. VP Jewell, Chief of Staff Franklin, AD Harkey, Assistant Board Secretary Link, and VP, General Counsel and Board Secretary Wilson. The executive session began at 10:12 a.m.

At 12:45 p.m., Chair Reynolds announced that the Board had finished its business in Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Reynolds announced that a number of items would be considered as a result of the Executive Session.

Authorization for Administration to Enter into Extension Employment Agreement with Men's Head Basketball Coach and Authorization for Administration to Enter into Amended Employment Agreement with Women's Head Basketball Coach

Trustee Starkoff moved the approval; and Trustee Dolan seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll resulting in the approval of the following two resolutions.

RESOLUTION 2024-44

AUTHORIZATION FOR ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO EXTENSION EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH MEN'S HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

WHEREAS, Daniyal Robinson has served admirably as the Head Coach of the Cleveland State University Men's Basketball Team since 2022, with a 42-29 record during Coach Robinson's two years, including back-to-back 20+ win seasons, the first men's basketball coach to achieve this accomplishment at CSU in their first two years, and back-to-back post season appearances; and

WHEREAS, men's basketball student-athletes currently carry a 3.08 cumulative grade point average and 14 student-athletes have been honored on CSU Deans' Lists under Coach Robinson's leadership; and

WHEREAS, the team has appeared in the Horizon League semifinals both years of Coach Robinson's tenure, including an appearance in the 2023 Championship game, and student-athlete Tristan Enaruna was honored as First Team All Horizon League this season; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Director of Athletics wishes to retain his services and reward Coach and the staff for their outstanding performance; and

WHEREAS, the parties have negotiated the essential terms and conditions of Mr. Robinson's employment as the Cleveland State University Men's Head Basketball Coach, and further committed to develop a definitive Amendment to the Employment Agreement for Mr. Robinson, which is attached hereto in substantial form:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Cleveland State University Interim Director of Athletics to execute the Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Men's Head Basketball Coach Daniyal Robinson containing the essential terms as attached hereto, subject to any changes deemed necessary by University General Counsel; and that the University Administration is authorized to negotiate and execute any and all documents and agreements to effectuate the terms of a final Employment Agreement.

RESOLUTION 2024-45

AUTHORIZATION FOR ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO AMENDED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH WOMEN'S HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

WHEREAS, Chris Kielsmeier has served admirably as the Head Coach of the Cleveland State University Women's Basketball Team since 2019, with a 125-60 record during Coach Kielsmeier's six years, including Horizon League Regular Season champions for the first time in program history and the program's fourth straight post-season tournament appearance during the 2023-24 season; and

WHEREAS, women's basketball student-athletes currently carry a 3.48 cumulative grade point average, made up of many Academic programs across the institution, including 5 majoring in the Washkewicz College of Engineering, and 69 student-athletes have been honored on CSU Deans' Lists under Coach Kielsmeier's leadership; and

WHEREAS, the team has appeared in the Horizon League semifinals for five consecutive seasons and student-athletes were honored this season as conference player of the year, newcomer of the year, and defensive player of the year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Kielsmeier was pursued with opportunities for coaching employment at other Division I institutions following the 2023-24 season and the Director of Athletics wishes to retain his services and reward the Coach for his outstanding performance; and

WHEREAS, the parties have negotiated the essential terms and conditions of Mr. Kielsmeier's employment as the Cleveland State University Women's Head Basketball Coach, and further committed to develop a definitive Amendment to the Employment Agreement for Mr. Kielsmeier, which is attached hereto in substantial form:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Cleveland State University Interim Director of Athletics to execute the Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Women's Head Basketball Coach Chris Kielsmeier containing the essential terms as attached hereto, subject to any changes deemed necessary by University General Counsel; and that the University Administration is authorized to negotiate and execute any and all documents and agreements to effectuate the terms of a final Employment Agreement.

Approval of American Association of University Professors CSU Main Campus Unit Collective Bargaining Agreement and Approval of American Association of University Professors CSU Law Faculty Unit Collective Bargaining Agreement

Trustee Dolan moved the approval; and Trustee Whiting seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll resulting in the approval of the following two resolutions.

RESOLUTION 2024-46

APPROVAL OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS CSU MAIN CAMPUS UNIT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the University and the American Association of University Professors Cleveland State Chapter (CSU-AAUP) Main Campus Unit have reached a final tentative agreement for a 1-year successor collective bargaining agreement for faculty extending from August 16, 2024, through August 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the membership of CSU-AAUP Main Campus Unit voted to ratify the 1-year tentative agreements on May 6, 2024:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the delegation of authority to the University's administration to execute and implement the successor collective bargaining agreement between Cleveland State University and the American Association of University Professors Cleveland State University Main Campus Unit for the 1-year period from August 16, 2024, through August 15, 2025.

