



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

- DATE:** Thursday, November 16, 2023, 8:00 a.m.
- PLACE:** Hybrid Meeting— The Wolstein Center, Gerald H. Gordon Conference Pavilion, West Wing and via Zoom; livestreamed for public view.
- PRESENT:** Board Chair David M. Reynolds; Trustees Nikki C. Byrd; Timothy J. Cosgrove, Patricia DePompei, Lisa K. Kunkle, Alan G. Starkoff, P. Kelly Tompkins, and Vanessa L. Whiting; Student Trustees Akshat Shah and Jake Wrege; 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; Vice President and Dean of Enrollment Management Jonathan Wehner; Vice President, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Roy Gifford; Vice President of Advancement Julie Rehm; Executive Director, Government Affairs, 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 8:04 a.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present. He welcomed members and noted that the meeting was being livestreamed for public viewing.

The first item of business was the approval of the minutes of September 21, 2023. Trustee Kunkle moved the approval, and Trustee Byrd seconded the motion. Board Secretary Wilson called the roll and the minutes were approved.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Reynolds reminded members that their annual ethics training must be completed by the end of the calendar year, and that the board office will send a reminder email to those who have not yet completed training.

He reported that the Executive Committee of the board met on October 19, 2023 and that there were no actions taken at that meeting.

Chair Reynolds announced that the AGB will host their national conference on trusteeship March 26-28, 2024 in Boston, and that early bird registration will be ending in two weeks. He asked trustees to let the board office know soon if they have plans to attend.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Bloomberg reported on three examples of CSU's strong presence in the community and related partnerships that are in action.

The university and the Cuyahoga Community College are strengthening their partnership with transfer grants for students, collaborative advising for students to ensure pathways to a four-year degree and smooth transfer of credits, and the opportunity for students at Tri-C to earn micro scholarships to attend CSU. President Bloomberg invited members to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast in January 2024.

The Sherwin-Williams Career Accelerator Business Learning Community is an exclusive program for high-achieving second year students studying the majors of accounting, finance, or information systems during the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 academic semesters and is an opportunity for sophomores in the Monte Ahuja College of Business to connect their academic studies with a career connection experience.

She acknowledged that CSU's S-W Career Accelerator and the Parker Hannifin Learning Community are now established models, and may be used to attract other business partnerships for the benefit of CSU students.

President Bloomberg provided the Cleveland Innovation District as a third example, and explained that the collaboration exists between Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland State University, MetroHealth, and University Hospitals. The efforts are focused on the advancement in technology and healthcare, focused on providing careers in research, education, and the healthcare supply chain. She noted that the administration will provide a more

detailed report in the future, and that over the next ten years, the collective efforts of the Cleveland Innovation District hope to catalyze the creation of more than 20,000 new jobs.

As CSU and the business community continue to foster relationship-building efforts, the university's new integrated major options will provide students a competitive edge in the current marketplace.

President Bloomberg addressed the ways in which the university and its police and safety departments are working to ensure student safety on campus, while respecting the free speech policy, she noted that the CSUPD and the Cleveland PD have a good working relationship and established lines for communication.

The President closed her remarks by recognizing KeyBank for a generous gift that formed the Beth E. Mooney Center for Transformative Leadership at CSU. She noted that the Center will be a vital part of CSU and a national model in higher education for transformative leadership development for students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Reynolds moved for the Board to recess into Executive Session to consider personnel matters involving the appointment of public officials, to discuss imminent and pending litigation with the University General Counsel, and to discuss trade secret information required by law to be kept confidential. Trustee Starkoff 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, 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, Sr. VP Jewell, Chief of Staff Franklin, VP Gifford, VP Wehner, Assistant Board Secretary Link, and VP, General Counsel and Board Secretary Wilson. The executive session began at 8:25 a.m.

At 9:49 a.m., Chair Reynolds announced that the Board had finished its business in Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Trustees Wrege and Shah provided photographs of the university's designated commuter student space in the Student Center that showed broken furniture and computers and noted that the space was unkempt. They observed that the disrepair has happened over time since the space was newly opened in 2018.

The student trustees commended the availability of CSU's computer labs and printers, as well as the CSU libraries, and noted that student spaces within each of the college's buildings are well-used, updated, and primarily used by students within those colleges.

The Student Center is a place where students gather regardless of their specific majors, and commuter students might benefit from a lounge that could provide lockers or a small kitchenette area. CFO Jewell responded with acknowledgement of the situation. He noted that there are spaces within the Student Center that are being reimagined within a holistic plan that will be overseen by the new Division of Student Belonging and Success.

