

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the
Ferris State University Board of Trustees
Friday, March 28, 2025
Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A Special Meeting of the Ferris State University Board of Trustees was held on Friday, March 28, 2025 by Zoom conferencing. Chair Kurt A. Hofman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. In addition to Chair Hofman, the following individuals were present: Trustees Matthew M. Evans, Michael B. Fisher, George K. Heartwell, Michael D. Ryan, Ronald E. Snead, and Vivian TerMaat; University President Bill Pink; Provost and Vice President Bobby Fleischman; Vice President and General Counsel Miles Postema; Vice Presidents Dan Eichinger, Amanda Matheson, Kathy Mullins, David Pilgrim and Jeanine Ward-Roof; Board Counsel Mark Nettleton; Secretary to the Board of Trustees Karen K. Huisman; and members of the University community. Trustee LaShanda Thomas was absent with prior notification.

2. Hearing of the Public

No requests had been received to address the Board.

3a. Exception to Board-Approved Policy, Sec. 6-104, *Employment Policy – Authority to Hire Employees*

President Pink provided an overview of this item. It was then 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 presented on this date:

RESOLUTION

“WHEREAS, the University has engaged in a search for a new Division I Head Hockey Coach; and,

WHEREAS, Board-approved Policy, Section 6-104 (1) b, identifies the positions authorized to receive multi-year appointments; however, it does not include positions relative to coaching; and,

WHEREAS, to be competitive and allow the university to be able to attract top talent, the Administration requests an exception to Section 6-104 (1) b.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves an exception to Board-approved policy, Sec. 6-104(1)b, and authorizes President Bill Pink, or his designee(s), to enter into an individual written three-year employment contract with the selected candidate for the university’s next Division I Head Hockey Coach, in accordance with all other relative Board-approved and university policies.”

3b. Tonkin Drain Improvement Project Voluntary Contribution

Vice President Matheson provided an overview of this item. Trustee Heartwell recited a letter of support for this item from Paul Haan, Executive Director of the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly. It was then moved by Trustee Ryan, supported by Trustee Heartwell, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as presented on this date:

RESOLUTION

“WHEREAS, the Mecosta County Drain Commission started the Tonkin Drain Improvement Project design in 2018 due to aging infrastructure, failing culverts, flooding and water erosion, which has been damaging property; and,

WHEREAS, Ferris State University (FSU) owns 18 parcels totaling 485.72 acres within the Tonkin Drain area; and,

WHEREAS, the project is estimated to cost \$6 million, with approximately \$3.1 million to be assessed proportionately to property owners over a 15-year special assessment period; and,

WHEREAS, Ferris State University is exempt from certain tax assessments including drain district assessments, and as such, has no obligation to contribute to the Tonkin Drain Improvement Project; and,

WHEREAS, the Mecosta County Drain Commissioner prepared two estimated special assessment calculations, one with only eligible properties and one that includes FSU paying a proportionate share; and,

WHEREAS, the proportionate share was calculated with the amount proposed for FSU, as a voluntary contribution and based on current estimates, as \$646,314; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends that FSU make a voluntary contribution to the Tonkin Drain Improvement Project in the amount of \$646,314, to be paid in three annual installments of \$215,438 in fiscal years 2026, 2027 and 2028.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the Administration’s request and authorizes the Vice President for Administration and Finance, or her designee(s), to make three annual payments of \$215,438 in fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028 to the Mecosta County Drain Commission for a total voluntary contribution of \$646,314 for the Tonkin Drain Improvement Project.”

4. Adjournment

With no further business, at 4:21 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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