



BOARD OF TRUSTEES CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

DATE: Thursday, September 17, 2026; 8:00 a.m.

PLACE: Glickman-Miller Hall, 1717 Euclid Avenue, Bonda Community Board Room, Cleveland, Ohio 44115; and via Zoom.

PRESENT: Board Chair Timothy J. Cosgrove; Trustees Nikki C. Byrd, Paul J. Dolan, Diane M. Downing, Ronald Johnson, Jr., James G. Pilla, Taras Szmagala, Jr., D. Geoffrey Vince, and Vanessa L. Whiting; Student Trustees Abigail Blackburn and Nathaniel Taylor; Community Board Members David M. Reynolds and Alan G. Starkoff; Ex Officio member Michael Klein; Faculty Representatives Jessica Bickel and Sebastian Brockhaus; 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: Exec VP and Provost, Nigamanth Sridhar; VP Finance and CFO, Nicole Addington; SVP Student Belonging and Success, Tachelle Banks; VP Enrollment Management, Andrew Crawford; VP and CIO Wesam Helou; VP University Advancement, Chad Warren; VP University Operations, Patricia L. Franklin; VP Human Resources, Douglas Dykes; Exec Director Government Affairs, Caryn Candisky; Assoc. General Counsel, Scott Campbell; and Assistant Board Secretary, Heather A. Link.

Chair Cosgrove called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present. He reminded members that the meeting was being livestreamed on the CSU website for public viewing.

Chair Cosgrove called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2026 special meeting; Trustee Downing provided the motion and Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Cosgrove welcomed members, noting that the agenda was very full; he thanked the administration for providing all the materials in advance and he recognized the amount of work that was done to prepare for the meeting.

Chair Cosgrove noted that most of the items on the agenda were considered and discussed in detail during the committee meetings the previous week. Members, having already seen the background materials, were encouraged to bring forward other applicable questions throughout the meeting.

He acknowledged Trustee Dolan and the Guardians organization for their contributions to the student body and having reimagined the ways that partnering with the University could occur; examples include providing incoming CSU students with baseball tickets, allowing a student representative to throw out the first pitch at a game, and including the University's logo on a giveaway t-shirt. These actions were bolstered by CSU's marketing and communication department, and the students were thrilled that Trustee Dolan made a point to visit with them in their seats.

Chair Cosgrove thanked Trustees for their attendance at the recent Ohio Trustees Conference, noting that the sessions were important to attend. The Board office and the Executive Director of Government Affairs are tracking when additional SB1 training will be offered by ODHE, and they will work with trustees to ensure that the training requirements set out in the legislation are met.

He reminded members that the ribbon cutting for the reopening of the Fenn Tower residence hall was scheduled for the next day. Anecdotally, he told a story about how the University and its storied buildings remain important to the community. A former CSU staff member, Mrs. Peterson, met her husband in the Fenn Tower in 1950, and after recently touring the renovated site, agreed to attend the ribbon cutting in support of CSU's efforts and significance to the history of Cleveland.

He also commended members of the Division of Student Belonging and Success, who he interacted with on CSU's student move-in day and who support the students.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Bloomberg welcomed members and noted that with the beginning of the semester, the campus is markedly busier and vibrant with student and campus activities.

The University has successfully negotiated with all respective unions aside from AAUP-Law; typically, AAUP-Law follows the main AAUP contract. President Bloomberg acknowledged the dedicated work that went into negotiations.

She shared recent “Viking Victories” including a fun and successful fall move-in day for students residing on campus; the efforts of the Department of Residential Life and Housing and the Housing Operations team were recognized for coordinated work to ensure a smooth move-in process for students and their families.

President Bloomberg thanked Chair Cosgrove for participating and helping with move-in day. The students, their families, and the campus volunteers who helped during the day, appreciated the opportunity to interact with each other to welcome the students on campus.

She reported that Dr. Rachel Carnell (Dean, Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Honors College), received approval for her course, “Partners in Peace.” This recognition comes from the National Collegiate Honors Council and the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo. Dr. Carnell attended the Oslo Peace Congress this past spring.

The Cleveland State United strategic plan implementation has strong momentum and the University continues to align key initiatives around three strategic priorities: advance academic offerings, delivery, and scholarship to foster success; reimagine community partnerships to increase opportunities; and restructure operational and financial models to enable our mission-focused work.

President Bloomberg provided updates on key initiatives in support of Cleveland State United. The CSU Talent Hub launched this fall semester and will align work-based learning across all undergraduate programs. In August, Ms. Janine Kaiser was named the executive director, and Dr. Michele Heath (Ahuja College of Business) was named the faculty director.

Members are encouraged to attend the TEDxClevelandStateUniversity on October 23, 2026. The event will benefit the university community and larger region through its thoughtful programming centered around the theme “Untangling Wonder” through different lenses.