REPORT FROM FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Faculty Representative Kumar updated members on the Faculty Senate ad hoc committee on Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) which has been tasked with reviewing the survey instrument and making recommendations so that it more accurately measures instruction. Surveys have been collected from college instructors and students, and the committee is hosting a remote lecture on the current state of research and best practices for student evaluations with Dr. Regan Gurung, Professor of Psychology and Associate Vice Provost at Oregon State University.

Dr. Kumar also noted that the Senate is aware that curricular efficiencies are tied to the CSU budget and organizational resiliency efforts, and he encourages conversations with long-time faculty members and administrators to better understand the university's historical efforts, especially college-by-college.

Faculty representative Ausherman acknowledged the faculty's support of CSU's organizational resiliency and financial stability review. She reported that several of her colleagues would also like for the university to review administration cost centers and programs, including seeking diverse perspectives and reviewing non-instruction related headcounts and administrative roles. Dr. Ausherman also called attention to the increase in enrollments of specific programs, however the numbers of faculty within those programs may not have increased.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Cosgrove reported on the November 9, 2023, Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee meeting. The Committee received an update from Provost Sridhar on the core curriculum review and the development of integrated degree programs. The Provost also updated the members on the Center for Civics, Culture and Society, the work of Gray Associates and the Levin College Dean Search.

The Committee received an update from Dr. Banks on the new Division of Student Belonging and Success and how she is approaching bringing areas together under this new Division, and from Ms. Candisky on Senate Bill 83.

The discussion also included an update on AI in the Classroom, how AI is impacting teaching and learning and how the faculty are responding to these changes, with faculty members Drs. Joanne Goodell and Shelley Rose.

The Committee reviewed three items for action: the transcript withholding policy, the award of rank and tenure to Dr. Melissa Gruys (Dean of the Ahuja College of Business) and the ratification of the appointment of Dr. Jill Gordon as the new Dean of the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education; these items were approved by the committee and are on the consent agenda for approval by the full board.

Committee Chair Cosgrove also reported that the committee met in executive session.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Kunkle reported that the Financial Affairs Committee met on November 9, 2023. The members received an update from the RSM external auditors, in which they reviewed their final audit report. The university had a clean audit and the committee voted to accept the FY23 audit report as presented.

CFO Jewell then reviewed three items for action: amendments to purchasing policies, the FY23 efficiency report, and a contract with Cleveland Therma Steam. These items, along with the approved external audit report were approved by the committee and are on the consent agenda for approval by the full board.

Trustee Kunkle noted that the committee also reviewed several discussion items, including: an update from CFO Jewell in which he presented the FY24 first quarter budget report, an update

on the roll out and implementation of a new HR system, and a summary of employees who were awarded the status of Associate of the University.

The Committee received an enrollment update from VP Wehner and ended the discussion items with a capital budget update from the CFO.

She noted that an executive session was not needed therefore that was removed from the agenda during the meeting.

REAL ESTATE AND FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Tompkins reported on the subcommittee meeting held on October 5, and noted that the committee met in executive session to discuss real estate matters, including the purchase or sale of real property.

He reminded members that at the board meeting on September 21, 2023, the Board of Trustees delegated further review of the purchase of 1900 Euclid Avenue to the Subcommittee and asked for a recommendation to the Executive Committee of the Board.

After further review, the Subcommittee did not recommend that the Board support the Euclid Avenue Development Corporation executing the purchase and the matter did not move forward to the Executive Committee for further review, Trustee Tompkins reported.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Starkoff updated members on the Governance Committee meetings on November 6 and November 14, 2023.

He reported that at the November 6 meeting, the members reviewed and approved changes to the Board Bylaws including the addition of language regarding the appointment of faculty, staff, and community advisors to committees of the board and university administrative or academic councils; and the addition of language regarding the president's performance review process. He noted that other minor changes being recommended are housekeeping edits.

The members also discussed the board self-assessment tool and new trustee orientation and concluded that the board should supplement the existing tool and practices with resources that are provided by AGB.

Committee Chair Starkoff noted that at the meeting on November 14, the committee reviewed and endorsed an honorary degree candidate for full board approval and the item is included on the consent agenda.

Both the November 6 and 14 meetings included executive sessions, he reported.

