



## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

September 30, 2022

### Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:21 p.m. by President Wilson. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present, with the following Board members in attendance:

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

**Also Present:** Provost Kornbluh, Vice Presidents Burns, Ezzeddine, Interim Vice President Johnston. Massaron. Lanier, Lindsey, Schweitzer, Staebler, Wright, and Secretary Miller

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

#### Board Meeting:

- A. Approval of the Official Proceedings of June 24, 2022 (Regular Board)

#### Budget and Finance

- B. Contingency Reserve – Authorizes the transfer of \$900,000 to fund 4 searches: the Presidential search, the Karmanos Cancer Institute Director search, the University Library System Dean search, and the College of Education Dean search.

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

## **PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors approved the personnel recommendations for tenure, promotion to full professor and administrative appointments other than those separately submitted. The motion carried.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT**

President Wilson advised that three new Deans have joined the University, and he had invited them to today's meeting to be formally introduced to the Board and to the campus community. First, he introduced Ali Abolmaali, the new dean of the College of Engineering. Prior to coming to Wayne, he served as chair of the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Arlington for the last 10 years. He also served as an endowed professor in structural engineering and applied mechanics. As a founding director of the UTA Center for Structural Engineering Research and Professor in charge of the structural simulation laboratory at UTA. While at UTA, his department research expenditures grew each year, increasing to \$10.3 million in fiscal year 2021, the highest among all academic units at UTA.

Next, President Wilson welcomed Hasan Elahi, the new Dean of the College of Fine Performing and Communication Arts. Hasan came to the university from George Mason University, where he was a professor and director of the George Mason School of Art. While at George Mason, he oversaw a more than 40% increase in enrollment, a significant increase in revenue, and the hiring of additional faculty and staff at a time when many other programs had been struggling.

Finally, the President welcomed Virginia Franke Kleist, the new Dean of the Mike Ilitch School Business. Virginia came to Wayne State from West Virginia University, where she served as the Associate Dean of graduate programs, research and academic affairs and professor of management information systems at the John Chambers College of Business and Economics. In her role at West Virginia University, she spearheaded the development and delivery of 6 new entrepreneurial online graduate degrees and grew graduate enrollment by 77% between fall 2018 and fall 2021.

Provost Kornbluh noted that he was tremendously pleased with these talented leaders, and advised that the University is very fortunate to have recruited them.

## **RATIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC VOTE**

Next, the Board approved a personnel action earlier this summer for the appointment of our new Vice President and General Counsel, and President Wilson brought that action forward for ratification.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Land and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors ratified the action adopted by the Board of Governors by electronic vote, completed on July 28, 2022, with a vote of 7-1. The action approved the appointment of Michael R. Poterala as Vice President and General Counsel. The effective date of his appointment is no later than November 1, 2022. The motion carried.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Wilson advised that he was a speaker for the Detroit Equity Symposium on September 27, 2022 at the Wayne State University Student Center Ballroom. The symposium was founded by Bishop Edgar Van and Bertram Marks and sponsored by the Kresge Foundation. He shared the university's and his personal commitment to DEI initiatives and their importance in the fabric of the University's mission. About 150 individuals attended, including executives from the city of Detroit, Huntington Bank, DTE Energy, the Skillman Foundation and the Detroit Regional Chamber, among others. He also was pleased to introduce Lieutenant Governor Garland Gilcrest, who addressed the Assembly.

Wayne State University hosted the Black College Expo on September 24, 2022 in the University's Student Center building. In addition to Wayne State, more than 25 historically black colleges and universities were represented at the College fair, along with four other Michigan institutions. The fair attracted more than 300 black students, and 150 of those students, coming from a wide range of high schools in Southeast Michigan, met with Wayne State University admissions representatives. Wayne State will be hosting a 2nd event, the Detroit College Fair, in mid-October. This event is exclusively for students in the Detroit Public Schools Community District. For more than 30 years, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions has partnered with DPSCD to host the fair on the Wayne State University campus. Approximately 2000 Detroit High School juniors and seniors are expected to attend and 45 other colleges and universities have registered to participate in this two day event.