She reported that the CSU-TV student-run station held an event this week, and were joined by two members of the Ideastream staff, who spoke to students and shared information about their

occupations with the Ideastream Public Media (producer and reporter). Dr. Bloomberg noted that this strategic partnership for the University is growing and benefiting CSU's students.

President Bloomberg invited members to attend the State of the University address on October 14, 2026; this year's event will include a special and exciting announcement.

She closed with sharing gratitude for her senior leadership team and those staff who report to members of the cabinet. New key hires have added even more enthusiasm to CSU's team mentality, and the results are being realized.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Byrd reported that the committee met on September 10; they received updates from Provost Sridhar, Dr. Banks (Student Belonging and Success), and Executive Director of Government Affairs, Ms. Candisky.

Chair Byrd reported that the Division of Student Success and Belonging continues to identify funding opportunities that directly help the student body. A new \$50 million Talent Search Grant, announced by Ohio Governor DeWine, to support low-income and first-generation college students annually across 130 schools, will be beneficial to the University.

The committee engaged in a robust discussion around the core curriculum as part of a formal review and evaluation of CSU's general education curriculum, which is required under House Bill 96. Chair Byrd noted that the September committee meeting focused on the area of Civics, Culture and Society. The Committee reviewed information that confirmed that the University is compliant with the law, is providing students with the ability to enter the workforce with strength and preparedness, and that the most recent student evaluations of instruction have shown that the faculty are providing a bias-free environment for student learning.

Chair Byrd reported that one item was considered and is included on the consent agenda for approval by the full board, faculty emeritus status recognition.

Chair Cosgrove thanked Trustee Byrd and reminded members that at the annual meeting of the Board, in May, he discussed having trustees serve as liaisons on some matters of timely and critical importance. Trustee Vince is the liaison on AI, and Trustee Szmagala is the liaison for external affairs. Because these matters fall under the purview of the Academic Affairs and Student Success committee, he asked them for comments on progress.

Trustee Vince reported that he would deliver a full report in November. The working group is gathering feedback from faculty researchers and a larger advisory group regarding the best use of AI for the benefit of CSU students. CIO Helou has been actively contributing to the process.

Trustee Szmagala reported that they are identifying ways to leverage CSU's accomplishments and the work supporting the Cleveland State United strategic plan. He noted that great strides are being made on campus, and that information needs to be widely shared with external stakeholders, through sharpened messaging and possible activation of a wider assortment of CSU ambassadors. He thanked Executive Director of Government Affairs Candisky for her strategic insights.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Provost Sridhar reported that the collective bargaining agreement with the AAUP is now in the contract implementation stage, and he recognized the diligent work throughout the process by the faculty and administration.

In addition to other initiatives, throughout the year, work will continue on using AI in academics and furthering CSU's Talent Hub (student work-based learning).

Provost Sridhar invited members to join him, following the adjournment, to attend the undergraduate summer research poster session in the Student Center Atrium. The Undergraduate Summer Research Award Program (USRA) provides students the opportunity to explore areas of their interest alongside expert faculty mentors.

REPORT OF THE SVP OF STUDENT BELONGING AND SUCCESS

VP Banks noted that the Division of Student Belonging and Success assumed responsibility for campus residence life. Dr. Banks commented that through efforts to work together, with greater symmetry and enhanced collaboration, has led to a successful beginning to the semester. Open communication with student residents has been a key to realization.

The Division remains committed to stated goals for student retention and persistence rates. And, the launch of the new curricular model for Residence Life was deliberately designed to support those efforts and others, such as providing and fostering a vibrant campus culture.

Dr. Banks reported that she was invited to deliver a keynote address to Say Yes Cleveland, and she spoke about the ongoing and intentional work of the Division to look at student affairs in a special way that brings all supports together, for all students.

Members acknowledged Dr. Banks for her work in the Division and in the community and asked her to continue to track data and progress towards defined goals. Ex Officio member Klein asked Dr. Banks to keep him informed on the type of assistance that the CSU Foundation can assist with.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Whiting reported that the committee met on September 10, 2026. The agenda included an update from VP of Enrollment Management, Dr. Andrew Crawford and CFO Addington.

An update on funding for the CSU Compass project was discussed and members recognize that the project represents a significant investment for the university. Chair Whiting reported that an oversight and governance structure is being implemented to ensure that spending, project progress, and key risks remain appropriately managed.

Chair Whiting reported that the committee considered several items for action, some of which are included on the consent agenda and some of which will be presented under New Business. The committee also met in executive session.

REPORT OF THE CFO AND EADC PRESIDENT

CFO Addington reported that the finance division is closing out FY26, and Plante Moran is completing the year-end audit field work; the goal is to file the financial reports with the state by the October 15 deadline.

The FY27 Budget Book is finalized, will be posted online soon, and will be sent to board members. This is a major redesign of the information that provides a nuanced and comprehensive overview of the institution's operating revenue and expenses, debt, academic affairs divisions, administrative operations, SB6 ratios, and tuition and fee schedule.