REPORT OF THE CSU FOUNDATION

Chair White reported that the Foundation recently held a half-day retreat for members, and reviewed both advancement and university strategic goals; members also discussed stewardship efforts and participated in short social media clips to send to donors and friends of CSU.

Foundation members also received bookmarks with CSU points of pride in order to help connect their peers to facts about the university.

VP Rehm reported on the FY24 attainment (\$3.94 million) toward the yearly goal (\$22 million); the Washkewicz College of Engineering's distinguished alumni award being presented to Mr. Don Washkewicz; and a successful alumni reception that was held in Columbus, Ohio. She thanked Trustees Cosgrove and Starkoff for their help with hosting the event.

Members were asked to mark their calendars for Radiance on May 8, 2024, when long-time friend, alumna, and donor to the University, Marjorie Shorrock, will receive the President's Medal.

VP Rehm closed by reporting recent gifts to the Ahuja College of Business and the College of Law, and that several gifts that are in the pipeline.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Reynolds 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 or remove; there were none.

Trustee Kunkle moved, and Trustee DePompei seconded, the motion to approve the following consent agenda items: Amendments to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees; Awarding of an Honorary Degree to Theodore Ginn, Sr.; Acceptance of FY23 External Audit; Approval of Revisions to CSU Purchasing Policies; Approval of FY23 Efficiency Report; Approval of Contract with Cleveland Thermal Steam; Transcript Withholding Policy; Award of Rank and Tenure to Dr. Melissa Gruys, Dean, Monte Ahuja College of Business; Ratification of the Appointment of Dr.

Jill Gordon as Dean of the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education; Accepting Gifts and Pledges, 1st Quarter, July 1, 2023—September 30, 2023.

A roll call vote was taken by the Board Secretary; the consent agenda was approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-56

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS, it is a good governance practice to conduct a periodic review of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, notification has been given of the intention to amend the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the Board's Bylaws to reflect changes to various committee structures and responsibilities, as well as to clarify and update other sections of the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments are currently posted on the University's website for a 30-day comment period as required by the Board's rulemaking policy; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the General Counsel and Board Secretary has reviewed the proposed revisions, and they were brought to the Governance Committee for review and discussion; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee has reviewed the amendments to the Bylaws and recommends Board approval:

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

RESOLUTION 2023-57

AWARDING OF AN HONORARY DEGREE TO THEODORE GINN, SR.

WHEREAS, individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Cleveland State University, the Greater Cleveland area, and/or society and humankind are nominated to receive honorary degrees from the University; and

WHEREAS, the nominee has been reviewed and accepted by the Faculty Senate Committee on Graduation, Convocation and Assembly and is being recommended to the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. Ginn Sr. founded the Ginn Academy, the first all-male public high school in Cleveland and the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ginn Sr., has dedicated his life to ensuring his students succeed, which is evidenced by the significant levels of achievement made by the students who attend the Ginn Academy; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the honorary degree candidate 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 awarding of an honorary degree to Theodore Ginn, Sr.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this honorary degree will be presented at a future date based upon Mr. Ginn's acceptance.

RESOLUTION 2023-58

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF FISCAL YEAR 2023 AUDIT REPORTS

WHEREAS, the Senior Vice President, Business Affairs & Chief Financial Officer and the Controller & Associate Vice President received the Fiscal Year 2023 audit reports from the University's external auditors, RSM US LLP, including the Auditor Required Communication, Financial Statement Audit, and Single Audit Report; and

WHEREAS, the external auditors discussed the audit reports with University Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the audit reports as submitted by the University Administration and recommends full Board approval and acceptance:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees approves and accepts the audit reports mentioned above.

RESOLUTION 2023-59

APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY PURCHASING POLICIES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 153.01 and Ohio Administrative Code Rule 153:1-9-01, the public bidding and formal competitive selection threshold for construction contracts is two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to University policy 3344-65-26 (Bidding requirements for public improvements), the public bidding and formal competitive selection threshold for construction contracts is fifty thousand dollars, which is significantly below the State of Ohio bidding threshold; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments are currently posted on the University's website for a 30-day comment period as required by the Board's rulemaking policy; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the General Counsel has reviewed the proposed revisions and is recommending to the Financial Affairs Committee for approval; and

WHEREAS, the University administration desires to revise the University's purchasing policies to align the University bidding and competitive selection thresholds with the State of Ohio thresholds as follows:

1. Rescind University policies: 3344-65-25, Procurement policy for facility planning, design and construction services; 3344-65-26, Bidding requirements for public improvements; and 3344-65-27, Procurement of professional design services; and
2. Amend University policy 3344-65-16, Competitive bidding and competitive selection, as attached hereto; and
3. Implement new policy 3344-65-25, Solicitation, selection, and award of contracts for public improvement projects, as attached hereto.

