



Board of Trustees Meeting - THURSDAY - MARCH 19, 2026 Minutes

Youngstown State University - Board of Trustees

3/19/2026 10:00 AM EDT

Board Meeting Room, Tod Hall

Attendance

Present:

Members: Sergul Erzurum, Richard Fryda, Charles T. George, Anita A. Hackstedde, M.D., Bill Johnson, Joseph J. Kerola, Jocelyne Linsalata, Laura Lyden (remote), Zane Perrico, Michael A. Peterson, Eric Spiegel, Sterling Williams (remote), Nadia Zarbaugh

Guests: Joy Polkabra Byers, Timothy Harrington, Holly Jacobs, Sarah Keeler, Neal McNally, Jennifer Pintar, Ron Strollo

Absent:

Members: Allen L. Ryan, Jr., J.D.

A. Roll Call

Chair George called the 404th meeting of the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University to order. Trustees, guests, and attendees were asked to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair George requested Secretary Hackstedde call roll. Present were Chair George, Secretary Hackstedde, Vice Chair Kerola, Trustee Erzurum, Trustee Fryda, Trustee Linsalata, Trustee Lyden (via remote), Student Trustee Zane Perrico, Trustee Peterson, Trustee Spiegel, Trustee Williams (via remote), Student Trustee Zarbaugh, and President Johnson. Trustee Ryan was absent. A quorum was confirmed.

B. Proof of Notice of the Meeting

Secretary Hackstedde confirmed that written notice of the meeting was timely provided to all trustees, student trustees, national/global trustees, and President Johnson, in accordance with Article Two, Section One of the Board's Bylaws. Notice was also published on the Board website and distributed to media.

C. Disposition of the Minutes for the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Board meeting held December 11, 2026, were approved as presented.

D. Presentations

The Office of Academic Affairs introduced four presentation segments from faculty, students, athletics, and student life.

1. Office of Academic Affairs - Faculty Presenter: Ryan J. Roberts, Ph.D. (Presenters: Ryan J. Roberts, Ph.D.)

Ryan J. Roberts, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and former corrections officer, presented his research on gang networks and security threats. His three-volume series, *The*

Threat Multiplier Effect of Networks, examines how gangs undermine law, institutions, and state stability beyond criminal activity alone. Volume One explores gang transformation. Volume Two analyzes inter-gang networks, gang-terrorist links, and infiltration of security institutions using network analysis methods. A future volume frames gangs as fifth-generation warfare. Dr. Roberts highlighted major data reliability challenges and is seeking grant funding to develop a comprehensive gang database.

2. Office of Academic Affairs - Student Presenter: Asher Chiwawa (Presenters: Asher Chiwawa)

Asher Chiwawa, a mechanical engineering student, shared his journey as a first-generation student who entered Youngstown State University without a clear career path and found direction through faculty mentorship and campus involvement. A nationally recognized 2026 CEIA Intern of the Year, he credited tutoring, leadership roles, and an internship designing a local revitalization plan for shaping his growth. He thanked Youngstown State University's supportive Penguin community for its collective resilience and belonging.

3. Intercollegiate Athletics - Women's Soccer: Rich Wall and Emma Berdiner (Presenters: Rich Wall - Head Coach, Women's Soccer, Emma Berdiner - Women's Soccer, Student-Athlete)

Coach Rich Wall, who joined Youngstown State University 15 months ago, praised the university's strong support and resources while highlighting the women's soccer program's historic 2025 season. The team posted a 3.83 GPA, set multiple Horizon League records, and achieved unprecedented competitive success, including an extended scoreless defense. Recruiting remains strong with minimal portal losses and top national recruits. Student athlete Emma Berner, a Youngstown State University legacy, exemplified resilience by overcoming major injuries while contributing to team culture, excelling academically, and witnessing the program's most successful season in its history.

4. Student Trustees - Greek Life: Nicolas Lombana and Sabrina Battaglia (Presenters: Nicolas Lombana, Greek Life, Sabrina Battaglia, Greek Life)

Nicolas Lombana and Sabrina Battaglia discussed Greek Life at Youngstown State University, which has been active since 1926 and includes multiple fraternities and sororities that emphasize community, academic accountability, leadership, and career networking. They highlighted strong support systems, GPA standards, and alumni connections. Greek organizations completed over 5,000 service hours in 2025, supported designated philanthropies, and maintained traditions such as Greek Week and the annual Greek Sing competition.

E. Report of the President of the University

President Johnson reported that Youngstown State University continues to experience rising enrollment, countering statewide and national higher education declines. The University remains fiscally sound, strategically reinvesting tuition and state funding into student-focused programs and critical infrastructure. The Kilcawley Student Center renovation is on time and on budget, with reopening planned for Fall 2027, while major IT upgrades are strengthening cybersecurity. Plans are progressing to launch in-person classes at Youngstown State University Steubenville in Fall 2026. Youngstown State University is advancing centralized academic advising, expanding workforce education across all credential levels, and broadening recruitment to sustain enrollment growth.