She recognized that recently established departmental collaborations resulted in enhanced data analytics, and projections that closely matched the University's approved budget; revenue projections are also on track.

The University is also in the process of identifying a new banking partner with the goal of elevating the relationship to a true strategic partnership for the university, including opportunities with the ERP progress. She expects to present a recommendation to the Board at the January meeting.

Chair Cosgrove thanked her for the enormous amount of work that is being conducted to ensure financial transparency and understanding.

REPORT OF THE VP OF ENROLLMENT

Dr. Crawford updated members on enrollment numbers which closely aligns with the budgeted forecast (12,446 total headcount), and noted that the work to attract students is an ongoing cycle (work that is done this fall will be realized in the fall 2027 enrollment numbers).

He reported that a more focused brand campaign for the university is underway, and it is strategically planned for placement “everywhere our future students already are.” All the campus community, faculty, staff, students, and alumni, are invited to become a CSU storyteller and recruiter. He has received enthusiastic support from across campus in response to his request to “pull in one direction” and to focus on things that are uniquely Cleveland State.

Members asked about the percentage of law students who take online classes versus in-person; the Law school enrollment is 604 and 170 students are totally online. The College of Law increased its incoming class enrollment cap from 110 to 130.

Faculty Representative Bickel thanked Dr. Crawford for reaching out to faculty to help with recruitment efforts; his communication efforts have been refreshing and faculty are encouraged to learn of the enrollment strategy.

VP Crawford reinforced that CSU has distinctive experiences that are attractive to potential students (Ideation Lab, Order of Engineers, a College of Health within the City of Cleveland, and more). These uniquely CSU opportunities are noticed by potential students, who are eager to attend a university that is “in and of the city”. He asked members to reach out to him if they have ideas or opportunities for student participation.

Chair Cosgrove asked Dr. Crawford to reach out to members if there are ways that they can lend support; he noted that enrollment is everyone’s responsibility.

REPORT OF THE CIO (COMPASS UPDATE)

Dr. Helou reported on the status of the CSU Compass project and noted that much has been accomplished over the summer (customer confirmation sessions, unit testing, finalized budget for Platform, backfilling for the student workstream, and resourcing has been addressed).

The University remains on target, with the first of the platform deployment scheduled to go live in 10 months (July 2027, human resources and finance).

The Compass team is in the process of identifying campus members to participate as part of a platform change network; these are individuals who are subject matter experts, respected amongst their colleagues, and can listen, gather feedback, and report identified issues.

Dr. Helou reported that data conversion is on track, and that risk is being managed appropriately, including managing the scope for HR benefits and banking partnerships.

His team has scheduled a CSU Compass showcase for the campus community, to help communicate upcoming changes to operational systems.

In response to a question regarding bottlenecks to progress, Dr. Helou noted that occasionally the Compass work has seen competing priorities within the normal flow of work. When this occurs, there are efforts to continue with both, simultaneously.

President Bloomberg commended the Compass team and other departmental staff efforts, noting that the amount of work that is being done to support CSU Compass does not diminish the cadence of other typical work; she recognizes faculty and staff efforts for their time and their dedication towards the goal.

Faculty Representative Bickel requested that Dr. Helou be specific about the time commitment where faculty participation is required (grading and other student facing issues), so that scheduling for faculty learning sessions is more efficient and considerate.

REAL ESTATE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Downing reported that the committee met on September 10, 2026. She noted that this was the first meeting of the committee and underscored the amount of work that will be done to review and evaluate the university's footprint and physical infrastructure.

She acknowledged that over the next year, the committee will review these matters and work to best position the university and its physical assets moving forward.

Chair Downing reported that the committee met in executive session, and that given the nature of the matters that the committee will discuss and review, including real property matters and the campuses physical assets, it is anticipated that the majority of the committee's discussions will be in executive session, primarily to review and deliberate on the potential sale, disposition or purchase of real estate.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustee Taylor reported that the semester has started out strong and that he has already gained valuable experiences in his role. Having had the opportunity to tour the renovated Fenn Tower, prior to its opening, he agrees with other student's sentiments that the renovation is impressive and thoughtful to the needs of students (size of the dorm rooms and well-designed communal options for residents).

Student Trustee Blackburn reported that initially, when the UPASS program was discontinued, there were some wide-spread social media posts about students who were negatively affected. She is heartened to hear that the Division of Student Belonging and Success is reaching out to all students to offer support for assistance with public transportation, if it is needed. Student Trustee Blackburn asked that communication between students and administration be clear, regular, and redundant.

VP Banks noted that the Division continually plans for ongoing communication with the student population; and will continue to make students aware of the supports that are currently in place if they have been affected by the UPASS discontinuation. Work is ongoing to provide more effective and efficient social media student communications. The Division typically schedules 2-3 text messages per week, as well as other "Constant Contact" communications to the general student population.

