



Special Board Meeting - AGENDA Minutes

Youngstown State University - Board of Trustees

May 25, 2023 at 2:30 PM EDT

@ Board Meeting Room, First Floor, Tod Hall

Attendance

Present:

Members: Julie Centofanti, Richard Fryda, Charles T. George, Joseph J. Kerola, Helen Lafferty, Laura Lyden, Anita A. Hackstedde, M.D., Michael A. Peterson, Molly S. Seals, Eric Spiegel

Absent:

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

Guests: Holly Jacobs, Neal McNally, Jennifer Oddo, Jennifer Pintar, Brien Smith, James Tressel

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair George called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair George requested that Trustee Seals call and record the presence or absence of members of the Board

II. Proof of Notice of Meeting

Secretary Seals noted that pursuant to the Bylaws written notice was timely provided to each trustee and the president as well as publicly noticed on the Board of Trustees website and to the media.

III. Disposition of the Minutes

Vice Chair George noted that the minutes of the June meetings and of today's meeting will be reviewed for endorsement at the Board's June meetings.

IV. Communications and Memorials

Vice Chair George noted that Communications and Memorials will be deferred until the June meeting.

V. Unfinished Business

Vice Chair George noted there is no Unfinished Business to come before the Board.

VI. New Business

Vice Chair George noted that we will now consider Board Action Items.

A. Board Action Item(s) as appropriate

Vice Chair George noted there are several Resolutions for consideration as action items today. These Resolutions are offered to provide information and perspectives on important items related to the functioning of the Board and informing administration of expectations related to a vibrant YSU Future State.

1. Election of Jocelyne Kollay Linsalata as National/Global Trustee

Vice Chair George reminded the Board that as we have one member of the Board attending the meeting virtually, each action item will be considered by a roll-call vote.

 [Resolution for Naming Jocelyne Linsalata as a National/Global Trustee.pdf](#)


Motion:

Motion was made to approve the resolution naming Jocelyne Linsalata as a National/Global Trustee for a three-year term.

Motion moved by Michael A. Peterson and motion seconded by Joseph J. Kerola. Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

2. Election of Executive Officers

Vice Chair George noted that given the recent appointment of Rick Fryda to the Board by Governor DeWine, that it is important to elect officers at this meeting so those officers will be in place at subsequent meetings.

 [Resolution to Elect Executive Officers of the Board of Trustees for 2023 - 2024.pdf](#)

Motion:

To approve the Resolution to elect officers at this meeting, to go into effect immediately following this meeting.

Motion moved by Joseph J. Kerola and motion seconded by Michael A. Peterson. Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

Motion:

Vice Chair George called for the nomination of a slate of executive officers.

Trustee Kerola nominated Trustee Peterson as chair, Trustee George as vice chair, and Trustee Seals as secretary.

Vice Chair George asked if those individuals were willing to serve in such nominated capacities.

Trustee Kerola amended the Motion for Trustee Hackstedde to service as secretary.

Motion moved by Joseph J. Kerola and motion seconded by Michael A. Peterson. Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

3. Establish the Presidential Search Guidance Committee and Timeline

Vice Chair George indicated it is prudent select a Presidential Search Guidance Committee and a timeline.

Following discussion of the original Resolution, it was appropriately modified to include Trustee Seals as an alternate member of the committee.

 [Resolution Creating a Presidential Search Committee and Timeline.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion was made to approve the Resolution to name the trustee members of the Presidential Search Guidance Committee.

Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

4. Provide Guidance for Developing the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

Vice Chair George indicated that we must continue to diligently pursue the path the Board has endorsed via the Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future.