RESOLUTION 2024-47

APPROVAL OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS CSU LAW FACULTY UNIT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the University and the American Association of University Professors Cleveland State Chapter (CSU-AAUP) Law Faculty Unit have reached a final tentative agreement for a 1-year successor collective bargaining agreement for faculty extending from August 16, 2024, through August 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the membership of CSU-AAUP Law Faculty Unit voted to ratify the 1-year tentative agreements on May 6, 2024:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the delegation of authority to the University's administration to execute and implement the successor collective bargaining agreement between Cleveland State University and the American Association of University Professors Cleveland State University Law Faculty Unit for the 1-year period from August 16, 2024, through August 15, 2025.

Annual Evaluation and Accepting the Goals of President Laura J. Bloomberg

Trustee Reynolds moved the approval; and Trustee Cosgrove seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll resulting in the approval of the resolution below.

RESOLUTION 2024-48

**ANNUAL EVALUATION AND ACCEPTING THE GOALS OF
PRESIDENT LAURA J. BLOOMBERG**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 6 of President Bloomberg's employment agreement and Section 3344-1-03(C) of the Board Bylaws, the Governance Committee shall commence the review of the performance of the president at the annual meeting in a manner consistent with the president's contract; and

WHEREAS, the evaluation of the President's performance is based on jointly established goals for the year in review that reflect progress in achieving the University's strategic plan, and the evaluation process should include the mutual agreement on the goals and objectives for the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, President Bloomberg provided her written self-evaluation to the Governance Committee for their review and consideration; and

WHEREAS, as part of the FY24 performance review, a 360-evaluation of the President's Performance was completed that included feedback from various stakeholder groups including the Board of Trustees, President's Cabinet, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee has thoughtfully and carefully reviewed the President's self-evaluation and 360-evaluation and have noted that she has made substantial progress toward, met, and in many cases exceeded her performance goals for FY24; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee commends President Bloomberg for her significant achievements during her second year as President which include, but are not limited to:

- Launching a new Division of Student Belonging and Success that realigned several existing programs and initiatives to create greater synergy among these efforts which will directly impact student persistence and retention; and
- Strengthening the University's research enterprise and exceeding research funding growth for all centers with extramural funding and seeing an increase in the number of students participating in research; and
- Developing the veteran and military connected faculty and staff resource group, with planning for additional resource groups in FY25; and
- Establishing an Organizational Resilience and Financial Stability Group and ensuring that the university is on solid footing as we chart a course for the future.

WHEREAS, based upon her many accomplishments in meeting her FY24 goals, the Governance Committee advises that President Bloomberg has earned a performance bonus consistent with the terms of her employment agreement; and

WHEREAS, upon review and consideration, the Governance Committee recommends that the full Board accept the President's Self-Review; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize a contract extension with President Bloomberg, with the final terms to be negotiated and approved by the Executive Committee of the Board:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees accepts the President's Self-Review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees authorizes a contract extension with President Bloomberg, with the final terms to be negotiated and approved by the Executive Committee of the Board and that the Board and President will further meet to discuss and establish mutually agreed upon goals and objectives for the next fiscal year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees recognizes that President Bloomberg has earned a performance bonus and applauds her many successes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED due to budgetary concerns and in consultation with the President, the performance bonus for FY24 will not be paid; furthermore, had the Board authorized the payment of a performance bonus in FY24, President Bloomberg would have declined the payment.

**Delegating the Authority to Appoint Members to the Center for Civics, Culture and Society
Academic Council**

Trustee Cosgrove moved the approval; and Trustee Dolan seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll resulting in the approval of the resolution below.

RESOLUTION 2024-49

DELEGATING THE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CENTER FOR CIVICS, CULTURE AND SOCIETY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

WHEREAS, House Bill 33 established, as an independent academic unit, a *Center for Civics, Culture, and Society*, at Cleveland State University; and

WHEREAS, the Center must conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society and will be housed in the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education; and

WHEREAS, the bill requires the establishment of an academic council be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience; not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university; and best efforts must be made to have no fewer than three members from Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in December 2023, the Board of Trustees considered and submitted seven candidates for the academic council to the Ohio Senate, and in April 2024, the Board of Trustees considered and submitted two additional candidates; and

WHEREAS, the Board may need to consider additional candidates to the Center for Civics, Culture, and Society academic council in a timely manner that may occur during an off-cycle schedule of meetings:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees delegates to the Governance Committee the authority to appoint members as they deem appropriate and in the best interest of the University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if such an action is taken by the Governance Committee, the Chairman of the Board will forward these names to the Ohio Senate.

Recommending Acceptance of CSU's Transformation Plan

Trustee Reynolds moved the approval; and Trustee Byrd seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll resulting in the approval of the resolution below.

