



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 16, 2023, 9:45 a.m.

**PLACE:** The Wolstein Center, Gerald H. Gordon Conference Pavilion, West Wing and via Zoom; livestreamed for public view.

**PRESENT:** Chair David M. Reynolds; Trustees Timothy J. Cosgrove, Patricia DePompei, Paul J. Dolan, Stephen F. Kirk, Lisa K. Kunkle, Alan G. Starkoff, P. Kelly Tompkins, and Vanessa L. Whiting; Student Trustees Brittany N. Sommers and Jake Wrege; Faculty Representatives Dr. Judy Ausherman and Dr. Anup Kumar; 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 of Advancement Julie Rehm; CSU Foundation Member Karen White; Director of Internal Audit Larry Johnston; and Heather A. Link, Assistant Board Secretary.

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Thanking members and guests for their participation, he noted that the meeting was being livestreamed for public viewing, and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

The newest Governor-appointed Trustee, P. Kelly Tompkins, was introduced by the Chairman. It was noted that Trustee Tompkins is a CSU College of Law alumnus, an experienced executive, and has served on CSU advisory boards and as a leader-in-residence at the University.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023 meeting. Trustee Kunkle moved approval of the minutes; Trustee Tompkins seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a roll call.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Reynolds brought forth a resolution to recognize the contributions of Student Trustee Sommers, noting that she assumed her trustee responsibilities during an unprecedented period during the pandemic, and still made thoughtful and meaningful contributions to the Board, all while pursuing her doctorate degree.

Trustee Whiting moved approval of the following resolution; Trustee Kirk seconded the motion, which was approved by roll call and with applause.

Trustee Sommers thanked members and noted that her trustee experience has been remarkable, she admires her genuinely dedicated fellow trustees, and thanked President Bloomberg for her leadership of the university and for placing the care of the students as a top priority. President Bloomberg remarked that Trustee Sommers is a brilliant engineering scholar, who will make the world a better place.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-7**

#### **RECOGNITION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE BRITTANY N. SOMMERS**

**WHEREAS**, Brittany N. Sommers was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees as a Student Trustee member on July 30, 2021 for a two-year term ending May 1, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Sommers, is a dedicated mechanical engineering Ph.D. student, who values mentorship with the Viking student community as well as outreach to local students and youth to encourage involvement in STEM related fields; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Sommers assumed her Student Trustee responsibilities during an unprecedented period during the COVID pandemic, while still fully participating with her Trustee colleagues first remotely, next in a hybrid manner, and finally connecting in face-to-face meetings, always providing thoughtful and meaningful student perspectives; and

**WHEREAS**, during her service as a Student Trustee, Ms. Sommers served on the Academic Affairs and Student Success, Athletics, and the Financial Affairs committees, advocating for the student experience and promoting the diverse and academically driven community that is Cleveland State University; and

**WHEREAS**, as a member of the American Society of Biomechanics, the International Society of Biomechanics and Phi Sigma Rho, a national engineering sorority, Ms. Sommers always prioritized her educational and research pursuits including: co-organizing the 2021 American Society of Biomechanics Regional Conference at Cleveland State; first-author contributions to the article, “Examining Feedback Mechanisms of Postural Control in Chiari Malformation by Average Wavelet Coefficient Decomposition and the Hurst Exponent;” and contributions to a textbook chapter “Considerations for Data Analysis”:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that on behalf of the Cleveland State University community, the Board of Trustees conveys appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Brittany N. Sommers for her exceptional service and contributions in support of the University and its success, and furthermore encourages her to stay in touch with each and every one of her Board colleagues.

Chair Reynolds closed his remarks by reminding the voting trustees that their financial disclosure statements are due to the Ohio Ethics Commission on May 15.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Bloomberg opened her report by welcoming members and introducing CSU basketball coaches Chris Kielsmeier (women’s team) and Daniyal Robinson (men’s team). She noted her gratitude toward the entire athletics team as they support the university’s student athletes both on and off the court. The president reported a sense of pride for both team’s performances this year and that the women’s team would be continuing in their play at the NCAA March Madness tournament, while the men’s team will participate in the College Basketball Invitational tournament.

The president recognized VP of Athletics, Scott Garrett, for his work to ensure that the University’s student athletes succeed in the classroom and on the courts. She noted increased community and donor support for athletics, which is helping to build a foundation for the best experience for our next generation of student athletes. President Bloomberg thanked Trustee Dolan for hosting an event in Arizona as the CSU advancement team is going on the road to host alumni and friends of the university at baseball spring training.