Chair Cosgrove thanked the students and agreed that students are the people who the University serves.

REPORT FROM FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Faculty Representative Bickel opened her remarks by noting that the semester is in week four, however, work has been ongoing throughout the summer, and she acknowledged her faculty colleagues for their dedication.

As part of the Provost's inaugural all-faculty meeting prior to the beginning of classes, Faculty Senate officers led a workshop called, "Faculty Governance: 101" to highlight the ways that shared governance occurs at the University; fifty faculty participated.

Dr. Bickel invited members to attend the USRA poster session after the meeting, and noted that the undergraduate students, including McNair scholars, were proud of their work and are thoroughly engaged in the program's research opportunities. These kinds of experiences are transformative for the students (stipends for research and opportunities to work with experienced faculty).

She reported that CSU's Talent Hub is being enthusiastically received by the faculty, and that it will leverage some current programs enabling students to work directly with faculty.

Faculty Representative Brockhaus agreed that the Talent Hub will enhance current experiential learning and connect the current inventory of work to a centralized space. He also recognized VP Crawford for the work being done in enrollment management, and for including faculty participation in a different way than ever before. Faculty are proud of the bodies of work that they've built and are willing to use their expertise to help attract future students.

Chair Cosgrove thanked the faculty representatives and noted that he has long held the belief that a university's reputation and success is built on the relationships that are established between faculty and students.

REPORT OF THE CSU FOUNDATION

Ex officio member Klein reported that the work of the Foundation is ongoing and fundraising goals have been defined. The Foundation is scheduled to meet in the next week, and committees are formed for audit, philanthropy and donor engagement, and nominating and governance. Mr. Klein noted that seven current members have terms that will end this year, and many of those members have strong institutional knowledge and connections. The Foundation is working to identify new members.

VP Warren announced that the University received funding through First Lady Melania Trump's "Fostering the Future" initiative, which provides scholarship opportunities at colleges and university across the nation for individuals within the foster care community. CSU was one of 26 universities nationwide that received the funding. This support and recognition was realized

due to CSU's longstanding good work through its Fostering Success and Leadership Programs. He noted that it was a great privilege to represent the University at the White House ceremony.

Dr. Warren provided members with updates on fundraising through September 10 (fundraising/attainment, \$4.43 million; and cash, \$2.21 million). He noted opportunities to grow donor reactivation and retention, and to increase alumni participation.

He shared that gifts have come forward to enhance work at the Center for Gene Regulation in Health and Disease (GRHD), art galleries, and athletics. Sometime soon, he looks forward to an announcement of a principal gift.

Chair Cosgrove thanked Mr. Klein and Dr. Warren for the report. He recognizes the amount of work that goes into fundraising, and he is impressed with the ongoing collaborations across CSU's senior leadership team to identify opportunities and needs that the Foundation can help to fortify.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cosgrove stated that routine matters, or those recommended by committees and discussed previously, are considered on the Consent Agenda. He noted that the items were thoroughly discussed and approved at the committee level. He asked if there were any items that Board members wished to discuss or remove; there were none.

Trustee Szmagala moved, and Trustee Whiting seconded, the motion to approve the following consent agenda items: Ratification of the Appointment of Tachelle Banks as Sr. VP, Student Belonging and Success; Ratification of the Appointment of Nicole Addington as VP, Finance and CFO; Ratification of Douglas Dykes as VP, Human Resources and Chief HR Officer; Ratification of the Appointment of Patricia Franklin as VP, University Operations; Ratification of the Appointment of Wesam Helou as VP, Information Technology and CIO; Approval of Emeritus Status for Faculty; Amendments to University Policies: Travel, Temporary Employment, and Tobacco Free; and Accepting Gifts and Pledges, Q4.

Board Secretary Wilson called the roll, and the following resolutions were approved.

RESOLUTION 2026-60

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF TACHELLE BANKS AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT BELONGING AND SUCCESS

WHEREAS, in her role as Vice President of Student Belonging and Success, Dr. Tachelle Banks has been a steadfast and visionary leader in advancing the mission of the University, with an unwavering commitment to fostering a strong sense of belonging, community, and connection among all students at Cleveland State University, while ensuring that every student is supported and empowered on their path to degree completion; and

WHEREAS, over the last two years, Dr. Banks transitioned traditional academic advising to Academic Coaches, where Coaches create a supportive learning environment for each student, provide access to essential programs and services, and actively work to remove barriers to enrollment and success by offering personalized guidance, encouragement and partnership; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Coaching model has become an integral component of the University's comprehensive student-success efforts and is an important mechanism for strengthening student engagement, academic progress, retention, persistence, and graduation outcomes; and

WHEREAS, in support of the Cleveland State United strategic plan to advance academic offerings, delivery, and scholarship to foster student success, Dr. Banks has discovered and stewarded the confidence of a wide range of community support, including foundational, corporate and individual gifts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Banks recently assumed leadership and oversight for Residence Life, including the continued development, assessment, and enhancement of programs and services that support a safe, inclusive, engaging, and student-centered residential experience; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her significant accomplishments and the additional scope of responsibilities, President Bloomberg has appointed Dr. Banks as Senior Vice President, Student Belonging and Success:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointment of Tachelle Banks as Senior Vice President, Student Belonging and Success.

