



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOUR HUNDREDTH AND FIFTH MEETING Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

Endeavour Room, Student Union 156

MINUTES

Present: Chair Gunlock, Vice Chair Thompson, Treasurer Ferris, J. Ebbing, A. Goyal, R. Kejriwal, E. Miller, R. Peters, A. Platt, L. Johnson, E. Vaught, B. Bucklew, D. Fecher, B. Whiteside, J. Wilson

Absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gunlock called to order the October 2, 2025, meeting at 2:30 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Chair Gunlock asked the Secretary, Daniel Palmer, to call the roll. A quorum was present. Gunlock read the Chair's Statement and the Conflict-of-Interest Statement.

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.

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.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gunlock welcomed Dr. Megan Faragher to provide public comment.

Dr. Faragher provided her remarks to the Board of Trustees.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Gunlock requested the Board move into Executive Session pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G).

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 26-06

RESOLVED that the Wright State University Board of Trustees agreed to hold an Executive Session on October 2, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED that pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G), the following issues may be discussed in Executive Session:

- To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1); and
- The sale and purchase of real estate pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(2); and
- Conference with an attorney for the Board regarding disputes with the Board that are subject of pending or imminent litigation pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3); and
- Matters Required to be Kept Confidential Pursuant to Federal Law or State Statute pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(5).

Trustee Peters moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Platt seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

IV. RECONVENE

A. Roll Call

The Board of Trustees, at the calling of Chair Gunlock, reconvened at 4:00 p.m. Chair Gunlock

asked Board Secretary Palmer to call the roll and a quorum was present.

B. Disposition of Previous Minutes

Trustee Platt moved to approve the minutes from June 20, 2025 Public Session and August 22, 2025 Special Meeting and Trustee Peters seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved (9,0,0).

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Swearing in of New Members

Chair Gunlock welcomed the newest student trustee to the Board, Ms. Ella Vaught, who was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine in June. He noted that Ella was a very accomplished student at Wright State University, majoring in marketing with a concentration in business analytics. He added that she was also a Presidential Scholar and honors student. In addition to now serving as a student trustee, Chair Gunlock stated Ella served on the Raj Soin College of Business Dean's Student Advisory Board and worked in the Student Involvement and Leadership Center.

Chair Gunlock also highlighted that Trustee Beth Ferris, a senior financial executive with more than 30 years of experience in labor and information industries, was re-appointed to the Board. Chair Gunlock noted that Trustee Ferris has served as Treasurer to the Board and chair of the Finance, Audit, Governance and Compliance Committee, over the last few years.

Both Ms. Ella Vaught and Treasurer Beth Ferris were sworn in by Sean Culley.

B. Opening Remarks

Chair Gunlock provided the following opening remarks:

"Welcome. I acknowledge that as Chair I have a unique platform to speak at these meetings. My remarks today are made in my role as Chair, but also in the context of being a citizen as I have watched the current events over the past few weeks. I acknowledge and respect that some may not agree or share my personal views. I also believe that most of the individuals in this university environment would respect my right to share my views. When I was a child, our Nation suffered

through a tumultuous period of political violence. In November of 1963, President Kennedy's life was taken while in September of that year four young girls — Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair — were murdered in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy were both assassinated in 1968. It was a very dark period and today, it seems that same violence has returned. Charlie Kirk's life was stolen in front of thousands. In Michigan, innocent parishioners were gunned down in their own church while worshipping. Those murders follow others that included a state legislator in Minnesota, among many others. In reality, in just this year alone, in the United States there have been over 200 attacks determined to be politically motivated. These acts are not just attacks on targeted individuals — They are attacks on all of us. And yet, instead of reflection, some are justifying the acts within their camps of rage. Instead of restraint, some are doubling down on anger. Again, Political violence is not new in America, yet in moments like this, we can turn to history for guidance. Abraham Lincoln called us to act “with malice toward none, with charity for all.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught the discipline of nonviolence. He knew that how we pursue our goals matters just as much as the goals themselves. So what would it mean to live out nonviolence today? It would look like this:

- Reflect each day on the values that make us human.
- Seek reconciliation.
- Speak and act with dignity.
- Work not only for yourself, but for the freedom of all.
- Put the greater good above personal preference.
- Practice courtesy and respect.
- Serve others.
- Reject violence — of the fist, of the tongue, and of the heart.
- Care for your body and mind. Strong citizens make a strong nation.
- Stay rooted in community and

- Step back from social media. It fuels division not unity.

