



## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

January 29, 2021

### Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. by President Wilson. The meeting was live-streamed; all meeting participants attended remotely. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present, with the following Board members in attendance:

**Present:** Governors Barnhill, Busuito, Gaffney, Kumar, Kelly, Land, Stancato, and Thompson; and President Wilson

**Also Present:** Provost Clabo, Vice Presidents Burns, Decatur, Lanier, Lessem, Lindsey, Schweitzer, Staebler, Wright, and Secretary Miller

President Wilson opened the meeting by extending a welcome to both Governors Terri Lynn Land and Shirley Stancato, as this meeting is their first as elected members of the Board. A more formal opportunity for the Wayne State community to meet the newly elected governors is planned once normal operations resume.

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

President Wilson asked for approval of the consent agenda containing the following items:

#### Board Meeting:

A. Official Proceedings of December 4, 2020 (Regular Board)

#### Academic Affairs:

B. Discontinuance of a Doctor of Education Learning Design and Technology (Academic Affairs)

Authorizes the discontinuance of the Doctor of Education Specialist in Learning Design and Technology in the College of Education, effective fall term 2021.

C. Discontinuance of the Education Specialist Certificate in Learning Design and Technology (Academic Affairs)

Authorizes the discontinuance of the Education Specialist Certificate in Learning Design and Technology in the College of Education, effective fall term 2021.

D. Discontinuance of the Graduate Certificate in College and University Teaching (Academic Affairs)

Authorizes the discontinuance of the Graduate Certificate in College and University Teaching in the College of Education, effective fall term 2021.

E. Discontinuance of the Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching (Academic Affairs)

Authorizes the discontinuance of the Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching in the College of Education, effective fall term 2021.

F. Discontinuance of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (AGAC) (Academic Affairs)

Authorizes the discontinuance of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (AGAC), effective winter 2021.

G. Discontinuance of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (AGPC) (Academic Affairs)

Authorizes the discontinuance of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (AGPC), effective winter 2021.

Budget and Finance:

H. McGregor Conference Center Elevator Modernization program (Budget and Finance)

Authorizes the President or his designee to proceed with the design, solicitation of bids and the awarding of contracts for the modernization of elevators at a cost not to exceed \$695,000.

I. State Hall Renovations (Budget and Finance)

Authorizes the President or his designee to award contracts to provide design and pre-construction services for the comprehensive renovation of State Hall at a cost not to exceed \$6,000,000.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Stancato, and supported by Governor Busuito, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented. The motion carried.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Wilson focused his report on campus activities that carried on despite the pandemic. The 2021 tribute to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King was held in virtual format on Monday, January 18. The event honored the life and legacy of Dr. King. Kimberly

Gill, a news anchor for WDIV Local Four, returned as the guest moderator. The program featured special guest Carolyn Randall Williams, an award winning poet, educator, young adult novelist and cookbook author, activist, a public intellectual, a performance artist and scholar. The conversation between Ms. Gill and Ms. Williams was enlightening and encouraging, challenging and uplifting. The program also featured a poetry reading from Inside Out, a local organization dedicated to cultivating the literary and academic skills of Detroit students to transformative creative writing programs. In addition, the event recognized the winners of the 2021 Dr. Author L. Johnson community leadership awards. This year's organizational award was given to a community health awareness group which is dedicated to helping reduce health disparities and HIV transmission. The individual awardee was Beverly Butler, honored for her long time commitment and dedication to volunteerism. The tribute received positive reviews and feedback from viewers.

On Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> the University hosted its December commencement ceremony, in virtual format, recognizing 3500 Wayne State University graduates. The university's colleges, schools, Provost office, Division of Development, and Alumni Affairs and the Office of Marketing Communications collaborated to plan the event. The presentations of degrees for each school and college are available on [Wayne.edu/commencement](http://Wayne.edu/commencement) and the celebrations included a range of social media and live chat activities to engage the entire Wayne State community and celebrate this important milestone for the new graduates. There is hope to return to in person commencement as soon as it is safe to do so. The university is committed to finding programs suitable for recognizing the outstanding student body and their accomplishments in as many avenues as possible.