President Bloomberg reported that her cabinet continues to focus on four broad areas: implementing the administrative effort to support college realignment; establish student success (retention and graduation) for the focus for every leader in the institution; advance enrollment strategies; and champion review of work in our units to ensure alignment to the priorities. Chief of Staff Franklin was recognized for her work with the Campus Leadership Council.

The collective work of the campus senior leadership team has enabled President Bloomberg to devote more time to meet with community leaders and alumni donors. Recent trips to Florida were insightful, as she had several meaningful and enthusiastic conversations with friends of the university; upcoming travel includes Arizona, Houston, and Washington DC.

Cleveland State University Police Chief, Beverly Pettrey, was introduced and provided a brief report on campus safety. The CSU PD has partnerships established with the City of Cleveland Police and the Regional Transit Authority Police departments among others.

The Chief reported on critical incident responses which are offered on campus (life safety, protection of property, appropriate notification lines, etc.), and resources and training for the campus community. Chief Pettrey thanked President Bloomberg for activating appropriate drills and training for the emergency operations center at the university. The Chief noted that each department at the University has an emergency plan.

Trustee Cosgrove asked for information on safety at peer public universities in Ohio and how CSU compares to them.

President Bloomberg announced that the spring commencement ceremonies will be on May 12 (Ph.D. celebration), May 13 (undergraduate and graduate), and May 21 (College of Law); she invites all members to be a part of the ceremonies.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Reynolds moved for the Board to recess into Executive Session to consider security matters, personnel matters involving the appointment and employment of public employees, and for the purpose of discussing imminent and pending litigation with the University General Counsel. Trustee Tompkins seconded the motion.

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

Chair Reynolds excused everyone except the voting trustees, President Bloomberg, CSU PD Chief Pettrey, Deputy General Counsel King, SVP and Provost Sridhar, Chief of Staff Franklin, Assistant Board Secretary Link, and General Counsel and Board Secretary Wilson. The executive session began at 11:48 a.m.

At 12:37 p.m., Chair Reynolds announced that the Board had finished its business in Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.

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

Chair Reynolds announced that the item is being moved on the agenda and called on Committee Chair Cosgrove for his report.

Committee Chair Cosgrove reported that the committee met on March 9, 2023 and heard updates from Provost Sridhar (highlighted faculty achievements, commencement information and the April 3, 2023 celebration of faculty excellence). The committee also received a report on the University's research team, research strengths, strategic research centers, and CSU's technology transfer and commercialization efforts; VP Cockrell also reported on the University's DEI and campus engagement initiatives in the meeting.

The committee approved two resolutions regarding faculty and librarian promotion and tenure. Given that the recommended resolutions represent such a milestone in the faculty members careers, and that the recommendations are thoroughly reviewed prior to Board approval, Committee Chair Cosgrove asked for a motion to approve the following resolutions.

Trustee Kirk moved the approval; Trustee Cosgrove seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll with was unanimous in approval.

Many faculty members were in the audience and received a round of applause. Trustee Cosgrove congratulated the faculty and noted with gratitude, the important work of the faculty and the impact that they make to a student's educational endeavors. President Bloomberg noted that universities would not exist but for the faculty; they are the "heart and soul" of the university.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-8**

#### **PROMOTION AND TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS AY2023 - 2024**

**WHEREAS**, the individuals in the attached exhibit have been reviewed by the appropriate Department and College committees, the Chairperson, the Dean, the University Peer Review Committee (where appropriate), the Provost, and the President; and

**WHEREAS**, they have fulfilled the requirements for promotion and the award of tenure as set forth in Article 12 of the Agreement between Cleveland State University and the CSU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, or in the case of the College of Law faculty, of Rule 3344-11-03 of the CSU Faculty Personnel Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the promotion and tenure recommendations 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 promotions to the rank of Professor, promotions to the rank of Clinical Professor with tenure and promotions to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year for those individuals as recommended.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-9**

#### **PROMOTION OF LIBRARIAN RECOMMENDATION**

**WHEREAS**, the individual in the attached exhibit has been reviewed by the appropriate Personnel Action Committee for Promotion of the Michael Schwartz Library, the Director of the Michael Schwartz Library, the Provost, and the President; and

**WHEREAS**, they have fulfilled the requirements for promotion as set forth in Section 3344-62-03 (4) of the Librarians' Personnel Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the librarian promotion recommendation 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 promotion to the rank of Librarian, effective July 1, 2023, for Amanda Goodsett as recommended.