RESOLUTION 2026-61

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF NICOLE ADDINGTON AS VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE

WHEREAS, Nicole Addington currently serves as Chief Financial Officer and has demonstrated strong leadership in managing the University's financial operations and advancing institutional priorities; and

WHEREAS, following completion of her second annual performance review since the reorganization of senior leadership responsibilities, the President has appointed Ms. Addington as Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer to recognize the scope and level of her responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Addington's salary remains the same and this recognition comes at no cost to the University:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointment of Nicole Addington as Vice President, Finance.

RESOLUTION 2026-62

**RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DOUGLAS DYKES
AS VICE PRESIDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, Douglas Dykes currently serves as Chief Human Resources Officer of Cleveland State University and has demonstrated strong leadership in managing the University's human resources operations, developing employees and teams, and advancing institutional priorities; and

WHEREAS, following completion of his second annual performance review since the reorganization of senior leadership responsibilities, the President has appointed Mr. Dykes as Vice President, Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer to recognize the scope and level of his responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dykes's salary remains the same and this recognition comes at no cost to the University:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointment of Douglas Dykes as Vice President, Human Resources.

RESOLUTION 2026-63

**RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA FRANKLIN
AS VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS**

WHEREAS, Patricia Franklin currently serves in a senior leadership role overseeing University operations and has demonstrated strong leadership in managing organizational change, University operations, and institutional priorities; and

WHEREAS, following completion of her second annual performance review since the reorganization of senior leadership responsibilities, the President has appointed Ms. Franklin as Vice President, University Operations to recognize the scope and level of her responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Franklin's salary remains the same and this recognition comes at no cost to the University:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointment of Patricia Franklin as Vice President, University Operations.

RESOLUTION 2026-64

**RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF WESAM HELOU
AS VICE PRESIDENT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS, Wesam Helou currently serves as Chief Information Officer of Cleveland State University and has demonstrated strong leadership in managing the University's information technology operations, building effective teams, and advancing institutional priorities; and

WHEREAS, following completion of his second annual performance review since the reorganization of senior leadership responsibilities, the President has appointed Dr. Helou as Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer to recognize the scope and level of his responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Helou's salary remains the same and this recognition comes at no cost to the University:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointment of Wesam Helou as Vice President, Information Technology.

RESOLUTION 2026-66

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO TRAVEL POLICIES

WHEREAS, the current Travel Policy was last revised in August 2015; and

WHEREAS, the University Administration has recognized the need for a revision to and streamlining of the Travel Policies, 3344-69-01 through 3344-69-10 to:

- Streamline all policies related to university travel into one consolidated policy where employees can easily find information regarding university travel; and
- Update the processes and documentation requirements for pre-travel authorization and post-travel expense reporting to align with university practices; and
- Add in updated Ohio Ethics Commission guidance allowing frequent flyer and hotel reward program benefits to be collected by the employee travelling for university sponsored travel; and
- Add a policy review cycle to ensure timely updates as processes or regulations change.

WHEREAS, the University Administration recommends the above listed revisions; and

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

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee has reviewed the proposed policy changes 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 revisions to the Travel Policy; and further instructs the University Administration to file the revised Policy with the Ohio Legislative Services Commission at which time said Policy shall become final, subject to any changes or revisions deemed necessary by the General Counsel.

RESOLUTION 2026-67

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, the current Appointment and Conditions of Employment Policy for professional staff was last revised in July 2015; and

WHEREAS, the University Administration has recognized the need for a revision to 3344-61-02 to update the maximum length of temporary appointment before needing approval from Human Resources, from one year down to six months; and

WHEREAS, the University Administration recommends the above listed revisions; and

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

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee has reviewed the proposed policy changes 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 revisions to the Appointment and Conditions of Employment Policy; and further instructs the University Administration to file the revised Policy with the Ohio Legislative Services Commission at which time said Policy shall become final, subject to any changes or revisions deemed necessary by the General Counsel.

RESOLUTION 2026-68

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS POLICY

WHEREAS, the current Tobacco Free Campus Policy was last revised in December 2012; and

WHEREAS, the University Administration has recognized the need for a revision to 3344-44-01 to:

- Broaden the policy from tobacco free to smoke and tobacco free; and
- Expand the policy to include electronic smoking devices, including but not limited to vapes; and
- Define who the policy applies to, including visitors to campus.