The President then addressed the COVID-19 vaccine and stressed the importance of information about the safety and advocacy of vaccination against the spread of COVID. He gave a personal perspective on why the vaccine is so important and to address fears about the vaccine in the Black community, he wrote a letter to the editor which was published in the Detroit Free Press. The Op-Ed was widely distributed and conveys the message that the vaccine is safe and that everyone should be vaccinated to protect communities and slow the spread of the disease. There was another Op-Ed that was co-authored by the University Research Corridor President and President Wilson which was published in the Detroit News, with general information about vaccines, which also received national attention. It was also published in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

To provide information and answer questions from the University community, the University hosted a Town Hall on the COVID-19 vaccines. Participants included students, faculty, staff and members of the general public. The Town Hall provided information about the vaccines from both the science and the development standpoint. Over 1700 people

watched live and about 1200 people actively chatted during the event, which included an extremely helpful panel of healthcare experts from the University's faculty and research labs. The University has been part of finding a solution to the pandemic and the event can be found at [wayne.edu/coronavirus](http://wayne.edu/coronavirus). Because of the widespread interest in learning more about the vaccine, this meeting's special topic addresses that issue.

### **SPECIAL TOPIC - COVID VACCINATION: FROM DEVELOPMENT TO SHOT IN THE ARM**

Provost Clabo began the session by introducing two speakers to share an update on the development and testing of the COVID vaccines and to address many of the questions regarding safety and efficacy, and developments of various mutations of the virus.

The two speakers for the discussion were Dr. Mark Zervos, Assistant Dean of Global Affairs, Professor at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and head of infectious diseases for the Henry Ford Health System, and Dr. Paul Kilgore, Associate Professor and Director of Research in the Department of Pharmacy Practice in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He is also a senior investigator in the global health initiative at Henry Ford Health Systems. Together Dr. Zervos and Kilgore have over 60 years of combined research experience, including vaccine trials. They are co-principal investigators on the Moderna trial and the J&J phase three trials in Detroit. These trials have enrolled several hundred diverse participants from the Detroit area. They also serve on the University's Public Health committee and have provided generous service to the University in the interest of keeping the campus as safe as possible.

They have been drivers of the University's partnership with the Detroit Health Department. That partnership has included testing on campus, in the city of Detroit and in the development of a program that has nursing, pharmacy and medical students participate in mass vaccination efforts with the city of Detroit, offering the vaccine to people in nursing homes and homeless shelters, and at the TCF center. Dr. Zervos began the discussion, and spoke about the period before the beginning of the pandemic in March, when Michigan was third among States in number of cases and deaths. The University helped lead the fight against COVID in the city of Detroit and partnered with the Detroit Health Department, Henry Ford Health System, community groups and the Detroit Medical Center. The partnership expanded testing and contact tracing investigation, bringing first responders back to work, working in homeless shelters and nursing homes. Images were then presented of teams engaging in the community.

Dr. Kilgore noted that the development of vaccines has improved over the past 15 to 20 years. Improvements in technology in vaccine development has gotten better, and the MRA vaccines are a great example of that.

MRA vaccines have been in development since the 1990's. This long track record leading up to the pandemic laid a strong foundation for accelerating those vaccines in development. Trials in the vaccine trial clinic use a lot of electronic data bases. This helps in

transmitting information and gathering data from participants and accelerates data claiming and data analysis for the trials. Electronic data submission to the FDA is now the typical mode for submitting information.

Protocols were written from the very beginning to lay out plans for phase one, phase two and phase three. Through accelerating the SARS COVID vaccine development, BARDA and the Federal Government supported vaccine manufacturing scale-up very early on last year and that step was present even as the trials were going on.

Understanding how these vaccines protect is important, and their goal is to form antibodies against the SARS Coronavirus. The vaccines available now are making neutralizing antibodies to the spike protein. Early phase trials in humans also shows a T-cell immunity to these vaccines. So, even if an individual's level of antibody wanes overtime, it is very likely that most people will be able to retain T-cell immunity, which will be combined with the antibody protection to maintain long term protection,

The professors provided a brief review of the science of how the vaccines work, and discussed the differences between the three vaccines currently under discussion, and the effective rates for those vaccines.