#### **REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES**

Trustees Sommers and Wrege reported on renewed discussions regarding increased RTA bus route options for areas with dense student populations, as well as seeking extended hours of operation for areas in the University that might accommodate students in early morning or late evening (typically outside of normal business hours). They also commented on having more computer labs with extended hours.

#### **REPORT FROM FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Faculty representative Ausherman suggested that student fees be more clearly articulated, including fees paid by online students who are not regularly on campus.

Faculty representative Kumar reported that the Faculty Senate will establish a new ad hoc committee on Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI), and that all of the Colleges have now approved college bylaws and workload schedules.

Dr. Kumar also noted that faculty are closely reviewing Ohio Senate Bill 83 and the language that it contains; he noted that the bill includes an aggressive and dangerous portion on diversity.

### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Committee Chair Kirk updated members on the March 14, 2023 Governance Committee meeting. The committee approved one resolution which is included on the consent agenda.

He noted that in 2019, the Governance Committee adopted a process for the internal review and recommendation of candidates for honorary degrees, however given changes in university administration, this process was only partially followed this year.

The committee agreed to approve the proposed resolution and to recommend to the full board for approval with one revision, the removal of one of the candidates who had already received a Doctor of Humane Letters from the University in 2012. While the honorary degree being recommended at this time was for a Doctor of Law, the committee did not feel it was appropriate to award to multiple honorary degrees to the same individual.

Committee Chair Kirk reported that the committee also discussed new member orientation; if current board members have recommendations to enhance orientation, please send them to the Board Office.

Committee Chair Kirk concluded his report by appointing a nominating committee to bring forward a slate of officers for election at the annual meeting on May 18, 2023. The nominating committee was named as Trustees Kirk, Tompkins, and Whiting.

### **FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Committee Chair Kunkle updated the members on the meeting held earlier in the day, which included a financial update and informational report on miscellaneous fees from SVP Jewell. The Committee also received an internal audit update from Director Larry Johnston.

She reported that the Committee requested two reports be pulled from the agenda for a more in-depth discussion at a later time; these included the enrollment report prepared by VP Wehner and the internal audit update prepared by Director Johnston.

Committee Chair Kunkle noted three items on the consent agenda which the Committee recommends for approval, and that the Committee also met in Executive Session.

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

Ms. Karen White of the CSU Foundation reported on behalf of ex officio member and CSU Foundation Chair Hopkins. Ms. White reported on progress on the University's signature fundraising event, Radiance; the fundraising goal for the year is \$800 thousand. She acknowledged with thanks, the PNC Bank three-year sponsorship pledge, and also thanked the Board members for their continued support.

VP Rehm reported on year-to-date fundraising efforts including a successful Giving Day event that engaged multiple units across campus, as well as scheduled advancement travel to meet with donors and alumni in Florida, Texas, Arizona, Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio.

The Mandel Foundation recently gave \$600 thousand to establish a Mandel Public Service Executive-in-Residence position at the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education; other gifts are in the pipeline and expected to be announced soon, she reported.

### **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; there were none.

Trustee Cosgrove moved, and Trustee Whiting seconded, the motion to approve the following consent agenda items: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates; Update to the Internal Audit Charter; Approval of Online Tuition Rates; Approval of the memorandum of Understanding between the Cleveland State University Foundation and Cleveland State University; Authorization to Accept Transfer of Real Property and Improvements located at 1901 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

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

**RESOLUTION 2023-10**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATES**

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

**WHEREAS**, the nominees have been reviewed and accepted by the Faculty Senate Committee on Graduation, Convocation and Assembly and are being recommended to the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the honorary degree candidates 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 honorary degrees to Kurt Russell and Gina Vernaci; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these honorary degrees will be presented at a future date based upon their acceptance.