F. Reports of the Committees of the Board

The Board considered via Consent Agenda all resolutions the Committees of the Board recommended for approval. Chair George confirmed all trustees had reviewed the resolutions from each Committee as listed on the Board agenda. No trustee requested additional review time or a separate vote on any resolution. Secretary Hackstedde moved to approve the resolutions presented by the Consent Agenda as seconded by Vice Chair Kerola. A roll call vote was held. All trustees called upon voted yes.

Motion:

Motion moved by Anita A. Hackstedde, M.D. and motion seconded by Joseph J. Kerola. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Finance and Facilities Committee
 - a. Resolution to Modify University Facilities – Use, Priorities, and Fees Policy, 3356-4-03
 [Resolution to Modify - University Facilities - Use, Priorities, and Fees.pdf](#)
 [CLEAN 3356-4-05 Acquisition of real estate.pdf](#)
 - b. Resolution to Modify Acquisition of Real Estate Policy, 3356-4-05
 [Resolution to Modify - Acquisition of Real Estate Policy.pdf](#)
 [CLEAN 3356-4-05 Acquisition of real estate.pdf](#)
 - c. Resolution to Modify Student Travel Policy, 3356-4-27
 [Resolution to Modify - Student Travel Policy.pdf](#)
 [CLEAN 3356-8-07 Student travel.pdf](#)
 - d. Resolution to Approve Interfund Transfers
 [Resolution to Approve - Interfund Transfers.pdf](#)
 [Interfund Transfers Report 3rd Quarter FY26.pdf](#)
 - e. Resolution to Approve Tuition and Student Fees for FY 2027
 [Resolution to Approve - Tuition and Student Fees for FY 2026-27.pdf](#)
 [Tuition FY27.pdf](#)
 - f. Resolution to Approve the FY 2026-27 Operating Budget for YSU's Steubenville Location
 [Resolution to Approve - FY 2026-27 Operating Budget for YSU's Steubenville Location.pdf](#)
2. Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee
 - a. Resolution to Modify Research Misconduct Policy, 3356-10-16
 [CLEAN 3356-10-16 Research Misconduct.pdf](#)
 [Resolution to Modify Research Misconduct Policy, 3356-10-16.pdf](#)

- b. Resolution to Approve Program Changes
 - Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration
 -  [Program Changes: Edit - March 2026.pdf](#)
 -  [Program Changes: Deactivation - March 2026.pdf](#)
 -  [Program Changes: New - March 2026.pdf](#)
 -  [Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration.pdf](#)
 -  [Resolution to Approve Program Changes - March 2026.pdf](#)
 - c. Resolution to Approve Courses/Curricular Changes
 -  [Courses/Curricular Changes: Edit - March 2026.pdf](#)
 -  [Courses/Curricular Changes: Deactivation - March 2026.pdf](#)
 -  [Courses/Curricular Changes: New - March 2026.pdf](#)
 -  [Resolution to Approve Courses/Curricular Changes - March 2026.pdf](#)
 - d. Resolution to Modify The Student Code of Conduct Policy, 3356-8-01.1
 -  [3356-8-01.1 CLEAN The Student Code of Conduct.pdf](#)
 -  [Resolution to Modify The Student Code of Conduct Policy, 3356-8-01.1.pdf](#)
 - e. Resolution to Authorize Recommendation of Candidates for Honorary Degrees/Commencement Speakers
 -  [Candidates Recommended for Honorary Degrees/Commencement Speakers - March 2026.pdf.pdf](#)
 -  [Resolution to Authorize Recommendation of Candidates for Honorary Degrees/Commencement Speakers.pdf](#)
 - f. Resolution to Recognize that YSU Has Been Designated as a Community Engaged Institution by the Carnegie Foundation and the ACE
 -  [Resolution to Recognize that YSU Has Been Designated as a Community Engaged Institution by the Carnegie Foundation and the ACE.pdf](#)
3. University Affairs Committee
- a. Resolution to Modify Discrimination/Harassment Policy, 3356-2-03
 -  [Resolution to Modify - Discrimination-Harassment.pdf](#)
 -  [CLEAN 3356-2-03 Discrimination-Harassment.pdf](#)
 - b. Resolution to Modify Externally Funded University Positions Policy, 3356-7-43

 [Resolution to Modify - Externally Funded University Positions.pdf](#)

 [CLEAN 3356-7-43 Externally Funded University Positions.pdf](#)

- c. Resolution to Modify Vacation Leave, Professional/Administrative Staff and Department Chairpersons Not Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement Policy, 3356-7-09

 [Resolution to Modify - Vacation Leave, PA Staff and Dept. Chairpersons Not Covered by a Collective Barg. Agreement.pdf](#)