WHEREAS, the University Administration recommends the above listed revisions; and

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

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee has reviewed the proposed policy changes 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 revisions to the Tobacco Policy; and further instructs the University Administration to file the revised Policy with the Ohio Legislative Services Commission at which time said Policy shall become final, subject to any changes or revisions deemed necessary by the General Counsel.

RESOLUTION 2026-69

ACCEPTING GIFTS AND PLEDGE PAYMENTS

4TH QUARTER, FY 2026

APRIL 1, 2026 TO JUNE 30, 2026

RESOLVED, that the gifts and pledge payments totaling \$2,632,977 received by the Cleveland State University Foundation during the period April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026 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 Cosgrove moved for the Board to recess into Executive Session to discuss matters required by law to be kept confidential, to discuss imminent and pending litigation with the University General Counsel, and to discuss personnel matters involving the employment and compensation of public employees. Trustee Pilla seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken by the Secretary of the Board; voting in the affirmative were Ms. Byrd, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Downing, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Pilla, Mr. Szmagala, Dr. Vince, Ms. Whiting and Mr. Cosgrove. The motion carried.

Chair Cosgrove excused everyone except the voting trustees, President Bloomberg, Community Board Members Reynolds and Starkoff, Ex Officio member Klein, Associate General Counsel Campbell, Assistant Board Secretary Link, and VP, General Counsel and Board Secretary Wilson.

Chair Cosgrove announced that other individuals would be called into the session at the appropriate time: Provost Sridhar, CFO Addington, VP of Advancement Warren, VP of Enrollment Crawford, Student Trustees Blackburn and Taylor, and Faculty Representatives Bickel and Brockhaus.

The executive session began at 10:41 a.m.

At 12:08 p.m., Chair Cosgrove announced that the Board had finished its business in Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Cosgrove announced that there were several matters to consider under New Business, and he called on Provost Sridhar to bring the item regarding the Cleveland Play House memorandum of understanding forward.

Provost Sridhar explained that the administration supports the proposed alliance on four principles: academic experience with access to world class theatre professionals; student recruitment; limited financial exposure; and increased community presence. This action directly supports the Cleveland State United strategic plan, the administration will report back to the Board in six-month intervals, and the review will include appropriate metrics for consideration which can then be used as other possible alliances are discovered.

Trustee Szmagala moved the approval; and Trustee Dolan provided the second. The following resolution was approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2026-70

AUTHORIZATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE

WHEREAS, the university's strategic plan, Cleveland State United, has set a priority to nurture and cultivate deep partnerships with organizations in Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Play House is a Tony award winning, League of Resident Theatre, and a world-class leader in theater production and theater education; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland State University and Cleveland Play House have enjoyed a long-standing relationship over many years, codified by a Joint Use Agreement dated August 2011; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland State University and Cleveland Play House have been engaged in forging a deeper and mutually beneficial strategic alliance to benefit both entities, including sharing resources and creating new opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the strategic alliance have been outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding and Relationship Structure (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, at the May 2027 Annual Board meeting, the University Administration will provide a report to the Board which will evaluate the alliance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has reviewed this matter as submitted by University Administration:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees authorizes the President of Cleveland State University to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with Cleveland Play House, in substantial form attached hereto, subject to revisions as deemed necessary by the University's Office of General Counsel to protect the interests of the University.

Chair Cosgrove then called on CFO Addington to present the next item. Ms. Addington explained that the US Department of the Treasury reimbursement regulations provide rules for when an issuer of tax-exempt bonds can reimburse itself for prior expenditures using proceeds from the bonds.

The University is requesting authorization of a reimbursement resolution permitting the university to reimburse itself from bond proceeds for temporary advances made for project payments prior to issuance.

Trustee Downing moved the approval; and Trustee Vince provided the second. The following resolution was approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2026-71

AUTHORIZING DECLARATIONS OF OFFICIAL INTENT UNDER U.S. TREASURY REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO REIMBURSEMENTS FROM BOND

**PROCEEDS OF TEMPORARY ADVANCES MADE FOR PAYMENTS PRIOR TO
ISSUANCE, AND RELATED MATTERS**

WHEREAS, United States Treasury Regulations §1.150-2 (the “Reimbursement Regulations”) prescribe conditions under which proceeds of bonds, notes or other obligations (“Bonds”) used to reimburse advances made for capital and certain other expenditures (“Original Expenditures”) paid before the issuance of such Bonds will be deemed to be expended (or properly allocated to expenditures) for purposes of Sections 103 and 141-150 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), upon such reimbursement so that the proceeds so used will no longer be subject to requirements or restrictions under those sections of the Code; and

WHEREAS, certain provisions of the Reimbursement Regulations require that there be a Declaration of Official Intent not later than 60 days following payment of the Original Expenditures expected to be reimbursed from proceeds of Bonds, and that the reimbursement occur within certain prescribed time periods after an Original Expenditure is paid or after the property resulting from that Original Expenditure is placed in service; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed this matter as submitted by the University Administration and recommends that the full Board authorize the Declaration of Official Intent as provided herein in order to comply with the Reimbursement Regulations:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT BE RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University (“University”) Board Trustees (“Board”) authorizes the following:

Section 1. Definitions. The following definitions apply to the terms used herein:

“Authorized Officer” means the and Chief Financial Officer and the Controller of the University or any other person from time to time designated for the purpose by the President.