In Detroit the phase three trial is in progress. The clinic is currently located at One Ford Place. Worldwide enrollment for this trial has been very large at 45,000 and is now in the follow up phases. The reported data is being worked on here in Detroit with Dr. Zervos and his team. A two-dose trial will start next week. The two vaccines in the United States that are authorized are from Pfizer and Moderna are in large scale trials right now.

The UK has approved the AstraZeneca vaccine, a two dose vaccine with about 90% efficacy that is also being distributed in other countries. The vaccine from Novavax, a small biotech company in Maryland, is showing 89% efficacy, with additional trials going on in the United States. Wayne State is an enrollment site at iBio for the Novavax vaccine phase three trial.

Drs. Zervos and Kilgore discussed the results of the trials, which were presented at the VRBPAC committee for the FDA. These data look very similar with the first and second injection. The number one local sign and symptom reported after vaccination was local pain or discomfort at the injection site. In the same data trial that was presented at the FDA, similar signs were reflected after the second injection and include fatigue, headache, muscle aches, joint aches, chills, some nausea and vomiting. The two most commonly seen are fatigue and headache.

The panelists touched briefly on the new strains that have been recently identified and advised that the new strains are not more transmissible, and that current data suggest that these vaccines work against the mutated strains.

Vaccine deployment in the United States, and its safety and effectiveness in the general population is being monitored very closely by many systems. The goal is to reduce transmission from one person to another and across populations, raise herd immunity, and

decrease mortality, reduce disruption to the society, restart the economy and also help preserve healthcare capacity. Another key concern is ensuring equity in the vaccine allocation and distribution within Detroit and Southeast Michigan and across Michigan. There is ongoing work with partners across Southeast Michigan including the Detroit Health Department and other county health departments and these partnerships are critical to accelerating implementation of the vaccine.

New communication materials are being developed regarding these vaccines including addressing the background and science of the vaccines, and to address vaccine hesitancy. The vaccine deployment is phased with the healthcare workers, vulnerable populations, nursing home residents, and first responders in the first wave. The current stage are individuals over 65. The next phase is those under 65 with chronic health conditions. Challenges include the mechanism for rapid manufacture and deployment, particularly in vulnerable populations, communication to patients, and educating and understanding adverse events. Wayne State University is participating in vaccine deployment that includes faculty and students. This is a very unique collaboration between the universities, the hospitals, the community, health departments and the Mayor's office, which is a model for others.

Governor Thompson asked why children, especially under 18, were not being given the vaccine. Dr. Kilgore noted that the vaccines are given to adults as a first step and then by age descending trials. In the case of Moderna and Pfizer, they have already undertaken the pediatric age group trials with Pfizer's a little bit further ahead but will all generate data in children. The adult data from the early trials accelerates the presentation of the pediatric age group data for those two vaccines to the FDA. Ultimately the VRBAC committee will make a decision as to whether or not these vaccines are safe and effective in children. If they approve, they will make the appropriate changes to allow the vaccine to be deployed for children. Dr. Zervos noted that children can get COVID, but don't get as sick and they don't appear to get the infection as often. A vaccination for children is not going to happen any time soon but the hope is to get infections down more in the community as a result of control measures and vaccinations, and get students back to school sometime in the Summer or Fall at the latest.

Governor Barnhill thanked Dr. Zervos and Kilgore for their work and asked about wasted vaccines as people miss their appointments and whether there is a way to build a database of people eligible at this time to provide an opportunity to get those vaccines. Dr. Kilgore noted that in Detroit, at the Wayne State Clinic or TCF, there is an interactive way to reach people both through text messaging and email and potentially setting up a way to connect with people who could be reached, almost like a waiting list. Dr. Zervos noted that with supplies still being limited, eliminating wasted doses is critical and the vaccine distribution centers are getting better.

