

YSU Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting, Dec. 9, 2022, 9 a.m. Trustees Meeting Room, Tod Hall

(Resolutions and Other Supporting Documents in Appendix)

Attendance

Members Present:

Charles T. George, John R. Jakubek, Elsa Khan, Anita A. Hackstedde, Molly S. Seals, Eric Spiegel, Laura Lyden, Julie Centofanti, Sergul A. Erzurum, Michael A. Peterson, Allan L. Ryan. Trustee Joseph J. Kerola attended the meeting virtually from Florida.

I. Call to Order

Chair Jakubek called to order the 386th meeting of the YSU Board of Trustees, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Present at the meeting were trustees:

- George
- Hackstedde
- Jakubek
- Kerola (virtually, from Florida)
- Seals
- Lyden
- Erzurum
- Peterson
- Ryan

National/Global Trustees

- Spiegel

Student Trustees

- Centofanti
- Khan

III. **Proof of Notice of the Meeting**

Board Secretary Seals said that pursuant to Article II, Section 1, of the Board of Trustee Bylaws, written notice of the meeting was timely provided to each of the trustees, student trustees, national/global trustees and to the president, as well as it was publicly noticed on the Board of Trustees' website and to the news media.

IV. **Disposition of the Minutes for the Previous Meeting**

Chair Jakubek said that draft copies of the minutes of the board's Regular Meeting held on Sept. 21, 2022, and Special Meetings on Oct. 10, 2022, and Nov. 10, 2022, were provided to the trustees prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, additions or deletions thereto, the minutes of the meeting are approved.

V. **Report of the President of the University**

President Tressel, noting that this is his last board meeting before his departure on Jan. 31, reflected on first coming to YSU 37 years ago, spending 15 “wonderful years” in the Athletics department, and having the blessing to return in 2014 to further serve the university as president. He said he has a long list of thanks, including board members, administrators, faculty, staff, deans, provosts, department chairs and students. He reflected on the many accomplishments over the past nine years, including accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission; the largest graduating classes in the university's history; increasing the graduation rate from the mid-30s to nearly 50 percent; raising the student retention rate from the mid-60s to nearly 80 percent; increasing enrollment in the Sokolov Honors College from about 300 to about 1,200; improvements in academic efficiencies and IT; increased online courses; creation of the Office of the Dean of Students; growing international programs; the physical transformation of the campus; new housing options; installation of several classrooms of the future; increasing number of student-athletes from about 350 to 500; successful student academic competition teams like moot court, Ethics Bowl, concrete canoe and steel bridge; fundraising totaling about \$150 million in eight years; increasing the value of the YSU Foundation endowment from \$224 million to its highest mark of \$350 million; millions of dollars in additional student scholarship support; lowering student debt; creation of 23 alumni groups across the nation; participation of more than 1,000 alumni and others in Pete's Pride; dozens of community, regional partnerships with business and industry; and an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “I can't thank this team enough because they've worked, they've rolled their sleeves up and they wanted to make a difference for our students,” he said.

VI. **Reports of the Committees of the Board**

Chair Jakubek said that roll call votes will be used to endorse all resolutions associated with each of the board's committees.

A. **Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee**

Chair Jakubek noted that the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee is recommending three resolutions for approval:

1. Resolution to Modify Teaching by Staff Policy, 3356-10-12
2. Resolution to Modify and Retitle Adjunct Faculty Policy, 3356-10-09
3. Resolution related to O.R.C. 3345.062 Remediation Report

The resolutions were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

B. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Jakubek noted that the Finance and Facilities Committee is recommending five resolutions for approval:

1. Resolution to Approve Supplier Diversity Policy, 3356-3-01.1
2. Resolution to Approve the 2022 Affordability and Efficiency Report
3. Resolution to Approve Interfund Transfers
4. Resolution to Approve the FY23 Internal Audit Plan
5. Resolution to Approve a Plan to Renovate the Student Center

The resolutions were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Audit Subcommittee Chair Peterson reported that the subcommittee met on Dec. 8 and approved the FY 2023 Internal Audit Plan. The subcommittee also heard a report from the university's external auditors on a clean opinion for the audit of the university's FY 2022 financial statements. Chair Peterson said the subcommittee also heard a report on the university's latest Senate Bill 6 ratings.