These are not abstract ideals. They are daily choices. The question before us is simple: How do we heal a nation? The truth is we don't all at once. We begin by healing ourselves through the choices we make, the words we speak, the actions we take. And when we do, we create the possibility of healing others. Utah Governor Spencer Cox said it well: "We can return violence with violence. We can return hate with hate. But that is the problem with political violence — it metastasizes. At some point, we must find an offramp, or it will only get worse. These are choices we can make. History will dictate if this is a turning point for our country. But every one of us gets to choose right now if this is a turning point for us." The choice is ours. Each of us. Right here. Right now. Wright State University embraces freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom of viewpoint. This is a place where we can discuss these topics in a safe, respectful space and I'm proud of that. Let's always feel free to disagree but let's always do it with civility and while respecting each other as human beings."

VI. REPORTS ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Provost Jim Denniston provided the Academic Affairs report, highlighting the first-year seminar, Wright Brothers Day, and focus areas of academic affairs.

A. Approval of the College of Graduate Programs and Honors Studies Plan

Provost Jim Denniston presented the Graduate College Reorganization for Board of Trustees approval.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND HONORS STUDIES REORGANIZATION PLAN

RESOLUTION 26-07

WHEREAS, the Wright State University Office of the Provost recently conducted a restructuring of academic oversight within the University; and

WHEREAS, this restructuring resulted in a re-alignment of responsibilities that has the University Honors Program reporting directly to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, providing more focused support and oversight for undergraduate honors education; and

WHEREAS, this restructuring also resulted in the independent operation of Graduate Programs under this new structure, providing more focused support for graduate-level academic initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the proposed organizational change is in the University's best interests; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the College of Graduate Programs and Honors Studies reorganization plan dated August 2025 is hereby approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the College of Graduate Programs and Honors Studies will be renamed the School of Graduate Studies, to accurately reflect the unit's scope and mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President, or her designee, is authorized and directed to take and perform all lawful actions she reasonably deems appropriate to effectuate the Board's directives herein.

Trustee Miller moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Goyal seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

B. Reports on Enrollment and Retention

Both Ms. Susan Schaurer and Dr. Laura Luehrmann provided the reports on enrollment and retention. It was reported that total student enrollment for the semester was 11,924 total students, an increase by 1%. Further, it was announced that enrollment for the preceding year was 72.8%, an increase by over 3%.

VII. REPORTS ON FINANCE, AUDIT, GOVERNANCE, AND COMPLIANCE

Chair Gunlock recognized Burhan Kawosa and Sommer Todd to present their Finance and Investment reports.

A. Reports on Financial, Monthly Cash Flow, and Investment Performance

Mr. Kawosa and Ms. Todd presented the Financial and Investment reports.

B. Approval of Expenditures

Mr. Matt Grushon presented the contracts and expenditures and requested approval by the Board of Trustees.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

RESOLUTION 26-08

WHEREAS, in order for the University to conduct business on an on-going basis, and provide products and services in a timely manner, purchases must be made; and

WHEREAS, these expenditures may amount to greater than \$250,000, requiring Board of Trustees approval; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that authorization is granted for the accompanying contracts exceeding \$250,000 before the Board of Trustees.

Treasurer Ferris moved to approve the contracts and Trustee Ebbing seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

C. AES Ohio Easement

Mr. Greg Sample presented on the proposed permanent easement with AES and requested approval by the Board of Trustees.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

APPROVAL OF EASEMENT WITH AES OHIO

RESOLUTION 26-09

WHEREAS, the Wright State University Board of Trustees owns a certain parcel of real property Greene County, Ohio, known as Greene County Auditor's Parcel No. A02-0002-0019-0-0004-00 (the "Parcel"); and

WHEREAS, Wright State University has previously granted a permanent easement to AES Ohio for the purposes of managing utility locations; and

WHEREAS, AES Ohio is now requesting an expansion of that easement area for the purposes of installing, operating, maintaining, and replacing electric utility facilities and related improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that the easement will not materially interfere with the University's operations or use of its property; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves and grants AES Ohio the easement described in the attached instrument; and be it further

RESOLVED that the President, or her designee, is authorized to execute and deliver the easement agreement and any related documents, and to take such further actions as may be necessary to effectuate the Board's directive herein.

Treasurer Ferris moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Platt seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

D. Lease with ODNR

Mr. Greg Sample presented on the proposed lease agreement with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and requested approval by the Board of Trustees.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

RESOLUTION 26-10

WHEREAS, Wright State University owns certain real property adjacent to Grand Lake St. Mary's, as more fully described in Exhibit A of the Lease Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has requested to lease said property for the purpose of establishing and managing a dredge pipe that will not discharge on University property and in support of Grand Lake St. Mary's dredging operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that the lease will not materially interfere with the University's operations or use of its property; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the Lease Agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as submitted to this meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED that the President, or her designee, is authorized and directed to finalize and execute the Lease Agreement and any related documents, and to take such further actions as may be necessary to effectuate the Board's directive herein.