“Declaration of Official Intent” means a declaration of intent, in the form, manner and time contemplated in the Reimbursement Regulations, that the advances for expenditures referred to therein are reasonably expected to be reimbursed from the proceeds of Bonds to be issued after those expenditures are paid.

“Reimbursement” or “reimburse” means the restoration to the University of money temporarily advanced from its own funds and spent for Original Expenditures before the issuance of the Bonds, evidenced in writing by an allocation on the books and records of the University that shows the use of the proceeds of the Bonds to restore the money advanced for the Original Expenditures. “Reimbursement” or “reimburse” generally does not include the refunding or retiring of Bonds previously issued and sold to, or borrowings from, unrelated entities.

Section 2. Authorization and Requirement of Declarations of Official Intent. Each Authorized Officer is authorized from time to time to prepare and sign Declarations of Official Intent in substantially the form attached with respect to Original Expenditures to which the Reimbursement Regulations apply, to be made from money temporarily advanced and that is reasonably expected to be reimbursed (in accordance with applicable authorizations, policies and practices) from the proceeds of Bonds, to make appropriate reimbursement and timely allocations from the proceeds of the Bonds to reimburse such Original Expenditures, and to take any other actions as may be appropriate, all at the times and in the manner required under the Reimbursement Regulations in order for the reimbursement to be treated as an expenditure of such proceeds for purposes of Sections 103 and 141 to 150 of the Code. No advance from any fund or account or order for payment may be made for Original Expenditures (other than expenditures excepted from such requirement under the Reimbursement Regulations) that are to be reimbursed subsequently from proceeds of Bonds unless a Declaration of Official Intent with respect thereto is made within the time required by the Reimbursement Regulations.

Chair Cosgrove then asked CFO Addington to present the authorization of spend with ALKU, LLC, as a competitively awarded staff augmentation vendor pool for the CSU Compass project. The proposals went through an internal scoring process, and their work includes specialized Workday consultants who configure, build, and convert data for the CSU Compass platform, work that falls outside the bandwidth or specialization of CSU's internal team.

Trustee Vince moved the approval; and Trustee Downing provided the second. The following resolution was approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2026-72

AUTHORIZATION OF SPEND WITH ALKU, LLC FOR CSU COMPASS STAFF AUGMENTATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees previously approved the selection of Workday as Cleveland State University's ERP; and

WHEREAS, to successfully implement the ERP, Cleveland State University Project Management Office determined that the CSU Compass program required specialized Workday consulting expertise and operational backfill support to supplement University staff deployed to the program, and issued Requests for Proposal (RFP) for Staff Augmentation and Backfill services; and

WHEREAS, CSU received a total of thirty-three (33) RFP responses, consisting of twenty (20) proposals for Staff Augmentation and thirteen (13) proposals for Backfill services; and

WHEREAS, a cross-functional Selection Committee comprised of individuals from Finance, Human Resources, Academic Affairs, Data Analytics, Enrollment Management, and Information Services and Technology evaluated each Staff Augmentation proposal against six weighted

criteria: Experience, Talent Pool, Staffing Methodology, Understanding of CSU Needs, Cost, and References; and

WHEREAS, ALKU, LLC scored favorably against the Selection Committee's weighted criteria on the strength of its established national reputation in Workday ERP staffing, the depth and quality of its consultant talent pool, and competitive volume-based rates negotiated across multiple concurrent placements; and

WHEREAS, based on this evaluation, ALKU, LLC was selected as one of twelve vendors awarded a position in CSU's Staff Augmentation vendor pool; and

WHEREAS, following vendor selection, a professional services agreement was completed with individual resources engaged through Statements of Work and Purchase Orders as specific staffing needs have been and are identified; and

WHEREAS, each engagement is validated through the Project Management Office, and Functional Lead governance process, and subsequently approved by Executive Sponsors CFO, CHRO and CIO; and

WHEREAS, ALKU, LLC resources currently support the HCM, Finance, Security, Testing, and Identity and Access Management conversion workstreams of CSU Compass, and cumulative expected spend with ALKU, LLC is projected to reach \$4,000,000 over the life of Phase 1 of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee has reviewed the 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 approves continued spend with ALKU, LLC, through individually negotiated time and material Statements of Work and Purchase Orders issued under CSU's competitively awarded professional services agreement, up to a not-to-exceed aggregate amount of \$4,000,000, to be funded from the for Compass Platform consulting budget with any spend in excess of that amount or continuing beyond this project subject to further authorization by the Board, as part of the overall CSU Compass Technology Transformation Program, subject to review by the University's Office of General Counsel and ongoing oversight by the Executive Steering Committee and Project Management Office to protect the interests of the University.