 [CLEAN 3356-7-09 Vacation Leave, PA Staff and Dept. Chairpersons Not Covered by a Collective Barg. Agreement.pdf](#)

- d. Resolution to Ratify Personnel Actions

 [Resolution to Ratify - Personnel Actions.pdf](#)

 [Faculty - Personnel Summary 1.15.2026.pdf](#)

 [Faculty - Personnel Actions 1.15.2026.pdf](#)

 [Professional Administrative - Personnel Summary 1.15.2026.pdf](#)

 [Professional Administrative - Personnel Actions 1.15.2026.pdf](#)

 [Athletics - Personnel Summary 1.15.2026.pdf](#)

 [Athletics - Personnel Actions 1.15.2026.pdf](#)

 [Supplemental Pay Assignments & Secondary Appointments - Personnel Summary 1.15.2026.pdf](#)

 [Supplemental Pay Assignments & Secondary Appointments - Personnel Actions 1.15.2026.pdf](#)

4. Governance Committee

- a. Resolution to Nominate Officers of the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees for 2026-2027 (Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary)

The Board nominated and elected Trustee George to serve as Chair, Trustee Kerola to serve as Vice Chair, and Trustee Hackstedde to serve as Secretary. Their terms of office start immediately upon conclusion of the Board meeting.

 [Resolution Nominate Executive Officers of the Board of Trustees for 2026-2027 ADA.haj FINAL 3-115.pdf](#)

- b. Resolution to Nominate National/Global Trustee, Jocelyne K. Linsalata

The Board appointed Mrs. Jocelyne K. Linsalata as a National/Global Trustee for a three-year term beginning March 19, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

 [Resolution Nominate Jocelyne K Linsalata Global 2.2026 FINAL -113.pdf](#)

5. Executive Committee

a. Board of Trustees Resolution Recommending an Honorary Degree be Awarded to Laura A. Lyden

The Board recognized Trustee Lyden's exceptional service to Youngstown State University with the award of an honorary degree that will be presented at a future Board meeting.

 [3356-10-05 Honorary degrees and commencement speakers.pdf](#)

 [Resolution honorary degree Laura A Lyden FINAL-117.pdf](#)

b. Resolution to Approve the Date, Time and Place for the Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Board resolved to hold its next regular meeting at Youngstown State University on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

 [Resolution DATE, TIME AND PLACE FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE 3-19-26-118.pdf](#)

c. Resolution of Appreciation for Student Trustee Zane A. Perrico

The Board expressed their appreciation to Zane A. Perrico for his dedication, leadership, and efforts in advancing the welfare of the faculty, staff, students, and the broader community served by Youngstown State University. Anita A. Hackstedde read the full Resolution of Appreciation for outgoing Zane A. Perrico, Senior, Physics and Mathematics major, graduate of Canfield High School. Highlights of service recognized in the resolution:

- Demonstrated academic excellence; active in the Society of Physics Students, National Math Honor Society, National Honor Society, Student Government, and Army ROTC.
- Appointed by Governor Mike DeWine to a two-year student trustee term on June 24, 2024.
- Active member of the Scholars Honors College; currently serving as a Petty Officer, First Class, in the United States Navy Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program.
- Served as student senator, participated in multiple committees, and served on the SGA executive board as Vice President of Public Relations.
- Contributed to YSU's recognition for excellence in military understanding and academic performance through ROTC.

The Board expressed its sincere appreciation to Student Trustee Perrico for his dedication, leadership, and service. A copy of the resolution was presented to him as a token of the Board's gratitude.

 [FINAL RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION ZANE PERRICO ADA FINAL - 114.pdf](#)

G. Unfinished Business

The Board did not consider any unfinished business.

H. New Business

The Board considered no items of new business.

I. Communications, Memorials, and News Updates

President Johnson reported the following memorials:

- Hunter Morrison, III – Director, Center for Urban Studies, architect of the Youngstown 2010 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Passed away December 16, 2025.
- Milton Ours – Youngstown College alumnus, local educator, and Naval Reserve officer. Passed away January 11, 2026.
- Helen M. Savage – Retired YSU Professor Emeritus of Accounting, Williamson College of Business Administration. Passed away January 12, 2026.
- Kathy M. Lewis – Mother of Jennifer Lewis-Aey, Youngstown State University Executive Director and Chief Human Resources Officer. Passed away February 18, 2026.
- John M. Better – Grandfather of Maria Bova, Associate Director of Government Affairs. Passed away February 23, 2026.

Chair George extended condolences and asked the Board to keep all the families in their thoughts and prayers.

J. Dates and Times of Upcoming Regular Meetings of the Board

The Board will hold its next meeting Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Tentative dates for future meetings include Thursday, September 17, 2026, and Thursday, December 10, 2026.

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.