President Wilson thanked Dr. Kilgore and Zervos for the presentation, and all the work done on behalf of the community.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Two of the Board standing committees met earlier this morning and President Wilson called on the chairs of both committees for a brief report.

### *Budget And Finance Committee*

Governor Barnhill reported that Budget and Finance committee met this morning and considered two action items and three informational reports from the administration. The action items were included on the consent agenda approved earlier in the meeting. There were no requests from the contingency reserve.

### *Academic Affairs Committee*

Governor Gaffney reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met earlier this morning and heard from Sheryl Kubiak, Dean of the School of Social Work where she discussed some of the college's impressive programs and priorities. The committee also acted on several requests for the discontinuance of programs from the College of Education and the College of Nursing, and those were included on the consent agenda approved earlier in the meeting.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

President Wilson called on Cabinet members to provide highlights and or updates to their reports.

### **Academic Affairs Informational Report**

Provost Clabo advised that enrollment for the winter semester is essentially flat, a much better outcome than had been anticipated earlier in the fall when there was a concern about the potential loss of students, students stepping out and the long-term impact on them. She reported that the university will be bringing a small number of classes back onto campus next week. Those are laboratory classes, clinical classes in the health professions and some performing arts classes that cannot be easily delivered online. Lastly, in recognition of the impact of online education on faculty, staff and students, the university has named February 18<sup>th</sup> as its second Wayne State Mental Health Day. There will be a variety of resources and programming for students, faculty and staff.

### **Report On Waivers Approved To Board Statute 2.41.01.140**

VP Lanier praised the excellent presentations from Dean Kubiak and from Drs. Kilgore and Zervos regarding the University's involvement with the vaccine development. Expanding on Dean Kubiak's presentation, he highlighted additional activities and community work done during this period. In December, Hayley Thompson, Director of Population Health Disparities in the University's Cancer Center, together with the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors, had the third of a series of community engaged

research symposia focused on advancing health equity. December's symposium involved partners from the community and focused on the impact of coronavirus now and in the future. It was held virtually with 350-400 participants over a two-day period. This week, there was a two-day virtual symposium on one health, one world, and healthy urban waters that brought together the interface of engineering and environmental sciences and cancer. He noted the importance of potential economic stimulus packages to help universities deal with the impact of the pandemic disruption on research activities and mentioned the \$26 million RISE Act for research investment. The Economy Act or RISE and will be directed towards helping to address program disruption and loss of materials over this past 11 month period, and is working its way through Congress.

### **Government And Community Affairs Report**

VP Lindsey thanked VP Lanier for a letter of support he provided for the RISE Act. He also expressed his appreciation for the work that the facilities team did in presenting the State Hall project in Lansing. Although capital outlay is not available due to the economic conditions, he believes the project scored third on the list, a good showing. He thanked the viewers, President Wilson and Board Chair Kelly for their participation in the 2021 tribute to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. He also thanked his team, Special Events, VP Burns and her team for their work on this event.

### **Economic Development Report**

VP Staebler noted that the presentation on the vaccine roll-out was good news to take back to businesses as it means there is a light at the end of the tunnel. They have concentrated efforts on helping businesses get through the pandemic.

### **Development And Alumni Affairs**

Vice President Burns advised that fundraising for the end of first quarter of the fiscal year is actually ahead of where it was last year at the end of the first quarter, and has not yet been impacted by COVID, and she feels good about that progress.

### **Establishment Of Funds**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Busuito, and supported by Governor Thompson, the Board of Governors established endowment funds that total \$1,291,892.35, for the purposes presented. The motion carried.