**RESOLUTION 2023-11**

**ADOPTING REVISIONS TO THE INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Cleveland State University created the Office of Internal Audit in 1981 as an independent appraisal function to examine and evaluate University business or administrative activities as a service to management and the Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Audit Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees approved an Internal Audit Charter, at the recommendation of the Director of Internal Audit, defining the governance, authority, role, responsibility, and standards of practice of the internal audit function on October 9, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Internal Audit has recognized a need for a revision to the Internal Audit Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Internal Audit, in an effort to clarify organizational reporting lines, ensure independence from management, has now proposed the adoption of a revised Internal Audit Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the revised Internal Audit Charter as submitted by the Director of Internal Audit and recommends full Board approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby adopts the revised Internal Audit Charter (in form substantially similar to Exhibit A attached hereto) and authorizes the Office of Internal Audit to operate under the terms of the Charter.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12**

**APPROVAL PROPOSED ONLINE TUITION RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024  
(ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024)**

**WHEREAS**, Cleveland State University offers online programs of study leading to an Undergraduate Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) degree; and online Graduate level, Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Social Work (MSW) Program Advanced Standing, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and JD Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the University's tuition is defined as the combination of the instructional fee, student general fee and technology fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed this matter and recommends full Board approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees authorizes the University Administration to implement, effective Fall 2023, tuition increase authorized by state law, and approves the attached proposed tuition schedule for FY 24 (Academic Year 2023-2024).

**RESOLUTION 2023-13**

**APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION  
AND CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

**WHEREAS**, The Cleveland State University Foundation was organized and incorporated on May 21, 1969, for the purpose of assisting in the development and advancement of Cleveland State University by raising and managing private resources that support the mission and priorities of the University, as well as by providing opportunities for students and a margin of institutional excellence unavailable with state funds; and

**WHEREAS**, The University and The Foundation wish to continue to memorialize formally their relationship and the responsibilities of each arising from that relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding 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 updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Cleveland State University Foundation and the University.

**RESOLUTION 2023-14**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED AT 1901 EAST 13TH STREET, CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**WHEREAS**, the University as tenant, and 1901 East 13th LLC as owner and landlord, are parties to a certain Lease Agreement dated December 29, 2010, as amended (the “Lease”), whereby the University occupies and manages certain real property and improvements located at 1901 East 13th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, commonly referred to as the Middough Building (the “Premises”); and

**WHEREAS**, in connection with the University’s effort to make a 2019 balloon payment of rent due under the Lease, the University and 1901 East 13th LLC entered into that certain Transfer and Disposition Agreement dated March 15, 2019 (“Transfer and Disposition Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Transfer and Disposition Agreement, 1901 East 13th LLC is required to transfer title of the Premises to the University upon request of the University for a nominal transfer amount (the “Transfer Option”); and

**WHEREAS**, University and 1901 East 13th LLC now desire to terminate the Lease, and for the University to exercise its Transfer Option and have ownership of the Premises transferred to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees for a nominal transfer amount; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby grants the University administration the authority to accept the transfer of the real property located at 1901 East 13th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, along with the improvements thereon, in the name of the Board of Trustees of Cleveland State University.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Reynolds brought forth the item below for approval; he noted that as was discussed previously in the year, matters involving the appointment of deans and vice presidents at the University would be brought forth for Board approval, and furthermore, that the administration will keep members updated on the process and procedures of such recommendations.

Trustee Kirk moved the ratification; Trustee Cosgrove seconded the motion. Board Secretary called the roll, which resulted in the approval of the following resolution, which was met by Board applause.

**RESOLUTION 2023-15**

**RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. MEREDITH BOND  
AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

**WHEREAS**, following an internal search in November 2021, while also serving as dean of the former College of Sciences and Health Professions, Dr. Meredith Bond was appointed as Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Bond has been providing stellar leadership in the Office of Research, enabling our faculty to explore new avenues for research, additional external funding opportunities, and interdisciplinary collaborations; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Bond's leadership has helped the university continue its recent trajectory of strong growth in research expenditures and in research and scholarly activity across campus and the Office of Research team is also addressing the CSU 2.0 priority to invest in research through initiatives like new Strategic Research Centers that advance research, education, or engagement initiatives that are aligned with university strategic priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, after extensive consultation with the President, cabinet members, Deans, members of the University Research Council, the staff of the Office of Research, and faculty leaders, it is clear that our research enterprise is headed in a strong positive direction under Meredith's leadership:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees ratifies the appointment of Dr. Meredith Bond to the position of Vice President for Research and Innovation effective immediately.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPROVED ON MAY 18, 2023**

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

**APPROVED ON MAY 18, 2023**

David M. Reynolds  
Chairman, Board of Trustees