



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 9, 2024; 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Hybrid Meeting—third floor of the Parker Hannifin Administration Center, 2300 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH and via Zoom; livestreamed for public view.

PRESENT: Board Chair David M. Reynolds; Trustees Nikki C. Byrd; Timothy J. Cosgrove, Paul J. Dolan, Lisa K. Kunkle, Alan G. Starkoff, P. Kelly Tompkins, and Vanessa L. Whiting; Faculty Representative Dr. Judy Ausherman; Ex Officio Trustee Karen A. White; President Laura Bloomberg; and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Heather A. Link.

Others in attendance: Provost and Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs Nigamanth Sridhar; Sr. Vice President of Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer David Jewell; Int. Vice President and Dean of Enrollment Management Janet Stimple; Vice President, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Roy Gifford; Vice President, Student Belonging and Success Tachelle Banks; and Chief of Staff Patricia L. Franklin.

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m., confirmed that a quorum was present, and he noted that the meeting was being livestreamed for public viewing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Reynolds moved for the Board to recess into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters regarding the appointment of public officials and to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of public employees. Trustee Dolan seconded the motion.

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

Chair Reynolds excused everyone except the voting trustees, faculty representative Ausherman, President Bloomberg, ex officio Trustee White, Provost Sridhar, Sr. VP Jewell, Chief of Staff Franklin, VP Gifford, VP Banks, Int. VP Stimple, and Assistant Board Secretary Link. The executive session began at 9:09 a.m.

At 10:40 a.m., Chair Reynolds announced that the Board had finished its business in Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Reynolds announced that there were items for consideration resulting from the executive session and he called on President Bloomberg to provide background on each.

Voluntary Separation Incentive Program

President Bloomberg explained that in order to address financial cost reduction strategies, the idea of a voluntary separation program was brought forth to campus community members last week. While the specifics have not yet been finalized for the application process, years of service and age would be considered. The administration is requesting the authority to charge expenses against unrestricted net reserves, and that amount is not yet finalized, she reported.

Chair Reynolds asked for a motion for the approval, and Trustee Cosgrove moved it forward. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dolan.

Assistant Board Secretary Link called the roll, and the following resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-32

APPROVAL OF SEPARATION INCENTIVE PLAN FOR CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STAFF

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that despite aggressive measures to increase student recruitment and retention and reduce expenses, the University operating fund likely will end the fiscal year with a deficit; and

WHEREAS, salaries and benefits comprise a significant portion of overall expenditures and thus reductions to personnel costs will be necessary to deal with the imbalance between projected revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the University wishes to create a potential tool for managers and administration who need to reduce expenses by reducing positions; and

WHEREAS, the University seeks a solution that is voluntary; and

WHEREAS, the University is seeking to accomplish these goals expediently; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby directs the Administration to implement a Separation Incentive Plan for university faculty and staff with more than 10 years of service as outlined in the background document; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Administration is hereby authorized to charge expenses against unrestricted net reserves in an amount not to exceed \$9 million to fund the Separation Incentive Plan for faculty and staff as outlined in the background document.

Center for Civics, Culture and Society Academic Council

President Bloomberg brought forth the names of two additional candidates for consideration on the Center's academic council: Dr. Dana Harsell and Dr. Saltanat Liebert. She noted that both candidates would bring an area of expertise that could supplement the Center's future work.

Trustee Cosgrove noted that the candidates credentials were shared with Board members prior to the meeting, and that prior to the meeting, both were vetted and discussed by Chairman Reynolds and Governance Committee Chair Starkoff. He then moved the approval of the resolution; Trustee Starkoff seconded the motion.

Assistant Board Secretary Link called the roll, and the following resolution was approved. Chair Reynolds announced that the names would be forwarded to the Ohio Senate for final approval.

RESOLUTION 2024-33

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTER FOR CIVICS, CULTURE AND SOCIETY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board has considered additional candidates for the Center for Civics, Culture, and Society academic council:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby appoints the following members to the Center for Civics, Culture, and Society academic council:

- Dana Harsell, PhD (University of North Dakota)
- Saltanat Liebert, PhD (Virginia Commonwealth University)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Board will forward these names to the President of the Ohio Senate.

Nominating Committee

Chair Reynolds called on Trustee Starkoff to update members on the nominating committee for the Board.

Committee Chair Starkoff announced that he, along with Trustees Dolan and Kunkle will serve on the nominating committee and bring forth a slate of nominees at the May 2024 full-Board meeting for officer positions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON MAY 16, 2024

Heather A. Link
Assistant Board Secretary

APPROVED ON MAY 16, 2024

David M. Reynolds
Chairman, Board of Trustees