Next, President Wilson reported on two new individuals who have joined the faculty. Professor Rhonda Williams will be starting next fall as the new Coleman A. Young, Endowed Chair in Urban Affairs. Professor Williams, a professor of history, has focused her research on low income, black women and marginalized people's experiences, everyday lives, politics, and social struggles. She is an award-winning author of books, articles and essays. She comes to Wayne State from Vanderbilt University, where she served as professor of history in the John L. Seigenthaler Chair in American history.

Rema Vasser joined the faculty in the College of Education. Professor Vasser is a national leader in African American K12 education. The author of many scholarly journal articles, her research interests include parent/school partnerships, race, gender and class implications, implications of policy and practice on student achievement and outcomes and equity, justice, access and inclusion from minoritized communities. In addition to work in higher education, she has extensive experience in K12 public education, having served more than 20 years as a teacher, counselor and principal.

Tech Town received significant back-to-back endorsements for their work in the form of high-level grant awards. They have been identified by Crain Communications in their annual cool places to work 2022 edition. They also received the federal Build Back Better Regional Challenge Co-recipient award and two seven-figure 3-year gifts from the Gilbert Family Foundation and the Ralph C. Wilson Junior Foundations, totaling just over \$18 million. The awards will enable TechTown to carry out the vision of their three-year strategic plan. TechTown was also preparing for their annual fundraiser, Toast of the Town, which will be held on October 6, 2022. The event, an outdoor block party style celebration, will be back in person after a two-year hiatus.

Athletics highlights: Almost 4400 people attend the home football game on September 24<sup>th</sup>, the largest crowd in nearly three years. Former Wayne State University pitcher Hunter Brown joined the Houston Astros earlier this month and was the winning pitcher in a game at Comerica Park versus the Tigers game on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Wayne State was the only NCAA Division 2 school with two pitchers currently in the major leagues.

The President announced that the University will be closed on Election Day and on the upcoming Juneteenth holiday, which is already a federal holiday. Those employees who have critical functions will still need to be on campus.

With sadness, President Wilson advised that former Board member Eugene Driker passed away on September 29, 2022. He served 12 years on the University Board of Governors and also served in many other roles for the University, including as Chair of the Wayne State University Foundation, and chair of the Law School Board of Visitors. He was the first fund raising Chair for Wayne Law and a member of the Carl Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy at Wayne Law. He was also a longtime financial supporter, giving consecutively for more than five decades and establishing numerous endowed funds that encouraged and inspired Wayne State students. President Wilson added that he was just a great friend to the University, and then asked for a moment of silence

President Wilson closed his report with a special thank you to outgoing Vice President for Research, Steve Lanier. This was Steve's last official board meeting and his last official day in the role. The president extended his deepest thanks to Steve for his dedicated and loyal service to the university, for the amazing contributions he made, and the research accomplishments achieved under his leadership. Steve increased research productivity and recognized that the University had a lot of great investigators doing research, but very few large programmatic grants and very few large team science types of grants and

he went to work to address those needs. The creation of the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors is one example of those outcomes. It is one of the select few environmental Health Sciences core centers in the nation funded by NIH's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Steve also improved research operations, resulting in the Institutional Review Board receiving a 5-year recommendation from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, along with full reaccreditation from the International Council on Accreditation for providing and maintaining an excellent program of laboratory animal care and use. He also pursued his own scientific work in the pharmacology department, and he will go back after a sabbatical to the Department of Pharmacology and resume his work in pharmacology as a faculty member.

Next, the president called on the Chair for the Chair's report.

### **BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT**

On behalf of the board, Governor Gaffney thanked Vice President Steve Lanier for helping to make the University achieve, keep and grow its premier research status.

Governor Gaffney included his update on the Executive Committee at this time, and advised that the Executive Committee heard a preliminary report on a block tuition proposal, which will try to help students graduate sooner. The committee also heard the legal affairs update and an update on Dean searches.

