

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the
Ferris State University Board of Trustees
Wednesday, June 17, 2020
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 17, 2020 by web and teleconference. Chair Amna P. Seibold called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. In addition to Chair Seibold the following individuals were present: Trustees Lori A. Gwizdala, Robert J. Hegbloom, Kurt A. Hofman, Ana L. Ramirez-Saenz, Kari L. Sederburg, LaShanda R. Thomas and Rupesh K. Srivastava; University President David L. Eisler; Vice President and General Counsel Miles J. Postema; Vice Presidents James E. Bachmeier, Paul Blake, Shelly L. Percy, David Pilgrim and Jeanine Ward-Roof; President of Kendall College of Art and Design Tara E. McCrackin; Director of Budgetary Planning and Analysis Sally A. DePew; Board Counsel Frederic N. Goldberg; and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Karen K. Huisman.

Motion to Amend Agenda

It was moved by Trustee Sederburg, supported by Trustee Srivastava, and unanimously carried that the Ferris State University Board of Trustees hereby amends its agenda for today's meeting by the following item:

Add item 3d.1.: *Cost Savings through Employee Voluntary Separation Program for Tenure-Line Faculty in Ferris Faculty Association*, and

Add item 3d.2.: *Cost Savings through Employee Voluntary Separation Program – Tenure-Line Faculty in Kendall Faculty Association*.

2. Hearing of the Public

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

3a. FY2020-21 General Fund Continuation Budget and Tuition Rate Recommendation

Vice President Bachmeier provided an overview of this item. It was then moved by Trustee Thomas, supported by Trustee Hegbloom, 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 FY2020-21 General Fund Continuation Budget and Tuition Rate Recommendation is approved as submitted on this date.”

3b. FY 2020-21 Preliminary Housing and Dining Services Budget

Vice President Bachmeier provided an overview and additional detail for this item. It was then moved by Trustee Ramirez-Saenz, supported by Trustee Srivastava, and unanimously carried that the 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 FY2020-2021 Preliminary Housing and Dining Services Budget, as presented in the supporting materials.”

3c. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA)

President McCrackin provided an overview of this item. It was then moved by Trustee Srivastava, supported by Trustee Hegbloom, and unanimously carried that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

“WHEREAS, the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts organization (UICA) was established over 40 years ago and has been housed in multiple locations throughout Grand Rapids, Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, it is currently located at 2 Fulton West in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, in 2013 the UICA merged with Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD) of Ferris State University (FSU); and,

WHEREAS, despite the University’s best efforts, since that time, the organization has continued to run a substantial annual deficit; and,

WHEREAS, the building at 2 Fulton West is oversized for the capacity of the organization and the community in order to support the programming and operations at a sustainable level; and,

WHEREAS, KCAD is proposing to move the UICA organization from its current location at 2 Fulton West in Grand Rapids, MI to the first floor of the Woodbridge N. Ferris (WNF) building, located at 17 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI; and,

WHEREAS, the UICA is a scalable organization and this change of venue allows a reduction in the number of employees and sets the budget at a reasoned size to be viable; and,

WHEREAS, upon the relocation of the UICA organization, the Administration believes that the University has no purpose or intended use of the property at 2 Fulton West in Grand Rapids and recommends disposal of the property; and,

WHEREAS, this action requires Board approval, pursuant to Board-approved Review and Disposal of Surplus Real Estate policy, Section 4-901.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the Administration’s recommended relocation of the UICA organization from 2 Fulton West in Grand Rapids, Michigan to the first floor of the Woodbridge N. Ferris building at 17 Pearl Street, NW in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the Administration’s recommended disposal of the property at 2 Fulton West, in accordance with Board-approved Administration and Finance policy, Section 4-901, Review and Disposal of Surplus Real Estate and Section 4-902, Disposal of Properties Approved by the Board for Disposal, and authorizes the Vice President for Administration and Finance or his designee to obtain an appraisal of the said property and contract with the highest qualified bidder therefor as specified in such policies, and to execute and deliver all agreements and instruments of conveyance related to the disposition of said property.”

3d.1. Cost Savings through Employee Voluntary Separation Program for Tenure-Line Faculty in Ferris Faculty Association

Vice President and General Counsel Postema provided an overview of this item. It was then moved by Trustee Gwizdala, supported by Trustee Hofman, and unanimously carried that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

“WHEREAS, the declining number of K-12 graduates in Michigan is having an adverse effect on the enrollment at most Michigan public universities, including Ferris State University; and,

WHEREAS, the decline in the number of K-12 graduates is projected to continue into the future; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted projected enrollment and caused related negative impact on the State of Michigan’s anticipated funding for higher education; and,

WHEREAS, over seventy percent of the University General Fund operating budget revenue comes from tuition and fees, and this revenue source is declining at the University; and,

WHEREAS, the administration is recommending a voluntary employee separation program, to help reduce its operating budget; and,

WHEREAS, the administration is seeking Board of Trustees authorization for the President of Ferris State University to determine whether to offer the program to tenure-line faculty at Ferris State University represented by the Ferris Faculty Association.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that President David L. Eisler, or his designee(s) is hereby authorized to determine whether to offer the Voluntary Separation Program to tenure- line faculty members at Ferris State University, in accordance with the program documents, and for the length of time set out in the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees will ratify any voluntary employee action accepted by the University under these programs through the Board’s Consent Calendar, Personnel Items.”

3d.2. Cost Savings through Employee Voluntary Separation Program – Tenure-Line Faculty in Kendall Faculty Association

Vice President and General Counsel Postema provided an overview of this item. It was then moved by Trustee Ramirez-Saenz, supported by Trustee Thomas, and unanimously carried that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following Resolution, as submitted on this date:

RESOLUTION

“WHEREAS, the declining number of K-12 graduates in Michigan is having an adverse effect on the enrollment at most Michigan public universities, including Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University; and,

WHEREAS, the decline in the number of K-12 graduates is projected to continue into the future; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted projected enrollment and caused related negative impact on the State of Michigan’s anticipated funding for higher education; and,

WHEREAS, over seventy percent of the University General Fund operating budget revenue comes from tuition and fees, and this revenue source is declining at the College; and,

WHEREAS, the administration is recommending a voluntary employee separation program, to help reduce its operating budget; and,

WHEREAS, the administration is seeking Board of Trustees authorization for the President of Ferris State University to determine whether to offer the program to tenure-line faculty at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University represented by the Kendall Faculty Association.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that President David L. Eisler, or his designee(s) is hereby authorized to determine whether to offer the Voluntary Separation Program to tenure- line faculty members at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University, in accordance with the program documents, and for the length of time set out in the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees will ratify any voluntary employee action accepted by the University under these programs through the Board's Consent Calendar, Personnel Items.”

4. Hearing of the Public

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

5. Adjournment

At 2:49 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

October 2, 2020.