- Candidates for the presidential search need to know that we are on that path, and intend to continue that path forward, as well as know of our diligence in guiding the financial integrity of YSU, particularly related to Senate Bill 6 scores.
- The Board has engaged with the campus over the past several years regarding a plan to create a vibrant YSU Future-State and looks forward to continued progress on a refresh of the plan with a sustainability strategy to review in September.
- In refreshing the Plan and in gaining efficiencies and improving effectiveness, we have been reviewing the support areas and expect continued diligence regarding Academic Program Enhancement and Effectiveness implementation.
- In the meantime anticipate there will be no salary adjustments unless aligned with a reorganization that reduces expenses or is related to retention in a critical high-need area
- Anticipate that hiring of faculty must continue in the context of APEEI and from the perspective of finances over the long-term.
- It is anticipated that the financials presentation for negotiations is taken seriously by all parties as agreements are reached with the various unions.

Trustee Peterson indicated that the FY-24 budget proposal must be offered in the context creating a vibrant institution that thrives.

Trustee Spiegel offered that the quarterly update perhaps be adjusted or a new illustration be provided that makes it even more clear how the institution is doing from the perspective of a foundational bottom-line as well as perhaps in the context of implementing the Plan.

 [Financials Presentation for Negotiations May 2023.pdf](#)

 [Resolution to Approve Pertaining to a FY-24 Budget Strategy.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion was made to approve the Resolution related to guidance for developing the FY-24 budget proposal.

Motion moved by Joseph J. Kerola and motion seconded by Molly S. Seals.

Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

B. Executive Session

Vice Chair George indicated he would like to make a motion related to Executive Session.

Motion:

Vice Chair George moved that the Board move into Executive Session for the purposes of, "consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of one or more public employees or officials (O.R.C. 121.22(G) (1)) and/or preparing for, conducting, and/or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation, or other terms and conditions of their employment (O.R.C. 121.11 (G) (4)) ."

Motion moved by Charles T. George. Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

Entered Executive Session at 2:53 p.m.

Exited Executive Session at 4:34 p.m.

VII. Chairperson's Remarks

Vice Chair George made the following observations:

- A vibrant and sustained Youngstown State University is essential for the vitality of the region;
- From this perspective, we have now set the stage for a prudently expeditious search for the next president of YSU, who will be expected to continue to implement our Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future, a "refresh" of which we anticipate endorsing in September;
- YSU offers, perhaps the best value educational experience in the State, and as we know from various analyses, provides economic mobility, particularly for those students/families that YSU was created to serve;
- YSU has experienced a significant enrollment decline over the previous years that is the consequence of fewer individuals graduating from high school as well as fewer of those graduates pursuing a college credential, regardless of the fact that such a credential has the greatest lifetime value of post-secondary credentials;
- Nonetheless, to serve a broader audience and also aligned with regional workforce needs, YSU created the Division of Workforce Education and Innovation to assure YSU is in the post-secondary educational pathway of all individuals, regardless of career type;
- The combination of various avenues to post-secondary credentials is and will become a distinctive and distinguishing attribute of YSU;
- We must continue to pursue the goals and strategies of the Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future, by assuring an academic program portfolio that best serves the needs of the region and beyond, as well as support structures for student success;
- In this fashion, YSU will become more focused and consequently more distinctive because our priorities are better aligned with pathways for the economic mobility of our graduates, a measure, by the way, that is likely to become a performance indicator at the state and federal levels;
- It is essential for us all to understand, that considering the confluence of many factors, YSU will necessarily become smaller to be more distinctively focused in academic programs, that will serve the purpose of being more attractive, the result of which will be YSU as a destination of choice;

- Consequently, the Board anticipates the proposed FY-24 budget to be aligned with moving towards an optimized academic portfolio, having received academic support area reports that illustrates efficiencies in those areas;
- Thus, it is anticipated that FY-24 budget planning and beyond will optimally align with continued Academic Program Enhancement and Effectiveness, particularly in a fashion that aligns resources with priority academic programs; and
- For a vibrant future-state, *it must no longer be business as usual*, we must implement bold and innovate strategies and tactics to distinguish YSU in an increasingly hyper-competitive higher education future-state landscape

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

Vice Chair George indicated that the tentative future meeting dates, likely starting at 10 a.m. are the following:

- Thursday, June 22, 2023
- Wednesday, September 20, 2023
- Thursday, December 7, 2023

IX. Adjournment

Given no further business, Vice Chair George declared the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.