The committee then discussed the question of debt forgiveness for the FMRE, the Fund for Medical Research and Education, a financial operation of the School of Medicine. Governor Gaffney then read the following statement:

Wayne State University releases the Fund for Medical Research and Education from its obligation to pay the debt owed to Wayne State for unpaid salary reimbursement costs totaling \$39,425,914.00 for activity prior to October 1, 2016, which had already been written off as bad debt in the university's financial statement. This action will take place only after an in-depth internal audit occurs. Prior to 2016, the FMRE provided salary support to the School of Medicine. FMRE received funds via the Deans tax from the Wayne State University clinical practice plans. FMRE was invoiced monthly by Wayne State for the salaries they were supporting. The debt grew over the years as those invoices stacked up. The Board will continue to exercise its responsibility to closely monitor the medical school and its operations now and in the future, and have included a requirement for an independent audit of FMRE as an example of this.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Busuito, and supported by Governor Kumar, the Board of Governors approved the resolution releasing the Fund for Medical Research and Education from its obligation to pay the debt owed to Wayne State for unpaid salary reimbursement costs totaling \$39,425,914.00 for

activity prior to October 1, 2016. This action will take place only after an in-depth audit occurs. The motion carried.

Next, Governor Gaffney announced that President Wilson would be stepping down from his position at the end of his contract next year and that the search process had begun. It is the obligation of the board to conduct the search and he anticipates it will take about a full year. Work has begun on the formation of the search committee, which will be comprised of faculty, students, administrators, and friends from the community. The committee will provide the board with advice and recommendations. The board also began the process of selecting a search firm with academic experience that helps universities search the nation and beyond for the best candidates. There will be a website for comments from the public for advice on what the University should be looking for in the next President. The website will also be updated as the process moves forward. Four listening events will be held in October and November, co-hosted by the Board of Governors, the student senate, the academic senate, the Foundation, with alumni and the community, and the office of Diversity and Inclusion with the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement, and other Wayne State affinity groups. The proceedings will be filmed, and the recordings will be on that website. The website is anticipated to go up within the coming week. The lead staff position will be held by Rebecca Journigan, Director of Operations from the Division of Academic Student Affairs and Global Engagement. A calendar will be developed to hold the search process accountable for completing each task. Governor Gaffney advised that they hope to complete the search by July 2023.

Next Governor Gaffney reported on Executive committee discussions on presidential pay and remuneration. He commented on university progress in the six-year graduation rates, which are now above 60%. The rates included improvements in African American, low income, Hispanic, Latinx and first-generation students. The university retained its status as the best university in Michigan for social mobility for its students and retains that recognition nationwide. With President Wilson's leadership over the last year and those accomplishments, among many others, and his commitment to students and their success, the Executive Committee brought forward the following recommendations.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Barnhill, and supported by Governor Stancato, the Board of Governors approved the following two recommendations from the Executive Committee:

- President Wilson received a 3% increase on his contract on August 1. The Executive Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve an additional 3% increase in President Wilson's annual base compensation, effective August 1, 2022, for a total of a 6% increase to the base compensation.
- The Executive Committee further recommended a one-time bonus payment of \$35,000 in recognition of his leadership and accomplishments through the last year.

The motion carried.

Governor Gaffney concluded his report. President thanked the board for their action.

**SPECIAL TOPIC: CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND RESEARCH**

President Wilson called on Vice President Lanier to introduce the next presentation. VP Lanier thanked President Wilson and the Board for their comments. He advised that in his 8 years with the University, he has been enriched by every person he interacted with.

He then introduced two faculty for this afternoon's presentation. Dr. Melissa Runge-Morris, professor in the Department of Oncology and Director of the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. She is a principal investigator on a grant for the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors. The other principal investigator is Dr. Carol Miller, a professor in Civil Engineering, who has coalesced the effort around urban water systems. He noted that to be successful in this area required a sustained effort, and Melissa and her team and Carol her team had committed over last several years to bring this to fruition.