Trustee Ebbing moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Peters seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

VIII. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Edwards, due to time limitations, deferred her presentation to the December Board of Trustees meeting.

A. Approval of New Hires, Appointments, Promotions, and Separations

President Edwards offered the academic and administrative appointments and changes as part of the meeting attachments to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

APPROVAL OF NEW HIRES, APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, AND SEPARATIONS

RESOLUTION 26-11

RESOLVED that the academic and administrative appointments, changes, retirement, departmental reporting, resignations and terminations submitted to this meeting be, and the same hereby are approved.

Trustee Goyal moved to approve and Trustee Miller seconded. Chair Gunlock asked that each Board Member review the names and confirm that they do not have a conflict. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

B. Approval of Research Contracts and Grants

President Edwards shared that Wright State University had recorded 293 awards totaling nearly \$65 million in external funding for the time period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

APPROVAL OF RESEARCH CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

RESOLUTION 26-12

RESOLVED that the research contracts and grants submitted to this meeting be, and the same hereby are approved.

Trustee Goyal moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Peters seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

C. Conferral of Honorary Degree

President Edwards offered, for the Board's consideration, a recommendation put forth by the University Commencement Committee for the conferral of an honorary degree upon Mr. Kirk Davis. President Edwards noted that Mr. Davis began his academic journey at Wright State University as a Musical Theatre student, an experience he has often described as formative in shaping his perspective and preparing him for future leadership. She added that although family circumstances required him to leave before completing his degree, his time at Wright State

provided the foundation and inspiration for a career that ultimately led to national prominence in media and business.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE TO KIRK DAVIS

RESOLUTION 26-13

WHEREAS, in recognition of outstanding individual achievement, service, and contributions to the University and the community, the University may award the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; and

WHEREAS, Kirk Davis began his higher education journey at Wright State University as a Musical Theatre student, an experience he has described as a pivotal moment that broadened his vision and prepared him for future leadership; and

WHEREAS, although family circumstances required him to leave, he credits Wright State with inspiring his ultimate trajectory toward and success in national leadership in media and business; and

WHEREAS, through resilience and determination, Mr. Davis rose from an entry-level position at a small newspaper in Lancaster, Ohio, to become one of the youngest media executives in the country by age 23, setting the stage for a distinguished four-decade career; and

WHEREAS, as CEO of GateHouse Media and later Harte Hanks, Mr. Davis led billion-dollar companies, driving digital transformation, expanding local journalism, and creating long-term value for investors, communities, and employees alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis has been a staunch advocate for the preservation of local journalism in American communities, serving on the boards of the Associated Press, the American Press Institute, and the New England Newspaper Association, while ensuring that his organizations consistently received national recognition for editorial quality and community service; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Kirk Davis has embodied leadership marked by humility, authenticity, and vision, empowering teams, mentoring future leaders, and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to education and community advancement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board finds that Kirk Davis has been duly nominated for the Doctor of Humane Letters, the President concurs in the nomination, and Kirk Davis is otherwise eligible and worthy of the honor; and be it further

RESOLVED, in recognition of outstanding individual achievement, service, and contributions, the Board authorizes and directs the President to confer the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters upon Kirk Davis at the 2025 Fall Semester Commencement Exercises.

Trustee Miller moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Peters seconded. The resolution

was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

IX. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEES

Chair Gunlock invited student Trustees Ella Vaught and Lauren Johnson to provide their report. Trustees Vaught and Johnson provided an update on student activities during the Fall 2025 semester, and highlighted various portions of student life during the semester.

X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business before the Board of Trustees.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Gunlock noted that there were three items of New Business before the Board of Trustees.

Chair Gunlock stated that Governor DeWine signed the Advancing Ohio Higher Education Act, otherwise known as Senate Bill 1 on March 28th and with the Governor's signature came the resulting obligation of compliance among all State of Ohio publicly funded institutions of higher education. He added that as Board Chair, he asked Trustees to participate in shaping these requirements to be compliant with the new law and that he appreciated the input and suggestions they provided to the Board Secretary.

Chair Gunlock noted that the Board charged Mr. Palmer, as Board Secretary, to put the policies into final form which were to be considered by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Palmer noted the resolution contained policies on the following and provided a brief explanation of each:

1. Faculty Tenure
2. Faculty Annual Performance Evaluation Policy
3. Post Tenure Review Policy
4. Retrenchment Policy
5. Curricular Approval Process

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

ADDITIONAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE ADVANCE OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION ACT AND THE 2026 – 2027 BIENNIUM BUDGET BILL

RESOLUTION 26-14

WHEREAS, the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act and the 2026 – 2027 Biennium Budget Bill established new statutory requirements related to institutional governance and operations, affecting the policies and procedures of public institutions of higher education in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act and the 2026 – 2027 Biennium Budget Bill became law on June 27, 2025 and June 30, 2025 respectively, and established deadlines related to the adoption of certain requirements; and

