Approved December 12, 2024

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Ferris State University Board of Trustees
Held on Friday, October 4, 2024
Grand Rapids, Michigan

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A Regular Meeting of the Ferris State University Board of Trustees was held on Friday, October 4, 2024 in the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building, 17 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Chair LaShanda R. Thomas called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. In addition to Chair Thomas, the following individuals were present: Trustees Michael B. Fisher, George K. Heartwell, Kurt A. Hofman, Michael D. Ryan, Ronald E. Snead, and Vivian TerMaat; University President Bill Pink; Provost and Vice President Bobby Fleischman; University Vice Presidents Daniel Eichinger, Amanda M. Matheson, Kathy K. Mullins, David Pilgrim and Jeanine Ward-Roof; Vice President and General Counsel Miles J. Postema; President of Kendall College of Art and Design Tara E. McCrackin; Board Counsel Mark E. Nettleton; Executive Assistant to the President Terri Cook; and members of the University and area communities. Trustee Amna P. Seibold was absent with prior notification.

2. Hearing of the Public

No one responded to Chair Thomas' request to address the Board.

3. External Auditors' Report

Vice President Matheson introduced Brian Greko, Audit Partner from Plante Moran, who provided a brief overview of the audit process and results.

4. Administrative Reports

The following Administrative Reports were presented. Copies of written reports are in the official file for this meeting:

a. Student Government – Report provided in advance of the meeting. No oral report.
b. Academic Senate – Emmanuel Jadhav, Academic Senate President, provided a brief overview of his report.
c. Finance – Vice President Matheson recognized members of her team who are involved in various aspects of the budgeting, finance and audit processes. She then reviewed the list of items coming to the Board from the Finance Committee at today's meeting.
d. Vice President Eichinger provided information in addition to his written report.

5a. Consent Calendar

It was moved by Trustee Snead, supported by Trustee Fisher, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

"RESOLVED, that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the items contained in the Consent Calendar as presented in the appended documentation:

a. Consent Calendar
   1. *Minutes of May 3, June 11, June 21 and August 29, 2024*
   2. *Personnel Items*
   3. *Appointments to the Boards of Directors of FSU-Authorized Charter School Academies*
   4. *Charter School Contract Amendment: Bridge Academy*
   5. *Acceptance of FY24 University Audited Financial Statements*
   6. *Continuation of Professional Services Agreement for Financial Aid Leveraging*
   7. *Facility Condition Assessment*
   8. *Amendments to the Restated Bylaws of The Ferris Foundation."*

Items 5b., 5c., 5d.

It was moved by Trustee Heartwell, supported by Trustee Snead, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following three (3) Resolutions, as submitted on this date:

5b. SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology – Wastewater Evaluation and Reporting (SEWER) Network Grant

RESOLUTION

"WHEREAS, Ferris State University was notified by Dr. Susan Peters, from the Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Section of the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), that it was awarded funding for FY25 in the amount of $791,283 to continue work on the "SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology – Wastewater Evaluation and Reporting (SEWER) Network" project; and,

WHEREAS, funding for this project is provided by the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Expansion grant supported through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. 116-260); and,

WHEREAS, the SEWER Program provides financial assistance to support costs associated with COVID-19 wastewater surveillance and local public health response; and,

WHEREAS, the SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology – Wastewater Evaluation and Reporting (SEWER) Network program project cost is $791,283 for FY25 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025) and does not require any University matching funds; and, *WHEREAS, Board of Trustees' approval to accept this grant is required pursuant to Board-approved Contracting policy, section 4-103, Delegation of Authority by the Board, as it relates to approval of grant awards.*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the MDHHS FY25 SEWER Program Grant Award in the amount of $791,283 and authorizes President Bill Pink, or his designee, to administer the grant award, in accordance with the provisions of the grant and any applicable Board policies, as presented on this day."

5c. "Fostering Equity for First-Generation (FG) and First-Generation Low-Income (FGLI) Student Success: A comprehensive approach to improving educational transition, persistence, and graduation" (FIRST-GEN) Grant

RESOLUTION

"WHEREAS, Ferris State University was notified on September 10, 2024, by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) that it was awarded funding in the amount of $411,024 for Year 1 of the 5-year project "Fostering Equity for First-Generation (FG) and First-Generation Low-Income (FGLI) Student Success: A comprehensive approach to improving educational transition, persistence, and graduation" (FIRST-GEN Project); and,

WHEREAS, the total projected 5-year award is up to $1,967,678 (10/1/2024 – 9/30/2029) and does not require any University matching funds; and,

WHEREAS, funding for this project is provided by the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP, CFDA 84.031A); and,

WHEREAS, under the direction of Dr. David McCall, the FIRST-GEN Project provides funding to hire a Director of First-Generation Programming and a Transition Wellness Coordinator who will facilitate peer coaching/mentoring, intrusive advising, Clifton Strengths Finder assessment, Career Launch programs for FG and FGLI students; and,

WHEREAS, the activities and objectives of the FIRST-GEN Project address academic, career, social, and wellness aspects of student life. The project aims to improve retention and degree completion with a focus on providing equitable and comprehensive support services in areas such as academics, careers, and mental wellness. These activities include intrusive advising, peer-to-peer coaching/mentoring (social, academic, career), NetTutor online tutoring services, a Read & Write Literacy Tool, Glean notetaking software, Clifton StrengthsFinder Assessment, Career Launch, a Leadership Distinction program, and professional development support for students; and,

WHEREAS, Board of Trustees' approval to accept this grant is required pursuant to Board-approved Contracting policy, section 4-103, Delegation of Authority by the Board, as it relates to approval of grant awards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the U.S. Department of Education's Title III FIRST-GEN Program Grant Award in the amount of up to $1,967,678 and authorizes President Bill Pink, or his designee, to administer the grant award, in accordance with the provisions of the grant and any applicable Board policies, as presented on this day."