Dr. Runge-Morris advised that the Center for Urban Leadership in Environmental Awareness and Research, CLEAR, was the first Superfund Research Center at Wayne State University and represents a large interdisciplinary research effort that cuts across departmental divides, and brings in \$11.3 million. It represents the future of environmental health and environmental ecosystem science. A civil and environmental engineer and a physician scientist coming together on a project creates integration between the human body and what it is exposed to in the urban built environment and the physical environment that we live in and work in every single day. The Superfund research program is a family of research programs located all over the country. Wayne State University is at the top one of the newest Superfund research programs, in the same camp as Duke University, Harvard, UNC, and MIT. Wayne State University needed a Superfund research program to support Detroit and its community, which are fraught with many health challenges from environmental exposures in the aging built environment. Detroit has, among 100 American large cities, the highest preterm birth rate as reported yearly by the March of Dimes. The research chose to look at the cause for that, with the first step to begin doing research on the environmental contaminants and their role in this health outcome. The program focused on urban, legacy, and emerging contaminants and daily exposure called volatile organic chemicals, VOCs. They are common contaminants in the Detroit urban area from aging sites such as where a gas station used to be located, dry cleaners, or any kind of urban industrial activity. The CLEAR team postulates that VOCs are an important determinant of adverse birth outcomes, including preterm birth. The team believes that it is uniquely qualified to lead this effort.

Dr. Miller advised that one of the key characteristics of VOC's was that this class of contaminants often initially appeared as a liquid that would leak out of a storage tank for a particular chemical. It could be hydrocarbons at a gas station. It could be dry cleaner

fluids that are left unstored underground beneath the dry-cleaning facility. Depending upon its volatility, it could be released into the gas phase and then begin to migrate as a gas. In many cases it was more of a hazard in the gas phase because it could go many different directions and not simply move with the groundwater, and that is what was being looked at.

These sorts of compounds that are underground that have been stored for many years, were now starting to leak out of their containers to the subsurface in a vertical direction as they volatilize and enter cracks in foundations for residential homes or buildings and become the mechanism for exposure of humans. This is the focus for Dr. Runge Morris and her team.

Dr. Miller noted that her team focused on looking at the transport of these contaminants in the subsurface. She presented a map of metropolitan Detroit that highlighted the high preterm birth rate in Detroit, and the prevalence of VOCs in the environment with areas known as brownfield locations pointed out on the map. The challenge is to come up with a method to prioritize what will be cleaned with a limited amount of funds. The method to prioritize the thousands of sites that will need attention is one of the things the group will be looking at based on the demographics, the pregnancy rates in certain areas and the types of environment that will help lead to prioritized remediation. VOCs and knowledge of preterm birth created CLEAR and is why the National Institutes of Health believed that this is a very important project.

Dr. Runge Morris advised that CLEAR is a very large integrated program consisting of several support cores including an administrative core that includes a research translation component. Other components include data management and analysis, community engagement, chemical analysis, and research experience and training coordination.

There are many departments, institutes, and colleges at Wayne State and beyond that are involved in the CLEAR program, led by the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors. The College of Engineering, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Law school, the Applebaum College of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, College of Education, Center for Urban Studies, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, and partners Henry Ford Health, Michigan State University, the University of Florida and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.

The measurable outcome of the program allows engagement in unprecedented areas such as interdisciplinary training to address urban environmental concerns in a new way. There is new work being done on sensor development and expanded monitoring in subsurface areas around Detroit and in homes to identify the mechanisms and pathways that are responsible for VOC toxicity, such as adverse birth outcomes.

In conclusion, CLEAR's goal is to find a solution that identifies and prioritizes remediation of subsurface areas that are VOC contaminated and address the major health disparity in Detroit that is high preterm birth rate and CLEAR will aim to develop data-driven



biological and smart engineering solutions to reduce those volatile organic chemical exposures.

Governor Busuito asked if there has been development of sensing mechanisms and mitigation mechanisms such as has been done with radon gases coming out of basements. Dr. Runge Morris advised that radon moves and enters the home in very similar ways as VOC compounds. There are many different VOC compounds, so it is important to know which ones are coming into the home and causing the primary contamination. Expansion of the technology is getting the sensitivity to be able to distinguish between different types of VOCs and then the concentrations of the VOC. Some very simple technologies are available for VOCs but they don't identify which VOC. Governor Busuito asked if there were patents for any of the technologies through Wayne State University. Dr. Runge Morris advised that several will be ready to patent, including an analytical tool. Governor Busuito asked if the team could collaborate with an oncology surgeon in Detroit at Ascension, who is a graduate from Wayne State School of Medicine. This individual is seeing cancers, mesothelioma, colon cancer and gastric cancers routinely in teenagers, most of them arising in the Detroit area. Dr. Runge-Morris agreed.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The President reported that three of the Board's standing committees met during the morning session and called on each of the Committee chairs for a report.