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed these policy amendments 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 revision to the University's purchasing policies as presented; and further instructs the University Administration to file the amended 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 2023-60

APPROVAL OF CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY FISCAL YEAR 2023 EFFICIENCY REPORT SUBMITTED TO ODHE

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Ohio created the Ohio Task Force on Affordability in February 2015 to make recommendations on the three principles of 1) efficiency in expense management and revenue generation, 2) maintaining a high quality of education, and 3) lowering the student's cost of earning a degree; and

WHEREAS, Section 3333.95 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requires the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) to maintain an Efficiency Advisory Committee composed of members from each of Ohio's public colleges and universities in support of the Task Force's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, each public college and university is required to submit an annual efficiency report to the Chancellor, which feeds into the ODHE annual efficiency report to the Governor and General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, State law also requires each public college and university's board of trustees to approve the institutions' annual efficiency report; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the efficiency report 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 efficiency report as submitted.

RESOLUTION 2023-61

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED AND RESTATED STEAM SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLEVELAND THERMAL

WHEREAS, the University's contract for steam service with Cleveland Thermal Steam Distribution, LLC (CT) expires on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the University administration has negotiated a proposed five-year Amended and Restated Steam Services Agreement with CT; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amended and Restated Steam Services Agreement includes favorable pricing; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amended and Restated Steam Services Agreement allows the University to remove buildings from the CT system and obtain heat load from other sources, which offers the University greater flexibility in pursuing objectives in the 2022 Master Plan; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees authorizes the University's Senior Vice President of Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer to enter into an Amended and Restated Steam Services Agreement with Cleveland Thermal Steam Distribution, LLC for campus steam service.

RESOLUTION 2023-62

**AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF TRANSCRIPT WITHHOLDING WITH
EXCEPTIONS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to 3345.027 (C)(2), not later than December 1, 2023, the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education shall formally consider and adopt a resolution determining whether to end the practice of transcript withholding; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Ohio law, Cleveland State University does not withhold a student's official transcripts from a potential employer because a student owes money, provided the student has authorized the transcripts to be sent to the employer and the employer affirms to the institution that the transcripts are a prerequisite of employment; and

WHEREAS, the University believes the practice described above promotes the state's workforce goals, as well as the University's goal of promoting gainful employment for its students and former students; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Ohio College Comeback Compact, when a student who has disenrolled at Cleveland State University requests that the University release the student's transcript to Ohio College Comeback Compact member institutions, Cleveland State releases the transcript and agrees to provide a level of debt relief to the student consistent with the compact agreement in order to facilitate completion of student's degree at Cleveland State University or another state institution; and

WHEREAS, in circumstances other than those described above, the University currently places holds on transcripts for students and former students who have unpaid balances with the Bursar's office; unpaid fines with the Department of Parking and Transportation Services; overdue library books; or unreturned Athletics Department or Department of Music equipment; or who failed to fulfill their obligations to attend exit counseling at the Financial Aid office regarding their student loans; and

WHEREAS, officials in the Bursar's office, Parking and Transportation Services Department, Athletics Department, Department of Music, and Financial Aid office have limited specific evidence on the rate of collection or compliance to fulfill other obligations, but maintain that transcript withholding has provided the University with leverage in getting students to satisfy the financial or other obligations to the University that gave rise to the transcript holds; and

WHEREAS, University officials do not believe that releasing a transcript for a student who has not met their financial or other obligations at Cleveland State to another prospective college or university for potential transfer promotes the objective of instilling financial responsibility in students; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned offices that are authorized to put holds on transcripts have made exceptions, and have expressed a willingness to continue to make exceptions, to transcript withholding in special circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the University has no evidence to support or refute the premise that ending the practice of withholding transcripts of former students will help those students complete their education elsewhere, and submits that absent special circumstances, when a student has failed or refused to meet their financial or other obligations to Cleveland State, releasing their transcripts to another college or university would not likely serve the interests of either institution; and