C. University Affairs Committee

Chair Jakubek noted that the University Affairs Committee is recommending five resolutions for approval:

1. Resolution to Modify Leave of Absence Without Pay, Extended Childcare, Excluded Professional/Administrative Staff Policy, 3356-7-06
2. Resolution to Modify Leave Without Pay for Extended Serious Health Condition Policy, 3356-7-08
3. Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Vice President for the Division of Student Affairs
4. Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Vice President for the Division of Workforce Education and Innovation
5. Resolution to Ratify Personnel Appointments - Faculty and Professional/Administrative Staff, including Athletics

The resolutions were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

D. Governance Committee

Chair Jakubek noted that the Governance Committee is recommending two resolutions for approval:

1. Resolution to Amend The Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University (Creation of Standing Committee - Workforce Education and Innovation - Second Reading)

2. Resolution to Modify and Retitle 3356-1-11 - Development and Authorization of Administrative Procedures

The resolutions were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

E. Executive Committee

Chair Jakubek noted that the Executive Committee is recommending one resolution for approval.

1. Resolution to Ratify and Approve Interim President Appointment Letter

The resolution was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. Communications, Memorials and News Updates

Memorials

President Tressel recognized the following passings:

- Desiree N. Bramer, student studying towards a master's degree in Business.
- James R. Smith, graduate and Liberty police officer who influenced the law related to the retirement of a police K9.
- Jo Anne Haas, mother of YSU employee Bill Haas.
- Jillian M. Marian, graduate.
- Warren P. "Bud" Williamson, retired chair of WKBN Broadcasting Corp. and major donor to YSU.
- Samuel F. Barger, retired faculty.
- Bradley Boerio, student due to graduate in December.
- Bruce Palmer, former university photographer.
- Donald Smaltz, graduate and father of YSU employee Cindy Shields.
- Kevin Sobnosky, student in the YSU Sokolov Honors College.
- Gloria Tribble, former faculty, first African American woman, chair and professor of Education at YSU.
- Thomas Odle, father of YSU employee Laura Calcagni.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Chair Jakubek reported no unfinished business.

IX. New Business

A. A Resolution Recognizing Significant and Distinctive Contributions - President James P. and First Lady Ellen J. Tressel

The resolution was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

X. Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Jakubek, noting that the board had an excellent series of committee meetings on Thursday, Dec. 8, emphasized the importance of upcoming YSU Future State conversations associated with updating the plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future. He also reported on the excellent result of the audit of FY 2022. But he noted that FY 2022 was an anomalous year, given the influx of federal funding to the university. “We must turn the corner in strategic ways with YSU as an institution of choice to optimize enrollment to support the long-term sustainability and vitality of YSU that is so essential to regional prosperity,” he said. YSU is proud, he added, of its position as an access institution with an increasingly unique educational experience that is amongst the best values in the state and region.

A. Trustees Comments on the President and First Lady's Accomplishment

Chair Jakubek said he was honored to be on the board when Tressel was named president in 2014, and that he has been doubly honored to serve alongside him over the past nearly nine years. Jakubek said all of the accolades in the Resolution, and all of the accomplishments Tressel mentioned in his comments earlier in the meeting, were because of Tressel’s initiative and leadership. While many boards spend a lot of time directing the chief executive, “we didn’t have to do much directing of President Tressel.” Jakubek recalled that, in his interview for the position, Tressel said work is “more fun than fun,” and that showed in his work as president. Tressel’s passion, Jakubek said, is for YSU, the community, the Mahoning Valley and the state of Ohio. He also recognized Ellen Tressel for her support of the university and the community. “I can’t find words to express my gratitude, other than to say, thank you,” he added. Trustee Peterson said Tressel “is a servant to this community and has been from the first day he set foot on this campus.” Trustee Hackstedde called Tressel a “selfless visionary.”

XI. Dates and Times of Upcoming Regular Meetings of the Board Thursday, March 2, 2023 - 10 am Thursday, June 22, 2023 - 10 am Wednesday, September 22, 2023 - 10 am

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, Chair Jakubek declared the meeting adjourned.

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APPENDIX

Approved Resolutions and other supporting documents

NOTE:

**Resolutions and other supporting documents will be inserted after the
narrative of the minutes is approved**