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

Governor Stancato reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met this morning and received several presentations and updates. The first presentation was from John Corvino, the Dean of the Honors College. The presentation included a description of the student body and of the types of courses and experiences they provide for students. He discussed a program where honors college students do coaching in Detroit Public Schools for DPSCD students in technology. He discussed the college's foundational courses and fund raising efforts which support scholarship and internship opportunities for students. Vice President Ezzeddine provided an update on fall enrollment demographics. Dean of Students, David Strauss provided highlights of student activities held to kick off the start of the fall semester and reported that there were 483 student organizations, the largest number of student organizations recognized in the University's history. He reported that Wayne State had been recognized as one of the best colleges for student voting and the best college for African American student voting, across the country. The final report was the annual status report on accreditation that summarizes the accreditation cycles for the university schools, colleges, divisions, departments, and programs.

### **Budget and Finance Committee**

Governor Barnhill reported that the committee met this morning and heard several informational reports and one action item. The committee heard from Vice President David Massaron, who spent time with the board discussing an update on the fiscal year 2022 budget. The update included a discussion of national and statewide enrollment trends as compared to those here at Wayne State, the impact of potential enrollment declines and strategies to cover expected net operating budget shortfalls for fiscal year 2022 and in 2023. The committee reviewed 2 informational reports summarizing major capital projects and purchasing exceptions made since the board last met. The purchasing exceptions report covered a 5-month period May through August 2022 and was slightly larger than the average reports reviewed by the committee. Finally, the committee approved a transfer from the contingency reserve to fund 4 searches for the University. This action item was approved on the consent agenda earlier in the meeting.

### **Personnel Committee**

Governor Gaffney reported that the committee met this morning and focused on the 2020 and 2021 Equal Opportunity status reports presented by Associate Vice President Amy Lammers. The submission of the 2020 report was delayed by the pandemic and the reason both reports were given today. The reports provide summary and comparison data in three main categories, full-time employment, complaints filed with the Office of Equal Opportunity, and the University Supplier Diversity Program. Ms. Lammers shared data for this two year period. These reports provided the board with critical information for review. Miss Lammers will be back next April with the 2022 report, and committee will then be on an annual schedule for those reports. Carolyn Hafner, Chief Human Resources Officer, provided an update on the flexible work arrangements policy implemented August 1, when many employees returned to work to their regular schedule post pandemic. Ms. Hafner also provided a summary of the 275 vacant positions at Wayne State University as of today, and a status report on the benchmarks that have been identified for the annual HR report to be presented in January. He thanked Carolyn and her team for the work they are doing.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION**

President Wilson called on members of his administration for divisional reports and asked whether or not they had anything to add or highlight to the written materials provided to the Board.

#### **Academic Affairs Report: Update from the Provost**

Provost Kornbluh called on Dean Strauss to introduce three students to speak with about their experiences as the University returned in full force this fall semester. Dean Strauss made the following introductions.

Emily Bochi. Emily is a junior majoring in business administration with a focus in marketing. Emily is from Warren, MI and is the president of the Campus Activities Team, which puts on events at the University. The second speaker is senior Maryam Abbawi, majoring in neuroscience honors. She is from Sterling Heights, MI and she is the president of the Nu Rho Psi, the Neuroscience National Honor Society. The third speaker is Bethany Owens. Bethany is a senior, majoring in journalism. She is from Waterford, MI. She is a resident advisor in Chatsworth, Residence Hall, and also the president of the Zeta Phi Beta sorority incorporated Theta Delta chapter. The statements from the three students follow below:

**Emily Bochi:** Thank you so much for the introduction, Dean Strauss. Hi everyone, as he mentioned my name is Emily Bocci and I am a junior double majoring in Marketing and Information Systems Management. I am also the President of the campus activities team, an organization that I love and have been involved with since my first semester at Wayne State. I came to Wayne State University in the fall of 2020 when things were still completely virtual and have seen the difference during COVID compared to after. There are many differences that I have seen before and after the pandemic, but the life that is present on campus right now is what really excites me. Last year when we began migrating towards in person activities after being completely virtual, it was a process to check students into events. At every event we would have to ask students to download the Cork app, which is an app that we scan to check students in. But this year we have students approaching us with their app open. They recognize our faces and know what to do, which is truly the best indicator that they are present. It is nice to advertise our events to students and invite them to specific events and actually see them there because they are truly interested in being involved. During our in person general body meetings last year, we would only use three to four tables at most, but this year we are using at least 6. This shift in involvement on campus at our events and Wayne State is so amazing to see and I hope to only continue seeing more of it. As a student leader, I have observed that students are eager and have great enthusiasm to be on campus and connect with others. I think Wayne State and all the organizations that we have do a wonderful job of creating a welcoming environment as a commuter school, students develop the grit to put themselves out there and make an effort, which is seen more prominently. I will leave you with this last observation. Campus is full and alive, so much so that when having a meeting with one of the vice presidents of the campus activities team last week, we had to check five floors in the student center to find an open spot. Last year we could walk out of our office and we would see many open spots, but I hope that seats continued to be filled and am incredibly thankful and overjoyed to see this change. Thank you so much.

**Maryam Abbawi:** Hi everyone, as Dean Strauss said my name is Maryam Abbawi and I'm majoring in neuroscience honors and minoring in business administration. And I'm the chapter president of Nu Rho Psi, the national honor society in neuroscience. Our Wayne State chapter was established in 2020 and within only

our first year of establishment we have received chapter of the year out of 100 chapters nationwide, due to our passionate membership, our successful events and activities and the support of Wayne State University. We have over 100 members consisting of undergraduate students, graduate and medical students, and faculty. What sets us apart from many student organizations is the faculty interaction. The neuroscience faculty at Wayne State have been immensely supportive and engaged with their students both as mentors and educators. Our well accomplished faculty have served as a resource with many students joining their research labs and finding professional development opportunities. Our chapter has always operated under COVID restrictions, with over 75% of our events being virtual. Although zoom allowed us to reach peers nationally and globally, we all miss connecting with each other face to face and the vibrant campus filled with students and student activities. Transitioning to an in-person environment has been a little bit challenging for neuroscience and other student organizations in regards to partners participation. But we have found that event collaboration with other student organizations and Wayne State programs increases engagement. Just yesterday we had our first in person event of the semester in collaboration with the Study Skills Academy at Wayne State, and it was so amazing to see the social interaction and educational collaboration between students. As President, I had the opportunity at the event to walk around and talk to the members, which was very rewarding. Other student organizations have also been planning in person activities, and I've been seeing it through their posts all over their social media pages, and you can tell everyone looks so happy and excited to be there. Our organization has built a community which is one of the main goals for student organizations. I think the return to campus has allowed us to build upon that. Current campus life has made me and other students not feel alone through the college journey. Something just as small as starting conversations with others sitting around me has built friendships. I've heard many students at Wayne State say that the in person learning environment has also been enriching and motivational. Seeing others studying in the student center, STEM building or the UGL and also being able to interact in person with faculty has been so far led to a successful semester. Now, being a senior, I've experienced campus life at Wayne State pre COVID, during COVID and now post COVID sort of like return to normalcy. I can with 100% confidence, say that in person Wayne State has been my favorite. So, thank you all for your time.