CFO Addington then brought forward a resolution to revise CSU's current investment policy to consolidate three related policies into one comprehensive policy; update the market cycle to 7 -10 years; update the modification of asset class allocation percentages to provide more flexibility in the percentage of assets within a specific asset class; confirm compliance with the

ORC in regard to the percentage of liquid assets and the establishment of the University Investment Committee; and establish the memberships of that committee.

Trustee Downing moved the approval; and Trustee Dolan provided the second. The following resolution was approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2026-73

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO INVESTMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, the current Investment Policy was last revised in March 2006; and

WHEREAS, the University Administration has recognized the need for a revision to 3344-64-01 through 3344-64-03 to:

- Consolidate three related policies into one comprehensive policy; and
- Updates the market cycle from 3-5 years to 7-10 years; and
- Update the modification of asset class allocation percentages to provide more flexibility in the percentage of assets within a specific asset class; and
- Confirm compliance with Ohio Revised Code 3345.05 in regard to the percentage of liquid assets and the establishment of the University Investment Committee; and
- Establish the membership of the University Investment Committee.

WHEREAS, the University Administration recommends the above listed revisions; and

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

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee has reviewed the proposed policy changes 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 revisions to the Investment Policy; and further instructs the University Administration to file the revised Policy with the Ohio Legislative Services Commission at which time said Policy shall become final, subject to any changes or revisions deemed necessary by the General Counsel.

CFO Addington brought forward a request for approval of the FY2027 spend for marketing, advertising media, production, and related services. The scope of engagement with the recommended firm includes enrollment management, graduate college, general studies marketing, student belonging and success, and professional and adult advisory services.

Trustee Vince moved the approval; and Trustee Downing provided the second. The following resolution was approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2026-74

**APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2027 SPEND WITH EAB FOR MARKETING,
ADVERTISING MEDIA, PRODUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the University is involved in paid marketing and advertising campaigns to promote student recruitment, retention and institutional image; and

WHEREAS, EAB is an enrollment agency partner for undergraduate and graduate programs and the total current spend for those enrollment marketing activities is \$1,156,563; and

WHEREAS, the University administration requests Fiscal Year 2027 funding of \$1,156,563 for the purchase of advertising and marketing-related expenses for student recruitment purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee has reviewed the 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 authorizes purchase orders totaling \$1,156,563 for advertising and marketing expenditures with EAB for FY 2027.

Provost Sridhar brought forward an agreement with Blackboard, LLC (Anthology), for CSU's learning management system services. He noted that a process was followed for the comprehensive review of available learning management systems, and that this contract is being presented after the fact given that the total spend over the life of the agreement will exceed the \$1M.

Trustee Downing moved the approval; and Trustee Whiting provided the second. The following resolution was approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2026-75

**RATIFICATION OF LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH BLACKBOARD LLC (ANTHOLOGY)**

WHEREAS, Cleveland State University initially utilized WebCT as its learning management system, and following Blackboard's acquisition and discontinuation of WebCT, transitioned to the Blackboard learning management system in 2007–2008; and

WHEREAS, the University conducted comprehensive reviews of available learning management systems in 2016 and 2024, including Blackboard, D2L Brightspace, and Canvas, with the 2024 review focusing primarily on Blackboard and Canvas; and

WHEREAS, during both reviews, a majority of participating faculty expressed a preference to continue using Blackboard as the University's learning management system; and

WHEREAS, Blackboard remains an essential component of the University's academic technology infrastructure, supporting the delivery of in-person, online, and hybrid courses and providing faculty and students with access to course content, instructional tools, communication resources, and learning analytics; and

WHEREAS, the Administration entered into an agreement which continues the learning management system services through an agreement with Blackboard LLC, doing business as Anthology, for Blackboard Learn SaaS and related products and services for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030; and

WHEREAS, the total spend over the life of the contract exceeds \$1M and therefore requires Board approval, however, since the contract is billed annually, it was signed prior to board approval and the Administration is seeking ratification of the contract; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees ratifies the contract and all related documents with Blackboard LLC, doing business as Anthology, for learning management system software and related products and services for an aggregate amount not to exceed \$1,164,783.94 over the five-year contract period, attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cosgrove thanked members and administration for a productive meeting. He reminded members that they are invited to the ribbon cutting for the Fenn Tower reopening (September 18) and the State of the University address (October 14).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON OCTOBER 9, 2026

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

APPROVED ON OCTOBER 9, 2026

Timothy J. Cosgrove
Chair, Board of Trustees