

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the  
Ferris State University Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023  
Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A Special Meeting of the Ferris State University Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 by web and teleconference. Vice Chair Ronald E. Snead called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. In addition to Vice Chair Snead, the following individuals were present: Chair LaShanda Thomas (joined at 9:15 a.m.), Trustees Michael B. Fisher, George K. Heartwell, Kurt A. Hofman, Michael D. Ryan, Anna P. Seibold, and Vivian TerMaat; University President Bill Pink; Provost and Vice President Bobby Fleischman; Vice President and General Counsel Miles Postema; Vice Presidents Bobby Fleischman, Dan Eichinger, David Pilgrim, Jeanine Ward-Roof, Jim Bachmeier, and Kathy Mullins; President of Kendall College of Art and Design Tara McCrackin; Board Counsel Mark Nettleton; Secretary to the Board of Trustees Karen K. Huisman; and members of the University community.

2. Hearing of the Public

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

3a. and 3b. Fiscal Year 2024 Tuition Rates and Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Preliminary General Fund Operating Budget, including Tuition and Fees

Vice President Bachmeier provided additional information regarding both the tuition rates and the preliminary general fund operating budget. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Heartwell, supported by Trustee Thomas, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolutions, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

*“RESOLVED, that the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Tuition Rates, at an average 3.8% undergraduate tuition increase, are approved as submitted on this date.”*

*“RESOLVED, that the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary General Fund Operating Budget, including Tuition and Fees, is hereby approved, as submitted on this date.”*

At 9:20 a.m., Board Chair Thomas presided over the meeting.

3c. Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Preliminary Housing and Dining Services Operating Budget

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

RESOLUTION

*“WHEREAS, the FY24 Preliminary Housing and Dining Services Budget reflects the University’s continuing commitment to offer attractive options and great value for our students in both housing and dining; and,*

*WHEREAS, the University is anticipating fewer total residents returning to live on campus for Fall 2023, but more than Fall 2022 as reflected in this preliminary budget.*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary Housing and Dining Services Operating Budget, as presented in the supporting materials.”*

3d. HRSA Rural Health Development Grant

Provost and Vice President Fleischman provided an overview of this item. It was then moved by Trustee Heartwell, supported by Trustee Ryan, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

*“WHEREAS, on May 24, 2023, Ferris State University was notified by the Department of Health and Human Services Health Research Services Administration (HRSA) that it has been selected to receive a grant under the FY 2023 Rural Health Network Development (RHND) Program (HRSA-23-030); and,*

*WHEREAS, the purpose of the HRSA RHND Program is to support integrated health care networks who collaborate to achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services and associated health outcomes; and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Ferris RHND project, entitled “Rural Substance Use Disorder Network: Ferris State University (CMREN-FSU)”, under the direction of Drs. Gail Bullard and Scott Sexton, is a multi-year initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Ferris RHND project is an extension of the HRSA RCORP-Implementation grant (#GAIRH39558, 2020-2023), that established the Central Michigan Recovery and Education Network (CMREN), and aims to serve HRSA designated rural counties with health professional shortages in primary care, mental health, and dental care, including Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola, and Newaygo counties; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Ferris CMREN partners have successfully developed initiatives to address the underserved rural populations experiencing SUD, including enhanced pharmacy SUD telehealth programs, community SUD education, naloxone distribution, and a new Families Against Narcotics chapter including a Hope Not Handcuffs program; and,*

*WHEREAS, the FY23 RHND award is \$300,000, with the approved four-year award in the amount of \$1,200,000 for FY24-27, consisting entirely of external funding with no matching or in-kind contributions required from Ferris State University; and,*

*WHEREAS, Board of Trustees approval is required to accept the HRSA Rural Health Network Development (RHND) Grant Award entitled “Rural Substance Use Disorder Network: Ferris State University (CMREN-FSU)” in the amount of up to \$1,200,000, pursuant to Board-approved Contracting Policy, section 4-102, as it relates to grant awards.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the HRSA Rural Health Network Development (RHND) Grant Award entitled “Rural Substance Use Disorder Network: Ferris State University (CMREN-FSU)” in the amount of up to \$1,200,000 for FY24-27, and authorizes President Bill Pink, or his designee, to administer the grant award in accordance with the provisions of the award, and any applicable Board policies.”*