**Bethany Owens:** Thank you for the introduction, Dean Strauss and hello everyone. My name is Bethany Owens. I'm a senior majoring in journalism with a new media minor. I am the President of the Theta Delta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta sorority incorporated here at Wayne State and I am also a resident advisor at the Chatsworth Towers suites. Things have been going very well on campus compared to when I transferred in fall 2020. Being already with the FYRE community, we are a freshman dorm, so making sure the rules are being followed and then the community living guidelines are instilled is what we're working on throughout the building. Students are engaging and taking advantage of the FYRE resources because in the FYRE building, all the resources come to them. They

don't have to go to the resources, so they're utilizing that and taking advantage of that. They're leaning towards the RA's to help and guide them throughout this transition from virtual learning to in person learning. The residents and students are getting very involved in student organizations and making their presence known on campus in numerous ways by getting involved, looking at the student organizations, doing events and hosting events and making new friends. Throughout other organizations, for example, CAT is hosting a lot of fun activities to the National Panhellenic Council, creating safe spaces for minorities. I think a lot of people resident students, especially FYRE students and residents, are taking into consideration how diverse the campus really is and are being educated about the different cultures around them. Thank you.

Dean Strauss thanked the students for their presentations. He advised that FYRE is the First Year Residential Experience, a program that both Provost Kornbluh and Vice President Ezzeddine championed with housing to make that a real, vibrant living learning engagement, immersive community.

### **DIVISION OF RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES HIGHLIGHTS – 2021**

VP Lanier introduced Dr. Timothy Stemmler the new interim Vice President for Research, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, and provided some background on Dr. Stemmler. He has been at the university since 2000, in the Department of Biochemistry in the School of Medicine. In 2013, he transitioned to the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and has held various administrative roles across campus. He was associate Dean in the Graduate School, and served as the associate Dean for research in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and was a funded investigator for many years. He joined the VPR leadership team in March of 2020, just before the pandemic as the Assistant VP for Integrative Biosciences. He was one of the core team to help guide the University through the pandemic.

VP Lanier then announced the appointment of Alyssa Hughes, joining in January, as the new director of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development (MPSI). Alyssa currently serves as a professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University. She has been involved with starting up the Rainbow Clinic, a model of multi-generational family care centered around urban stressors in the middle of Cleveland with an integrated team. She was a professor at Eastern Michigan University in the Department of Psychology and will have a tenure in the Department of Psychology.

VP Lanier then gave updates on two new grant awards at the College of Education. The first one is in the Department of Kinesiology, Health and Sports Studies. The grant from HERSA, the Health Research Services Administration, is for workforce development, and is entitled Community Health Worker Academy: Workforce Development to Improve Urban Health Care and Advance Health Equity. This program will pair very well with a number of the other programmatic conditions in the city of Detroit. It is headed up by Nate McCaughtry, the director of that center, and is for \$2.6 million. It will involve setting up an

Academy for training the workforce and 60% of the trainees will come from underserved communities in the city of Detroit. They will be training in digital literacy, principles of HealthEquity, in the communities that we serve. The second grant, from the Department of Education, is titled Sustaining Community Knowledge and Language Practices for Educational Equity. It will develop pathways for teachers of multilingual students and is for \$2.2 million. This is a collaboration with three school districts in the city, Crestwood School District, Oakland Schools, and Ypsilanti Community Schools and will promote bilingual equity and is a five year program.

### **Conflict of Interest contracts**

#### **UNIVERSITY CONTRACT FOR SERVICES FROM MATH CORPS, A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION WHOSE CEO IS A COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY MEMBER**

Vice President Lanier presented a contract for Board approval with a company owned or partially owned by Wayne State University employees. This creates a potential conflict of interest. Michigan Conflict of Interest law requires specific sunshine procedures in order for a University employee, or a company owned by a University employee, to contract directly or indirectly with the University. The law requires disclosure of any pecuniary interest in the contract, and the disclosure must be made a matter of record in the Board's proceedings, including the name of the parties involved, and the terms of the contract. The contract must be approved by the Board with a vote of not less than two thirds of the full membership of the Board in open session. The disclosures required by the Conflict of Interest law for these contracts are shown below:

#### **MATH CORPS**

- i. The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University and Math Corps.
- ii. a) The contract is in support of the WSU Math Corps' year-round programming. The University's Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics (CEEM) will operate the WSU Math Corps Summer Camp and High School Bridge Program and Fall and Winter Super Saturday's programs for over 400 middle and high school students from Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck.
- b) The contract will have an initial term of 12 months, with a start date of May 1, 2022.
- c) The program will be housed in Old Main and Manoogian.
- iii. Professor Kahn's pecuniary interest derives from receiving two months of summer salary for his work on the project.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Stancato and supported by Governor Thompson, the Board of Governors authorized the President, or his designee, to enter into a contract with Math Corps totaling \$230,000 to Wayne State University.

