



Special Meeting YSU Board of Trustees Minutes

Youngstown State University - Board of Trustees

Aug 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM EDT

@ Tod Hall, Board of Trustees Meeting Room with Virtual Option Available

Attendance

Present:

Members: Julie Centofanti, Natalie Dando, Sergul Erzurum, Richard Fryda, Charles T. George, Allen L. Ryan, Jr., J.D., Joseph J. Kerola (remote), Helen Lafferty, Jocelyne Linsalata, Laura Lyden, Anita A. Hackstedde, M.D., Michael A. Peterson, Molly S. Seals, Eric Spiegel

Guests: Holly Jacobs, Jennifer Oddo, Jennifer Pintar, Mike Sherman, Brien Smith

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order.

II. Proof of Notice of the Meeting

Board Secretary Trustee Hackstedde gave proof of notice of the meeting.

III. Disposition of the Minutes

Chair Peterson indicated that the minutes from the June meetings and from this meeting will be reviewed for acceptance at the September meetings. He encouraged the Trustees review those Drafts.

IV. Report of the President of the University

Dr. Lafferty noted that she has welcomed students at many Orientations and anticipates a great outcome for attendance in the Fall given the quality of their experience and noted that a focus is to foster for the student a sense of belonging. She noted that shortly the campus will be bustling with students that bring enthusiasm to their educational pursuits and help create a vibrant campus.

She further recognized the successful outcome of negotiations with the Faculty Union and wants to acknowledge the countless hours that the two negotiating teams spent at the table discussing options and finding resolutions with student success as a central and guiding

theme. She noted that it was a tremendously positive sign that an agreement was reached this early and the process it also demonstrated that parties can disagree; yet understand and respect different points of view and positions. She noted that an 89% positive vote by the faculty sends a tremendously positive message and sets the stage for continued positive collaborations and consultations.

Dr. Lafferty indicated she was thrilled to participate in an event recognizing the graduating students of the Baja Student Team as they were unable to attend commencement due to competition. She also noted that the energy, enthusiasm and sense of pride that was experienced and observed is what YSU is considering a possible shift to college-oriented graduation events.

V. Reports of the Committees of the Board

Chair Peterson noted that as this is a Special Meeting of the Board that there are no Reports of the Committees of the Board.

VI. Communications, Memorials, and News Updates

Chair Peterson noted that Communications, Memorials, and News Updates will be provided at the September meeting of the Board.

VII. Unfinished Business

Chair Peterson noted that there is no Unfinished Business for the Board to consider.

VIII. New Business

The Board entered the New Business component of the Agenda noting that a public session at which actions will be taken will occur following an Executive Session related to current litigation and personnel matters, as well as Collective Bargaining.

A. Executive Session

Motion:

Chair Peterson made a motion that the Board enter 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)), and/or other appropriate matters that may come before the Board."

Motion moved by Michael A. Peterson and motion seconded by Charles T. George.

A roll-call vote was conducted the result of which was unanimous to enter into Executive Session that began at 10:12 a.m. and ended at 11:10 a.m.

- B. Resolution Ratifying the 2023-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the YSU-Ohio Education Association

 [Resolution to Ratify 2023 to 2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Ohio Education Association Faculty Union.pdf](#)

Motion:

To approve the Resolution related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Motion moved by Charles T. George and motion seconded by Laura Lyden. Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

- C. Resolution Providing Guidance For The September 2023 Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees: Continuing To Plan For A Vibrant Future State

 [Resolution Providing Guidance for the September 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees.pdf](#)

Motion:

To approve the Resolution providing guidance for the September meetings of the Board

Motion moved by Charles T. George and motion seconded by Sergul Erzurum. Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

- D. Additional New Business

Trustee George presented a motion to name One Tressel Way

 [Resolution to Name One Tressel Way.pdf](#)

Motion:

To approve the naming of One Tressel Way.

Motion moved by Molly S. Seals and motion seconded by Sergul Erzurum. Passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

IX. Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Peterson noted that it is tremendous that the University and the Faculty Union reached an agreement well before the start of classes through what we have heard was a very respectful process, we thank the negotiating teams for their diligence and dedication.

He pointed out that this is one step in a series of steps to support the process to attract the very best candidates for our consideration as the next president with those being:

- Ratified Faculty Union collective bargaining agreement;
- A Brand launch the first week of classes;
- A communication to campus from the Board regarding our perspectives on a vibrant YSU Future State;
- September Board meetings considering the 14th-day count and a discussion of marketing (sales) as a foundational attribute of our enrollment strategy; academic portfolio design; and optimizing non-academic investments
- Release of a YSU Economic Impact Study.

Chair Peterson further noted that as the Board provided guidance concerning the construction of the FY-24 budget, today the Board is providing guidance pertaining to our expectations for the September meetings of the Board.