5d. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Grant for the Ferris State Chemical Analysis Equipment Project

RESOLUTION

"WHEREAS, Ferris State University was notified on September 13, 2024, that it has been awarded a grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the amount of $1,920,000 for the project "Ferris State Chemical Analysis Equipment" (NIST Chemical Analysis Grant); and,

WHEREAS, funding for this project is part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (2024), Congressionally-Identified Community Project Funding for the Second District of Michigan project; and,

WHEREAS, the NIST Chemical Analysis Grant aims to modernize and upgrade research laboratories across campus involved in chemical, pharmaceutical and drug discovery research; and,

WHEREAS, the project will address gaps in research capabilities, innovation and commercialization potential at the University. The requested funds will support the purchase and integration of equipment critical to designing and testing novel chemical compounds that target drug-resistant cancers and advance scientific understanding of chemical drug resistance. This is critical to improve the University's capacity to measure, analyze, synthesize, process and fabricate these chemical substances and compounds, including processes of degradation that impact drug stability; and,

WHEREAS, the requested $1.92 million will be used by Ferris State University to purchase needed chemical analysis equipment and laboratory infrastructure, including an equipment integration technician. The project builds on the University's current strengths in cancer research and it supports conditions for economic growth by easing a biomedical workforce gap with enhanced preparation of students toward STEM and research-related careers. It also brings parity of opportunity for research innovations to a rural institution.

WHEREAS, the NIST Chemical Analysis Grant award is $1,920,000 for FY24-26 (September 15, 2024 – September 14, 2026) and does not require any University matching funds; and,

WHEREAS, Board of Trustees' approval to accept this grant is required pursuant to Board-approved Contracting policy, section 4-103, Delegation of Authority by the Board, as it relates to approval of grant awards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the NIST Chemical Analysis Grant award in the amount of $1,920,000 and authorizes President Bill Pink, or his designee, to administer the grant award, in accordance with the provisions of the grant and any applicable Board policies, as presented on this day."

5e. FY25 Final General Fund Operating Budget

It was moved by Trustee Heartwell, supported by Trustee TerMaat, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the FY25 Final General Fund Budget, as presented in the supporting materials."

5f. FY26 Housing and Dining Room and Meal Plan Rates

It was moved by Trustee Heartwell, supported by Trustee Hofman, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the FY26 Housing and Dining Room and Meal Plan Rates, as presented in the supporting materials."

5g. Bond Issue for the Financing of the New Top Taggart Residence Hall Project

It was moved by Trustee Heartwell, supported by Trustee Snead, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the *Resolution of the Board of Trustees of Ferris State University "Authorizing the Issuance and Delivery of General Revenue Bonds and Providing for Other Matters Related Thereto*," as presented in the materials on this date. Projects included in the bond issue include: "*1) Pre-construction services, site preparation, construction, furnishing and equipping of a new student residence hall to be located at the north end of Top Taggart Field, and 2) Additional capital projects heretofore or hereafter approved by the Board with an identified total or partial funding source as the proceeds of bonds or other debt obligations issued by the Board."*

5h. Construction Phase Services for the New Top Taggart Residence Hall Project

It was moved by Trustee Heartwell, supported by Trustee Fisher, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

"WHEREAS, the university found through the interview process that the incoming and returning students having a strong desire for modern housing, and;

WHEREAS, the administration believes a new 275-300 bed residence hall located in the heart of campus is the logical next step in the larger housing vision, and;

WHEREAS, at its August 29, 2024, meeting the Board of Trustees approved preconstruction services, and;

WHEREAS, the administration desires to secure full project approval including all construction phase services, and;

WHEREAS, Board of Trustees approval to move forward with this project is required pursuant to Board-approved Purchasing policy, Section 4-205, Matters Reserved to the Board, as it relates to professional services and capital construction contracts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vice President for Administration and Finance, or her designee, is hereby authorized to proceed with the retention of the necessary preconstruction, construction and other related services and procurement, including the negotiation of and entering into contracts, upon legal review and in accordance with Board-approved policies, at a total cost not to exceed $38,000,000 inclusive of previous funding authorized on August 29, 2024."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that financing for the construction of this project will be provided from the sale of additional bonds.

6. Hearing of the Public

No one responded to Chair Thomas' second request to address the Board.

7. President's Report

President Pink's report included the following:

- Thank you to everyone for spending time in Grand Rapids for these sessions.
- Thank you to Plante Moran for the good work they do regarding the audit.
- Reminder this is Homecoming Weekend. We hope everyone is able to come to campus to celebrate the University's 140th anniversary.

- Thank you to the Board for your work and approving the items presented today. The approvals today will allow us to begin work on the construction of the new Top Taggart Residence Hall.
- Thank you to the Leadership Team for all their efforts in making things happen on campus.

8. Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Hofman provided comments on behalf of the Board. His comments included the following:

- There seems to be an increased level of excitement and positivity that is attributed to the leadership, starting with President Pink and extending to his leadership team and beyond.
- It is great to see the enrollment trend reversing in our favor. Keep the positive energy flowing as we move forward.
- Trustee Ryan indicated his appreciation and noted the importance of the First Gen program. It allows individual students to be successful, then they become a legacy for their kids, friends and relatives.

9. Reconfirmation of Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled full Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, in Big Rapids.

10. Adjournment

At 11:43 a.m., Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by: Karen K. Huisman, RP
Secretary to the Board of Trustees