WHEREAS, the University has considered whether to end the practice of transcript withholding, applying the factors set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.027(C)(2)(a) through (c), as stated above; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed the matter as recommended by the administration and recommends full Board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees adopts this resolution authorizing the continued practice of transcript withholding except in those situations in which state law prohibits transcript withholding and when the official who authorized the hold finds special circumstances warrant releasing the hold; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.027(C)(1), a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

RESOLUTION 2023-63

AWARD OF RANK AND TENURE TO DR. MELISSA GRUYS

WHEREAS, an external search was conducted to fill the position of Dean of the Monte Ahuja College of Business; and

WHEREAS, the search attracted a substantial pool of well-qualified candidates, including Dr. Melissa Gruys, Dean of the Doermer School of Business at Purdue University Fort Wayne; and

WHEREAS, the credentials of Dr. Gruys have been reviewed by the appropriate faculty peer review committee in the Department of Management, the Chair, the Provost and the President; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gruys has fulfilled the requirements for tenure at the rank of 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 the proposed award of rank and tenure 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 award of tenure at the rank of Professor to Dr. Melissa Gruys in the

Department of Management, effective July 1, 2023, the first day of full-time employment at Cleveland State University.

RESOLUTION 2023-64

**RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. JILL A. GORDON AS DEAN OF
THE LEVIN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, Dr. Roland V. Anglin announced his intention to step down from his position as Dean of the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education as of December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the university launched a national search for a new Dean in July 2023, with Dean Lee Fisher serving as the chair of the search committee, which was comprised of seven faculty members, two staff members, one student, and two community members from outside the university; and

WHEREAS, the search process, which was supported by external search consultant firm WittKiefer, garnered nearly 50 applications representing a diverse and talented pool of candidates; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gordon has an earned doctorate in the field of Criminal Justice, has served as professor and administrator at Virginia Commonwealth University including the role of Associate Dean at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, and is currently serving as Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at VCU; and

WHEREAS, based on her demonstrated ability during the search and interview process, the university administration has identified Dr. Gordon as the best person to provide strong direction and leadership to the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee has reviewed the ratification of this appointment as recommended by the administration and recommends full Board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees ratifies the appointment of Dr. Jill A. Gordon to the position of Dean of the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education effective January 2, 2024.

RESOLUTION 2023-65

**ACCEPTING GIFTS AND PLEDGE PAYMENTS
1ST QUARTER, FY 2024
JULY 1, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

RESOLVED, that the gifts and pledge payments totaling \$2,205,310 received by the Cleveland State University Foundation during the period July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Reynolds announced that there were two items that will be voted on as a result of the Executive Session and they will each be considered individually.

Trustee Cosgrove moved the approval of the university entering into a contract with Ernst & Young for consulting services; Trustee Starkoff seconded the motion. Board Secretary Wilson called the roll and the motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2023-66

SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH ERNST & YOUNG LLP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION CONSULTING SERVICES

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 may 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, 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, the University Administration issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in October 2023 to seek out firms who could assist the university in identifying, prioritizing and implementing near-term actions that will 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, respondents to the RFQ and their proposals were reviewed and scored through a competitive process and during this process, in which some trustees participated, it was

determined that Ernst and Young LLP was the firm best suited to provide the University with strategic consulting services:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby supports the University Administration executing a contract with Ernst and Young LLP to provide strategic consulting services.

Chairman Reynolds brought forth the resolution to delegate the authority to the Executive Committee regarding the appointment of members to the new Center for Civics, Culture and Society academic council. Trustee Starkoff moved the approval of the resolution, and Trustee Kunkle seconded the motion. Board Secretary Wilson called the roll and the motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2023-67

DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTER FOR CIVICS, CULTURE AND SOCIETY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 117 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, Senate Bill 117 requires the CSU Board of Trustees to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a seven-member Center academic council by December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the bill requires the academic council be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience and 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 August 2023, President Bloomberg appointed an ad hoc working group to develop recommendations on the creation of this center, including recommendations for candidates to serve on the academic council; and

WHEREAS, recommendations from the ad hoc working group were shared with the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees and that committee was charged with the further review and vetting of candidates to make final recommendations to the Board; and

WHEREAS, given the timing of when appointments are due to the Ohio Senate, the Board of Trustees is delegating the appointment of members of the Center for Civics, Culture, and Society academic council to the Executive Committee of the Board:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby delegates the appointment of members of the Center for Civics, Culture, and Society academic council to the Executive Committee of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON JANUARY 25, 2024

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

APPROVED ON JANUARY 25, 2024

David M. Reynolds
Chairman, Board of Trustees