He also said that the Board anticipates the items outlined in the Resolution and any other similar such topics will be considered by the Governance Committee to which our Board Professional is the liaison, particularly as such topics are so intricately connected to the success of our *Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future*, also noting that the Board anticipates considering a “renewed” such Plan in September.

Chair Peterson also stated that there are a plethora of challenges facing higher education in this State, the Mid West, and across the nation, and will work together to act on opportunities.

He said that this is an exciting time in the history of Youngstown State University and the members of this Board are excited to be engaged in helping map a pathway to a vibrant YSU Future State.

X. Dates and Time of the Upcoming Regular Meeting of the Board

Chair Peterson noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Board Meeting Room in Tod Hall.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Peterson declared the meeting adjourned.



**YOUNGSTOWN
STATE
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**RESOLUTION TO RATIFY
THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE
OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FACULTY UNION**

WHEREAS, the three-year collective bargaining Agreement between the Ohio Education Association Faculty Union (“OEA”) and Youngstown State University (“University”) expires on August 27, 2023; and

WHEREAS, collective bargaining between the OEA and the University has proceeded in a mutually advantageous manner; and

WHEREAS, a tentative collective bargaining Agreement for the three-year period, August 21, 2023 through August 20, 2026 (11:59 p.m.), has been reached between the OEA and the University and the OEA has voted to approve the contract (89% in favor).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University does hereby ratify the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement between the OEA and the University.

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**GUIDANCE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
CONTINUING TO PLAN FOR A VIBRANT FUTURE STATE**

WHEREAS, the *Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future* (“Plan”) was endorsed by the Board of Youngstown State University (“YSU or University”) in June 2020;

WHEREAS, there have been five various constituencies-engaged YSU Future State conversations that have set the context for YSU in the current and emerging higher education landscape;

WHEREAS, the Board anticipates in September, the presentation of a “renewed” Plan that considers past accomplishments which have been reported to the Board via various committees since the Plan was endorsed;

WHEREAS, all such actions have had the purpose to position the University as an institution of choice, not only by students, faculty and staff, but also by candidates to be considered for the position of President.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees anticipates the receipt of a Resolution related to the Fall 2023 14th-day Preliminary Headcount that considers any and all aspects of any such similar or sustainability-related Resolutions from previous years;

BE IT RESOLVED, “that should actual enrollment exceed budgeted projections, any revenues in excess of budgeted amounts shall be used to lessen the university’s structural budget deficit*”;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board anticipates via the appropriate Committees in September 2023, discussion regarding enrollment planning that considers marketing as a foundational strategy to exploit geotargeted markets; a written report on how the FY-24 budget and henceforth has been enhanced given the strategies implemented to optimally assure the allocation of the non-instructional personnel budget; and a comprehensive written report on varied designs of the Academic Portfolio that aligns with the University Mission, Plan, and the workforce needs of the region, and as appropriate, beyond.

*YSU Board of Trustees Resolution (May 25, 2023): RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY’S STRATEGY FOR THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

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**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TO NAME ONE TRESSEL WAY**

WHEREAS, James P. and Ellen J. Tressel have served Youngstown State university in many roles over the past 40 years, more recently having served as President and First Lady of Youngstown State University from 2014 through February, 2023 and then continuing as Special Assistant to the Board of Trustees for Philanthropy and Engagement;

WHEREAS, their leadership in our community has taken many forms from having served on nonprofit boards, participating in fundraising activities, while also volunteering and supporting many charitable causes;

WHEREAS, they contribute significant funds to YSU and give back personal time and energy to this institution, about which they both say has been a driving force in their lives;

WHEREAS, innumerable others have followed their philanthropic lead, donating an incredible \$150.3 million in gifts in his eight years as President, including the leadership of Ellen Tressel on the YSU Foundation Capital Campaign committee;

WHEREAS, under his leadership as president, there is an increased focus on student success including great improvement in retention, persistence and graduation rates, international student enrollment, incoming freshman standardized test scores, and initiatives to ensure that students graduate with minimal debt;

WHEREAS, with his vision, the YSU campus physical environment has been expanded, enhanced, and upgraded, including new University and private student housing, recreation and intramural fields, athletics facilities, retail development, and other campus facility, technology and infrastructure enhancements;

WHEREAS, on or about December 21, 2006, the City of Youngstown vacated University Plaza from Wick Avenue to Bryson Street;

WHEREAS, Youngstown State University Policy 3356-5-15 requires that the Board of Trustees authorize the naming of all areas owned, operated or controlled by the University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in recognition and appreciation of the significant contributions of James P. and Ellen Tressel that will transcend time, the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University does hereby designate University Plaza from Wick Avenue to Bryson Street as “One Tressel Way,” as identified on the property map attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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