

**YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Board of Trustees Meeting Room, Tod Hall  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order

**Roll Call**

Secretary Hackstedde called the roll and attendance was as follows:

Attended:

*In Person:* Peterson, Erzurum, George, Hackstedde, Kerola, Lyden, Ryan, Seals, Dando

*Virtual:* Fryda (Jensen Beach, FL); Linsalata (Naples, FL);

**Proof of Notice of Meeting**

Secretary Hackstedde indicated that appropriate notice of the meeting was provided pursuant to article ii, section 10 of the Bylaws

**Disposition of the Minutes**

Chair Peterson indicated that the minutes of recent meetings will be reviewed and approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the respective committee or of the Board

**Unfinished Business - Executive Session**

Chair Peterson moved that the Board move to Executive Session inconsideration of the Presidential Search and the position of president and in, "consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of

one or more public employees or officials, specifically the position of president (O.R.C. 121.22(G) (1)). A roll-call vote was taken to move to Executive Session.

The result of the vote was a majority of the trustees voted (8 "yes" and 1 "no" (Trustee Seals)) to enter Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:09 p.m. and returned to public session at 3:14 p.m.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Action Item - Presidential Search**

Chair Peterson noted that the search had been thorough and was undertaken in a fashion consistent with the position prospectus.

He also noted that three individuals were invited to address the Board in Executive session. The individuals represented the faculty, students, and alumni as follows: Mark Vopat, president of the YSU OEA union, Alexander Papa, president of the Student Government Association, and Ashley Orr, representing YSU alumni.

Chair Peterson then moved that the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees agree to the terms of the presidential employment agreement marked as Exhibit A of the resolution titled "Resolution to Ratify and Approve the Presidential Employment Agreement with William L. Johnson," and that the Board authorizes the chairperson of the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees to execute the employment agreement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee George seconded the motion

Secretary Hackstedde conducted a roll-call vote the results of which were 8 "yes" and 1 "no" (Trustee Seals).

Chair Peterson declared the motion passed.

Chair Peterson indicated that in accordance with the Board Resolution, he would execute the presidential employment agreement with Mr. Johnson.

### **CHAIR COMMENTS**

Chair Peterson observed that "As a first-generation college kid, I was really excited for that opportunity... I came here and I met some cool professors ...and met some amazing staff folks, and some amazing coaches, coach Tressel and Narduzzi".

He commented that the University became more than just a university and it had a huge impact on my life and essentially thereafter, my children's lives. I know the value.

He noted that both agreeing with and questioning the decision has demonstrated that so many individuals truly love this institution, because expressing their opinion is a direct demonstration of how much they care about YSU.

Given the fact that higher education is having major issues, those issues also touch Youngstown State, and this board has to make an important decision considering all factors from every perspective. This Board understands the decision may not be popular with some, but this Board has determined what is believed to be the right course of action.

He also stated, "Popularity changes but right always stays the same. I'm guided, this board is guided by the love of Youngstown State and doing what is right."

### **New Business**

Chair Peterson noted that there was no new business to come before the Board

## **Time and Place of Next Meeting**

Chair Peterson noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be December 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Trustees meeting room, Tod Hall, on the YSU campus.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Peterson declared the meeting adjourned