3e. Wege Foundation Grant – Jim Crow Museum Travelling Exhibit Development, Launch & Expanded Programming

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

RESOLUTION

*“WHEREAS, on May 5, 2023, Ferris State University was notified by the Wege Foundation (WEGE) that it was approved to receive a grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the “Jim Crow Museum Travelling Exhibit Development, Launch & Expanded Programming” project; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Imagery (JCM) at Ferris State University (FSU) is recognized as one of the best-suited cultural institutions in the United States to preserve the truth of racist histories and provide context to the struggles and circumstances of our modern era; and,*

*WHEREAS, to foster engagement that “intentionally and systemically develops” the individuals and institutions it serves with the historical knowledge and “motivation to make a difference in civic life and policy choices,” the JCM is constructing and deploying “Overcoming Hateful Things,” a new 2,500-square-foot travelling exhibit that recreates the powerful experience of the JCM’s core exhibits; and,*

*WHEREAS, fabrication is expected to be completed by April of 2023, and the exhibit will formally open at the Grand Rapids Public Museum in June 2023 for a five-month run; and,*

*WHEREAS, the “Overcoming Hateful Things” exhibit will expand the capacity of museums and institutions in Grand Rapids and around the country to teach tolerance with the anti-black artifacts, statues, and monuments in their own communities, and often in their own collections; and,*

*WHEREAS, the collaborative approach inherent within the travelling exhibit model, and the close examination of pervasive character tropes provide a deeper understanding of the history of race relations in the US; and,*

*WHEREAS, the exhibit aims to increase societal recognition of the root causes that foster long-term impacts on social and community determinants of health; and,*

*WHEREAS, it is expected that more than 80% of visitor surveys will self-report increased awareness/understanding of caricatures and their history; JCM social media engagement metrics will demonstrate a 30% increase year over year for the May to October period; and, individual donations to the JCM will increase by 25% year over year from May to October; and,*

*WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the grant award include a final grant report due by December 31, 2023; and,*

*WHEREAS, no matching funds are required as a condition of accepting this grant award; and,*

*WHEREAS, Board of Trustees approval is required to accept the WEGE “Jim Crow Museum Travelling Exhibit Development, Launch & Expanded Programming” grant in the amount of \$500,000, pursuant to Board-approved Contracting Policy, section 4-102, as it relates to grant awards.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the Wege Foundation “Jim Crow Museum Travelling Exhibit Development, Launch & Expanded Programming” grant in the amount of \$500,000, 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.”*

3f. MEDC Michigan Enhancement Grant – Jim Crow Museum, Archive, and Research Facility Project

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

RESOLUTION

*“WHEREAS, on March 21, 2023, Ferris State University was notified by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), that it was approved for funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the “Jim Crow Museum, Archive, and Research Facility” (JCM Grant) project, and;*

*WHEREAS, the purpose of this MEDC Michigan Enhancement Grant is to provide funding to Ferris State University to support the cost of architecture design, site planning, construction, and design, fabrication and installation of exhibits for the Jim Crow Museum Center, and;*

*WHEREAS, the initial FY23 award consists of a disbursement of 50% of the funds upon execution and authorization (\$500,000), with additional funds to be disbursed after verification that the previous payment has been expended, in full, in accordance with the agreement, and;*

*WHEREAS, the term of the Agreement shall continue through December 31, 2025 and requires no matching funds; and,*

*WHEREAS, on February 17, 2023, the Ferris State University Board of Trustees committed \$5 million toward the construction of the Jim Crow Museum on the Ferris State University Big Rapids campus, to be owned and operated by Ferris State University, and funded from University central funds; and,*

*WHEREAS, Board of Trustees approval is required to accept the “Jim Crow Museum, Archive, and Research Facility” grant in the amount of \$1,000,000, pursuant to Board-approved Contracting Policy, section 4-102, as it relates to grant awards.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the MEDC “Jim Crow Museum, Archive, and Research Facility Grant” in the amount of \$500,000 for FY23, up to an amount of \$1,000,000 through December 31, 2025, 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.”*

3g. U.S. Department of Commerce NOAA Grant – Center for Virtual Learning: Equipment and Technology

Provost and Vice President Fleischman provided an overview of this item. It was then moved by Trustee TerMaat, supported by Trustee Snead, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