WHEREAS, certain provisions of the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act's must be adopted no later than December 31, 2025, however those items that have been collectively bargained will not take effect until the current agreement expires on June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, those specific policies include workload, tenure, faculty performance evaluations, post-tenure review, and retrenchment; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the following, each of which shall be incorporated into university policy and operations in accordance with law:

Schedule A: Faculty Tenure Policy as required by section 3345.45 and 3345.454 of the Revised Code;

Schedule B: Faculty Annual Performance Evaluation Policy as required by section 3345.452 of the Revised Code;

Schedule C: Post-Tenure Review Policy as required by section 3345.453 of the Revised Code;

Schedule D: Retrenchment Policy as required by section 3345.454 of the Revised Code;

Schedule E: Curricular Approval Process as required by section 3345.457 of the Revised Code; and be it further

RESOLVED that the President, or her designee, is directed to adopt, implement, and enforce the directives set forth in Schedules A through E, and to take such lawful actions as necessary to effectuate the Board's directives, including codifying them in the University's policy register and incorporating them into appropriate operations and procedures; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees directs the Secretary to transmit a copy of this resolution and the applicable adopted policies to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees directs the University's General Counsel to immediately codify and harmonize the adopted policies in the University Policy Register and to amend any university policy that is inconsistent with these adopted policies; and be it further

RESOLVED that the General Counsel is further authorized and directed to create new policies and amend existing policies on behalf of the Board, as necessary, in order to ensure compliance with State Law and effectuate the Board's directive herein.

Trustee Ebbing moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Goyal seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

Next, Mr. Greg Sample indicated Wright State University was approached to serve as the Fiscal Agent and staff leadership to the Wright-Patterson Regional Council of Governments.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

**AUTHORIZATION TO SERVE AS WRIGHT-PATTERSON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FISCAL AGENT
AND STAFF LEADERSHIP**

RESOLUTION 26-15

WHEREAS, the Wright-Patterson Regional Council of Governments (“WPRCOG”) was established in October 2020 pursuant to Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code through a joint agreement among Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Springfield Air National Guard Base, and regional municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the WPRCOG was formed in recognition of a mutual interest in promoting compatible development, coordinated land use, regional economic development, and support for the continued operation of key military installations, including Wright-Patterson AFB and Springfield ANG Base; and

WHEREAS, the WPRCOG members intend to share resources, benefits, and costs across municipal and regional lines in the interest of greater efficiency and synergy, while respecting the independent authority of each participating jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Wright State University has a longstanding partnership with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and surrounding regional stakeholders in areas of research, economic development, workforce training, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, members of the WPRCOG have determined the University is well-suited to provide the administrative, accounting, financial oversight, and fiduciary support functions necessary for the WPRCOG’s operations and long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Wright State, the region, and the State of Ohio that the University serve as fiscal agent and staff leadership for the WPRCOG; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President, or her designee, to enter into an agreement with the WPRCOG for the purposes of Wright State University serving as its fiscal agent and providing administrative leadership to the WPRCOG; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President, or her designee, is authorized and directed to take and perform all lawful actions she reasonably deems appropriate to effectuate the Board’s directives herein.

Trustee Kejriwal moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Goyal seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

Finally, Mr. Bill Shepard presented the following proposal before the Board of Trustees concerning

the naming of the Neuroscience Engineering Collaborative.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

PHILANTHROPIC NAMING OF THE VISHAL SOIN CENTER FOR INNOVATION

RESOLUTION 26-16

WHEREAS, Mr. Vishal Soin has served Wright State University with distinction as both a member of the Board of Trustees and as a National Trustee; and

WHEREAS, through his leadership, advocacy, and philanthropy, Mr. Soin has consistently demonstrated his commitment to advancing the University's mission, student success, and regional economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration has since become a center for significant collaborative research and development projects between Wright State University and the United States Air Force, further advancing the University's role as a strategic partner in national defense, technology, and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, the Soin Foundation previously provided a significant gift to the University in support of innovation, and the relevant initiatives supported by that gift have taken place in the building otherwise known as the Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration (NEC) building; and

WHEREAS, both parties desire to recognize and honor Mr. Soin's leadership, service, and philanthropy by naming the NEC building in his honor, thereby ensuring his legacy remains a visible part of Wright State's campus and its collaborative partnerships; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Wright State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the Naming Agreement between Wright State University and the Soin Foundation, dated September 8, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED that the President, or her designee, is authorized and directed to finalize and execute the Naming Agreement and any related documents, and to take such further actions as may be necessary to effectuate the Board's directive herein.

Trustee Kejriwal moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Platt seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Trustee Peters moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Kejriwal seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.