1. The John Banicki Memorial Engineering Technology Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the College of Engineering. \$25,000
2. The Dr. Ernest and Laurene Buechler Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the College of Education. \$25,000



3. The Wynn Butler Memorial Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the College of Education. \$25,000
4. The Yvonne D. Gaither National Society of Black Engineers Student Organization Endowed Support Fund to provide awards to students who are active, dues-paying members of the National Society of Black Engineers Wayne State University (NSBE-WSU) chapter, and the secondary purpose to provide operating support to NSBE- WSU chapter. \$45,000
5. The Virginia Halley Memorial Student Award (Fund Functioning as an Endowment) to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the Institute of Gerontology. \$485,129.95
6. The Sandra Hughes O'Brien Endowed Scholarship (Fund Functioning as an Endowment) to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the School of Medicine. \$25,000
7. The Mrs. Mildred Shavers Kingston Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the College of Education. \$25,000
8. The Edward J. Littlejohn Family Chair in the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights to support the scholarly activities of the Edward J. Littlejohn Family Chair in the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil or Civil Rights. \$50,000
9. The Joseph L. Petrella Endowed Scholarship in accounting to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education the Mike Ilitch School of Business. \$25,000
10. The Aryabala and Ananda S. Prasad, M.D. Collaboration Research Room Fund to provide support for the Aryabala and Ananda S. Prasad, M.D. Collaboration Research Fund in the Vera P. Shiffman Medical Library. \$250,000
11. The Dr. Bradley Rosenberg Passion Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the School of Medicine. \$25,000
12. The Dr. Larry Roy Endowed Scholarship Fund to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College. \$25,000
13. The Wayne Law BOV Endowed Student Support Fund to provide assistance in the Law School. \$25,000
14. The Wayne Med-Direct Program Endowed Support Fund (Fund Functioning as an Endowment) to provide support for the Wayne Med-Direct Program in the Office of the Provost. \$171,762.40

15.The Carol A. Wylie Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. \$40,000

16.The James and Vi Yee Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College. \$25,000

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS, 2021**

The following four actions were taken in the election of officers for 2021.

### **Chair of The Board**

Governor Thompson nominated Marilyn Kelly as Chair of the Board. There were no further nominations.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Thompson and supported by Governor Stancato, the nominations for Chair of the Board were closed, and Governor Marilyn Kelly was unanimously elected Chair of the Board for 2021.

### **Vice Chair of The Board**

Governor Busuito nominated Mark Gaffney as Vice Chair of the Board. There were no further nominations.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Stancato, the nominations for Vice Chair of the Board were closed, and Governor Mark Gaffney was unanimously elected Vice Chair of the Board for 2021.

### **Treasurer of The Board**

Governor Gaffney nominated Bill Decatur as Interim Treasurer of the Board. There were no further nominations.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Kelly, the nominations for Treasurer of the Board were closed, and Bill Decatur was unanimously elected Interim Treasurer of the Board for 2021.

### **Secretary of The Board**

Governor Kelly nominated Julie H. Miller for Secretary of the Board. There were no further nominations.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Thompson, the nominations for Secretary of the Board were closed, and Julie H. Miller was unanimously elected Secretary of the Board for 2021.

President Wilson then yielded the floor to Governor Kelly for comment.

Governor Kelly:

I'd just like to thank my colleagues on the Board for electing me chair and I'm eager to serve again. Certainly this past year's been a really challenging one. Most of us are happy to put 2020 in the rear-view mirror and welcome in a new year. So, the start of 2021 is a perfect time I think to reflect on the past and frame intentions for the future and to that end I consulted in recent weeks with every member of the Board of Governors and each of us has pledged to renew our efforts to work together in the best interest of this great university. And we've agreed on our intentions. I think the unanimous votes today for the leadership of the Board are an indicator of those intentions and another good indicator is the cooperation that went into the appointment of the Board Committee's chairs and committee members. The appointments include all Board members and reflect their personal leadership skills and interest. I believe we're coming together and we'll be working productively this year. Like most educational institutions Wayne State continues to face significant challenges. And most notably they include pandemic related decisions, like how to ensure the safety of our students, faculty and staff and how and when to transition to back to normal and on campus teaching. I'm confident with members of the Board working together in hand with the administration, wise decisions will be made and implemented and Wayne State will remain Warrior Strong. Thank you, Mr. President.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Secretary Miller received two requests to speak from members of the University community. President Wilson informed the speakers, who joined the meeting by telephone, that they would each have three minutes to present their remarks, and would receive a one-minute warning.