RESOLUTION 2024-50

RECOMMENDING ACCEPTANCE OF CSU'S TRANSFORMATION PLAN

WHEREAS, in alignment with national trends in enrollment, the University is experiencing budgetary challenges and shortfalls which will impact the University's budget over several fiscal

years; and

WHEREAS, as shown in the current fiscal year operating budget, given these challenges, the University will need to use strategic reserves to balance the budget; and

WHEREAS, due to these projected shortfalls, the University Administration stood up the Organizational Resilience and Financial Stability planning group, comprised of faculty and staff from across campus, who over the summer of 2023, reviewed and consolidated recommendations and input received from several standing committees and organizations across campus to develop high level strategies to reduce costs and more closely manage/limit expenditures and increase revenues; and

WHEREAS, considering these challenges, the Board of Trustees asked the University Administration to build on that work and further explore strategic initiatives to support increased enrollment, revenue generation, and cost containment, that could be implemented across several fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, after a comprehensive RFQ process, the University Administration in December 2023 entered into an agreement with Ernst and Young LLP (EY-Parthenon) to assist the University in identifying, prioritizing and implementing near-term actions that would enhance operational and administrative performance to address the University's operational deficit and ongoing budget challenges, and to identify long-term priorities as CSU plans for a financially viable and academically thriving future; and

WHEREAS, President Laura Bloomberg appointed a Steering Committee comprised of administrative leadership, staff, faculty, and trustees to work with EY-Parthenon to better inform the steering committee's work and arrive upon near-term and long-term strategies and recommendations to address the University's budget challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee has completed its strategic assessment and submitted the Consolidated Findings Report and recommendations ("Transformation Plan") to the President and CSU leadership, who in turn have submitted materials to the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees for its review and consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed the matter as presented by the University Administration and recommends full Board acceptance:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees accepts the Transformation Plan, and further directs the University's President and senior leadership to present a proposed implementation plan to the Executive Committee for its approval that will right size University expenditures to expected revenues by FY29, based on the Transformation Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the implementation plan include, at a minimum, assessment of Transformation Plan options that the Administration accepts, rejects or to which it proposes revisions; periodic updates and progress reports; planned milestones and targets, and

will incorporate Executive Committee approval of significant strategic actions prior to implementation.

FY25 First Quarter Budget Spending Authority

Chair Reynolds announced that a revised resolution was introduced, reducing the spending authority from \$80 to \$40 million and authorizing the Executive Committee to review and authorize additional spending as needed.

Trustee Cosgrove moved the approval; and Trustee Starkoff seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll resulting in the approval of the resolution below.

RESOLUTION 2024-51

FY25 FIRST QUARTER BUDGET SPENDING AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the beginning of the State of Ohio's and Cleveland State University's fiscal year (FY25) is July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the University is addressing a revenue shortfall and significant budget gap and has engaged external support from EY-Parthenon consultants to develop both long view and near-term budget challenges; and

WHEREAS, the delayed rollout of the FAFSA Simplification Act and system implementation glitches have negatively impacted student enrollment; and

WHEREAS, to advance the mission of Cleveland State, the University will need to continue to expend funds from its current unrestricted Operating Budget, General Fee Budget and Auxiliary Business Units budget for a period beginning July 1, 2024, and until a final budget is presented to the Executive Committee at a meeting in August 2024; and

WHEREAS, the University is requesting first quarter FY25 budget spending authority, not to exceed \$40 million through of the FY25 budget that will be formally presented to the Executive Committee for approval at a meeting in August 2024:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees approves a first quarter budget spending authority not to exceed \$40 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees delegates to the Executive Committee further discussion and action related to the FY25 budget.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Governance Committee Chair Starkoff reported that the appointment of a Nominating Committee was announced at the April 2024 Special Board Meeting, and the committee consisted of Trustees Dolan, Kunkle and himself. The slate of officers for the Board's consideration were brought forth, and he asked for any additional nominations from the floor. There were none.

Trustee Starkoff moved the approval of the slate; and Trustee Kunkle seconded the motion. Following an approving roll call by Board Secretary Wilson, the resolution below was adopted and the officers terms will begin immediately following the annual meeting, per the Board's bylaws.

RESOLUTION 2024-52

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby elects the following persons to serve as officers for the 2024-2025 term: Trustee David M. Reynolds as Chair, Trustee Timothy J. Cosgrove as Vice Chair, Trustee P. Kelly Tompkins as Treasurer, Trustee Vanessa L. Whiting as Executive Committee Member, and Sonali B. Wilson as Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sonali B. Wilson
Vice President of Legal Affairs and
Compliance, General Counsel and
Board Secretary

APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

David M. Reynolds
Chairman, Board of Trustees