

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the
Ferris State University Board of Trustees
Monday, July 19, 2021
Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A Special Meeting of the Ferris State University Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 19, 2021 by web and teleconference. Chair Amna P. Seibold called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. In addition to Chair Seibold the following individuals were present: Trustees George K. Heartwell, Kurt A. Hofman, Ana L. Ramirez-Saenz, Kari L. Sederburg, Rupesh K. Srivastava and LaShanda R. Thomas; Provost and Vice President Bobby Fleischman; Vice Presidents James E. Bachmeier, David Pilgrim, Shelly Percy, and Jeanine Ward-Roof; Kendall College of Art and Design President Tara McCrackin; Board Counsel Frederic N. Goldberg; and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Karen K. Huisman. Trustee Ronald E. Snead was absent with prior notification.

2. Hearing of the Public

No one responded to Chair Seibold's invitation to address the Board.

3a. Professional Services Agreement, Financial Aid Leveraging

Vice President Ward-Roof provided an overview of this item. It was then moved by Trustee Ramirez-Saenz, supported by Trustee Srivastava, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

“WHEREAS, Ferris State University has been successfully engaged in financial aid leveraging since 2013, and the Student Affairs Financial Aid staff continues to view this process as a significant benefit to the University's student recruitment process; and,

WHEREAS, in the current climate of declining high school graduates coupled with the disruption due to the pandemic, recruiting new students has become more competitive than ever, and the Administration believes it is imperative that Ferris State University continue to optimize financial aid resources; and,

WHEREAS, a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) was issued in April 2021, resulting in the Administration's recommendation to retain Ruffalo Noel-Levitz for Financial Aid Leveraging services and, upon approval, to place this agreement on the recurring contracts list of the operating budget; and,

WHEREAS, the agreement will be for a three-year period, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, for a combined total cost not to exceed \$275,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, Board approval is required for this agreement, pursuant to Board-approved Purchasing Policy, Section 4-205, Matters Reserved to the Board, as it relates to Professional Services Contracts, and Board-approved Contracting Policy, Section 4-103.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Vice President for Administration and Finance, or his designee, to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Ruffalo Noel-Levitz for Financial Aid Leveraging services, in accordance with Board-approved policies, in an amount not to exceed \$275,000.00, for the three-year period effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for this agreement will be provided from the President’s Office and the Student Affairs Division.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval of this item, this agreement will be placed on the recurring contracts list within the annual budget documents.”

3b. Professional Services Agreement, Equity Focused Partnership with EAB and Implementation of the Navigate Student Success System

Vice President Pilgrim and Provost/Vice President Fleischman provided an overview of this item. It was moved by Trustee Ramirez-Saenz, supported by Trustee Hofman, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

“WHEREAS, over the past year the University has searched for a partner to expand efforts in diversity, equity and inclusion; and,

WHEREAS, working collaboratively with EAB the University has developed a unique partnership to develop Equity Mindedness campus-wide, including Diagnostics on Equity Best Practices and Equity Mindedness, Leadership Focus Groups, Best Practice Task Forces, Campus-Wide Equity and Student Success Convenings, and Change Management Training; and,

WHEREAS, during the past year the COVID-19 pandemic, remote learning, and the physical separation of students from university campuses have made clear the need for a coordinated, consistent approach to student success management; and,

WHEREAS, after careful review the Navigate Student Success Management System is being recommended; and,

WHEREAS, the initial annual cost of this coordinated approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion and student success management is \$330,800 with an additional first-year set-up cost of \$89,600; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed partnership is a five-year contract and includes a 5% increase in the annual cost and an opt-out after the third year of this contract without penalty; and,

WHEREAS, Board approval is required for this agreement, pursuant to Board-approved Purchasing Policy, Section 4-205, Matters Reserved to the Board, as it relates to professional services contracts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Vice President for Administration and Finance, or his designee, to negotiate and enter into a five-year professional services agreement for the Equity Focused Partnership with EAB in an amount not to exceed \$330,800 annually, with 5% annual increases in years 2-5, plus an initial setup charge of \$89,600, in accordance with Board-approved policies, as submitted on this date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for this item will be provided from Stimulus Funds and University Central Funds.”

4. Hearing of the Public

No one responded to Chair Seibold’s second invitation to address the Board.

5. Adjournment

At 10:42 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on October 8, 2021.