*“WHEREAS, on June 12, 2023, Ferris State University received notice from the U.S. Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that it has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant for the project “Center for Virtual Learning: Equipment and Technology”; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Center for Virtual Learning project has been the institution's number one capital outlay priority with the State of Michigan for several years; and,*

*WHEREAS, on December 29, 2022 the State of Michigan enacted PA 257 of 2020 which granted full construction authorization for the \$29.5 million dollar project; and,*

*WHEREAS, the \$1,000,000 award for the Center for Virtual Learning will support phase two of construction, specifically toward equipping and installing the technology and isolated network capacity essential to maximize the potential of the facility; and,*

*WHEREAS, the grant does not require University matching funds; and,*

*WHEREAS, Board of Trustees approval is required to accept the NOAA "Center for Virtual Learning: Equipment and Technology" grant award, pursuant to Board-approved Contracting Policy, section 4-102, as it relates to grant awards.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the NOAA 'Center for Virtual Learning: Equipment and Technology' grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2024, 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."*

3h. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grant for Jim Crow Museum  
Permanent Exhibit

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

RESOLUTION

*"WHEREAS, on June 15, 2023, Ferris State University was notified by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), that it was approved for funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the 'Jim Crow Museum Permanent Exhibit' (JCM PEX Grant) project; and,*

*WHEREAS, the purpose of the IMLS Museum Grants for African American History and Culture (AAHC) program is to support activities that build the capacity of African American museums and support the growth and development of museum professionals at African American museums; and,*

*WHEREAS, the purpose of this IMLS award is to provide funding to Ferris State University to support the costs of exhibit and media associated with the interpretive content and design, media production and hardware for the permanent exhibit of the new Jim Crow Museum Center.*

*WHEREAS, the \$500,000 award requires a \$1,961,981 cost share by Ferris State University, which the University intends to cover with funds raised through the Jim Crow Museum Capital Campaign; and,*

*WHEREAS, as a secondary source of eligible funding, both the University's Jim Crow Museum \$5,000,000 investment (approved 2/17/2023) and MEDC Michigan Enhancement Grant \$1,000,000 (under consideration at the June 21, 2023 meeting) would be considered eligible sources of matching funds under the IMLS grant program guidelines; and,*

*WHEREAS, the term of the Agreement begins July 1, 2023 and continues through December 31, 2025; and,*

*WHEREAS, Board of Trustees approval is required to accept the IMLS 'Jim Crow Museum Permanent Exhibit' grant in the amount of \$500,000, pursuant to Board-approved Contracting Policy, section 4-102, as it relates to grant awards.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the IMLS 'Jim Crow Museum Permanent Exhibit' grant in the amount of \$500,000 for FY24 through FY26, 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."*

3i. Revision to Board-Approved Personnel Policies, Section 6-706, Holidays With Pay

President Pink provided an overview and additional information regarding this item. It was then moved by Trustee Ryan, 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, current Board of Trustees Personnel Policies, Section 6-706, Holidays With Pay, identifies the following (10) days as holidays with pay for full-time, non-bargaining unit employees: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve; and,*

*WHEREAS, although the University has not held classes for students during the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday for many years, the University has remained open during this time, with employees still required to work; and,*

*WHEREAS, the University is requesting a revision to this policy to provide for the recognition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday within the recognized Holidays With Pay list, to expand this holiday to employees, as we have with students for so long; and,*

*WHEREAS, the current policy also designates (4) working days which may be considered and granted by the President, which are currently utilized during the days between Christmas and New Year's Eve; and,*

*WHEREAS, to allow for any additional leave, such as an additional holiday or a break, the University is requesting the number of days be increased from (4) working days to (5) working days; and,*

*WHEREAS, Board of Trustees approval is required to facilitate this revision to Board-Approved Personnel Policies, Sec. 6-706, Holidays With Pay, as included in the materials.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the attached revised Board-approved FSU Code of Rules, Bylaws and Policies of Ferris State University, Sec. 6-706, Holidays With Pay, as submitted and included in the official record for this meeting, effective immediately.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recording Secretary for the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized to make the aforesaid change to the Code as approved by the Board of Trustees, giving effect to the effective date(s) specified therein.”*

4. Hearing of the Public

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

5. Adjournment

At 9:48 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 6, 2023