Megan Dombrowski:

Hello and thank you for allowing me to speak today. I'm Megan Dombrowski. I am President of the Wayne State University Chapter of Students Demand Action, a national organization of students fighting to end gun violence in America. At Wayne State University students sent me an action, action wishes that the Board of Governors Pass the recurring declaration recognizing the first week of February as National Gun Violence Survivors week. Every day in American, an average of 100

people die from gun violence and more than 200 are wounded by early February more in people in America are killed with guns than are killed with other means in an entire year as our gun death rate is 11 times that of our peer country. Yet as a society we still struggle to grasp this whole (INAUDIBLE) or what we see on the news. Beyond these numbers are parents who never got to kiss their kids goodbye, gunshot victims living with physical and emotional wounds, entire families heartbroken by gun suicide and students who fear for their lives within a classroom. There are (INAUDIBLE) survivors. 58% of adults in America including 68% of Black and Latinx Americans are survivors of gun violence, are either experiencing gun violence themselves or caring for someone who has experience gun violence in their lifetime. To help more Americans acknowledge their own personal connections to gun violence and realize that they're not alone in their experience, we recognize the first week of February as National Gun Violence Survivors week which also represent the approximate time it takes for gun deaths in the US to surpass the number of gun deaths by our peer countries by an entire calendar year. Wayne State University's students demand action speaks the current declaration in honor of Jenna Bowker, a student leader and survivor of gun violence. Our faculty advisor Barba L. Jones, a survivor whose son was tragically shot and killed in 2017 and all survivors of gun violence who are a part of our warrior community. We feel that it is crucial for the university to formally recognize National Gun Violence Survivors week, especially in the heart of Detroit, a city that is not immune from gun violence. The university formally recognizing National Gun Violence (INAUDIBLE) on a recurring basis. We hope to honor survivors of gun violence and amplify their voices and raise awareness about this public health crisis. If you look at the documents I shared with you, I outlined the declaration that we are seeking. Thank you for your time today.

President Wilson noted that the Board typically would not be asked to take action at public comment, but would take the request under advisement. He then asked if the measure was to be recurring. Ms. Dombrowski responded yes.

President Wilson then called on Maureen Moore.

Maureen Moore:

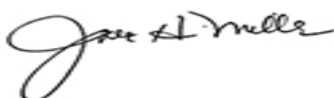
Okay, thank you so much for letting me approach you today. I am a long time staff member at Wayne State since 2003 in several different positions, with the Epidemiology department, but what I wanted to talk about with you today is the Wellness Warriors Program. I had been concerned earlier this year and late last year that we hadn't seen anything on the Academia site for people to be able to sign up to have the consultation with Debbie Cavender who is an absolute wonderful jewel to your program, since then I've spoken to Debbie and I've spoken with Brett who is the head of the program. He was so kind to give me a call earlier this week and he did explain to me that Wellness Warriors is coming back in a different format now that we are all working offsite and virtually. But he did assure me that Wellness Warriors is coming back. It may be pared down a bit, but the reason I wanted to talk with

you today is just to explain and put the thought to you that this program is invaluable to those of us on staff and those of us in the Wayne State community that benefit from all the different components of the Wellness Warriors Program. And I also wanted to let you know that Debbie Cavender, who is the nutritionist, who is really the human component of this entire program, she offers the hope, she gives us reason to believe that we can get through whatever crisis we're going through and with the pandemic last year, I know that myself personally I lost three good friends and I lost two family members to COVID and that wasn't throughout the year last year, all of that happened in the timespan of about five weeks. And this is a very personal observation that I'm sharing with you, but in those five weeks, life was really tough and I'm going to tell you that Debbie Cavender was a lifeline and Debbie is a small component of your Wellness Warriors Program, but I just want all of you to know because you are the decision makers at Wayne State. Please, please never...never take that program away. I mean I can tell you personally it's a lifeline. Many of my colleagues at work are also very connected to Wellness Warrior and when we didn't see anything on Academia, there was growing concern among us, among the campus community that we had lost that because of the pandemic or because of funding...I just wanted you to know that this is invaluable. We need this, we need her, we need Wellness Warriors, but thank you all so much for listening. I appreciate that. Thank you so much.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors