



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH MEETING

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
Live Stream/WebEx: <http://wright.edu/bot-stream>

Minutes

Present: D. Asarpota, M. Bridges, D. Conway, D. Fecher, S. Fitzpatrick,
A. Goyal, M. Grunder, T. Gunlock, B. Langos, B. Montgomery,
A. Platt, R. Peters, B. Whiteside

Guests: S. Culley, S. Edwards, O. Evans, B. Kawosa, S. Mickey-Boggs,
G. Sample

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Trustee Gunlock, Chair, called to order the April 7, 2021 Special Wright State University Board of Trustees meeting at 11:00 a.m. Trustee Gunlock took the opportunity to welcome everyone to the meeting.

Trustee Gunlock asked the Secretary, Shari Mickey-Boggs, to call the roll. There was a quorum.

II. PROOF OF NOTICE OF MEETING

Trustee Gunlock stated that the meeting had been called by written notification; a quorum was present.

Chair's Statement

The Wright State University Board of Trustees is a public body subject to the Ohio Open Meetings Act. It operates on a fixed agenda available to those attending the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Board in its public session should submit a written request to the Board of Trustees' office 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to be placed on the agenda. However, all persons address the Board at the invitation of the Board and are subject to time limitations and other guidelines established to maintain the good order of the meeting.

III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Trustee Gunlock read the Conflict of Interest Statement:

It is of utmost importance to ensure that all university decisions are free from any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Therefore, please be mindful of all obligations with which you have been charged as a Trustee of Wright State University, and take the steps you deem appropriate to perform your duties fairly and impartially.

Trustee Grunder reminded the trustees the meeting was remote and to please identify themselves when making a motion.

IV. VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROGRAM (VSP)

Trustee Gunlock informed the board members that there was a single agenda item before them and asked for a motion and a second to get the resolution on the table for discussion. Following the motion and second, he stated he would offer comments by way of background and then would open the discussion of the resolution before the Board.

Trustee Gunlock as the secretary to read the resolution.

Voluntary Exit Incentive Options

RESOLUTION 21-

WHEREAS, Wright State University would like to address the need to reduce its number of faculty in the people-friendly approach we value prior to issuing retrenchment notices; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Voluntary Exit Incentive Options as presented are supported by University Administration and AAUP-WSU; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and President's designees have the authority to sign any documents relating to the Voluntary Exit Incentive Options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University shall make cash payments for the sole purpose of this one-time offer to participants under the Voluntary Exit Incentive Options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the President and her designees, with respect to this plan, to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to implement, maintain, and administer the plan

Trustee Gunlock asked for a motion to accept the Voluntary Exit Incentive Options resolution; moved by Trustee Bridges and seconded by Trustee Montgomery.

Trustee Gunlock offered background and comments:

“As a part of the Board’s deliberation of a formal retrenchment action at their February 19, 2021 meeting, President Edwards included a request that the Board also consider supporting a voluntary separation plan which would be offered to faculty located in the colleges being impacted by retrenchment. While such a plan is not a required component of retrenchment the request by President Edwards was seated in her desire to potentially reduce the total number of 113 faculty positions that would otherwise be retrenched.

As a part of their deliberations the Board unanimously concurred with the President’s recommendation and afforded the administration the opportunity to build a framework for such a plan. The draft framework was then presented to the Board at the March Finance, Audit and Governance Committee. Following that discussion, the administration initiated a dialogue with the AAUP-WSU in order to solicit comments, suggestions and feedback on the draft plan. The conclusion of that dialogue resulted in agreement between the AAUP-WSU and the Wright State

University Administration on the proposed voluntary separation plan presented for a vote by the Board of Trustees. The trustees have received a copy in advance of today's meeting and a copy is available on the BOT website for members of the viewing audience.

The plan appears comprehensive in approach and affords multiple ways for interested faculty to separate from the university. It also provides interested faculty the ability to choose from options which affords some customization to meet individual needs.

The Administration has affirmed that the plan before us today is commensurate with the original framework the Board discussed. If there are questions the Administrative Team will respond and if there are none we will move forward with a vote.”

Trustee Gunlock asked for any further discussion before the roll was called. Hearing no further discussion and motion and seconded (see above posted Resolution) already obtained, Trustee Gunlock asked the secretary to call the roll.

The resolution was unanimously passed by rollcall vote (9-0-0). Trustee Gunlock stated the ayes have it and the resolution passed.

Trustee Gunlock thanked President Edwards and the Wright State University administration for their work on the resolution. Trustee Gunlock stated his confusion on the continued behavior of the AAUP-WSU leadership. Even with the administration suggesting several joint statements being added to the plan, showing a joint collaboration between parties – those were rejected by the AAUP-WSU. Further, the AAUP-WSU's written communications to their membership, again pitches an us (AAUP-WSU) versus them (WSU administration) scenario. Showing one behavior in public and a different behavior in private. Trustee Gunlock indicated his hope that with this joint resolution and the incoming leadership of the AAUP-WSU it will serve as a milestone in moving the university forward. He hoped all would positively look forward to our efforts to grow and recruit fantastic students, to retain and provide them an amazing college experience and to educate them for the jobs of the future.

Trustee Montgomery also thanked Dr. Edwards and Mr. Greg Sample for their tremendous work on this resolution. Trustee Montgomery asked the name of the incoming AAUP-WSU president. Dr. Edwards stated that the next President of AAUP-WSU will be Robert Rubin, Senior Lecturer and Director of ESL. Dr.

Edwards also informed the board members that Mr. Rubin will address the full board at the April 30 meeting.

Trustee Gunlock thanked President Edwards and the Wright State University administration for their work on the resolution. Trustee Gunlock stated his confusion on the continued behavior of the AAUP-WSU leadership. Even with the administration suggesting several joint statements being added to the plan, showing a joint collaboration between parties – those were rejected by the AAUP-WSU. Further, the AAUP-WSU's written communications to their membership, again pitches an us (AAUP-WSU) versus them (WSU administration) scenario. Showing one behavior in public and a different behavior in private. Trustee Gunlock indicated his hope that with this joint resolution and the incoming leadership of the AAUP-WSU it will serve as a milestone in moving the university forward. He hoped all would positively look forward to our efforts to grow and recruit fantastic students, to retain and provide them an amazing college experience and to educate them for the jobs of the future.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Gunlock asked for any unfinished business for the board of trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Trustee Gunlock moved to adjourn; seconded by Trustee Grunder and was unanimously passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Keeley

Approved by BOT on 4/30/2021