The motion carried with a roll-call vote:

Governor Barnhill – yes	Governor Kumar - yes
Governor Busuito - yes	Governor Land - yes
Governor Gaffney - yes	Governor Stancato - yes
Governor Kelly – yes	Governor Thompson – yes

### **Government and Community Affairs Report**

VP Lindsey joined the meeting virtually. He reported on two legislative actions. The passage of the Supplemental Funding bill will create the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. This is something that the higher education community has advocated for. The \$250 million will help Michigan make college more affordable to students in the state. The bill will be signed by the governor very soon and will give university students up to a maximum of \$5500. There is anticipation that it will grow about \$50 million a year until 2028 and will enable around 76% of all the students in Michigan to go to school with their fees and tuition paid. The second legislative action was by the Joint Capital Outlay Committee, which acted on a bill that was moved out of the subcommittee into the main Appropriations Committee. The bill would provide Wayne State with about \$6 million for helping to retain students. The University would be eligible for STAR grants, which will help improve student outcomes for low income student's health and safety on campus and improve student retention and enrollment.

### **Economic Development Report**

VP Staebler advised that TechTown received three multiyear grants totaling over \$18 million and will be working on the difficult task of executing those grants and making sure that equitable economic development and generating community wealth are being supported. He reminded the board of the annual fund raiser, Toast of the Town on October 6 to be held at TechTown and in person this year. With the approval from City Council, Burroughs street will be shut down between I2C and Tech Town for the event and around 4-500 expected to attend.

### **Development and Alumni Affairs Report**

VP Burns noted the fiscal year goal of \$66 million was surpassed with an increase of \$15 million up over the same time last year, with gifts still being processed. There was a 15% increase in total alumni giving over fiscal 2021 and even larger increases for both corporations and foundation support. Staff and faculty giving more than doubled in fiscal 2021. Similar growth is expected in fiscal 2023. Proposals and conversations with big

prospects and the annual fall digital and direct marketing campaigns begin in mid-October.

Governor Kelly asked whether giving had returned to the pre pandemic levels. VP Burns confirmed, yes. The pandemic occurred right after the conclusion of the last campaign, and there is usually a drop at that time. As the vision for the direction of the next campaign, those gifts have started to come in as well.

**Establishment of Endowment Funds**

Vice President Burns submitted a recommendation to establish endowments, which included information about the donor and the purpose of the endowment. The following action was taken.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Thompson and supported by Governor Kelly, the Board of Governors established endowment funds that total \$\$670,924.09 for the purposes presented. The motion carried.

	<p><b>SANNYU M. BOGAN-ALLEN MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the Mike Ilitch School of Business with a generous pledge of \$25,000.00 from Sidney E. Bogan and Gloria Walker.</p>	\$25,000.00
	<p><b>BASIM DUBAYBO ENDOWED SUPPORT FUND</b></p> <p>This endowed support fund is established to provide support for the Division of Pulmonary &amp; Critical Care and Sleep Medicine in the School of Medicine with a generous pledge of \$25,000.00 from Basim A. Dubaybo, M.D.</p>	\$25,000.00
	<p><b>EDWARD JAMES DUNN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the School of Medicine with a generous pledge of \$25,000.00 from Edward J. Dunn, M.D.</p>	\$25,000.00
	<p><b>LYNDON B. FORD ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP</b></p>	\$25,000.00



	<p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the Mike Ilitch School of Business with a generous pledge of \$25,000.00 from William R. Ford, M.D., and Christopher Marks.</p>	
	<p><b>BOB FORSYTHE ENDOWED STUDY ABROAD SUPPORT FUND</b></p> <p>This endowed support fund is established to provide support for the Study Abroad Program in the Mike Ilitch School of Business with a generous gift of \$50,000.00 from Nicholas G. Pothitakis.</p>	<p>\$50,000.00</p>
	<p><b>ROY AND ELIZABETH HOCK ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING CAPSTONE DESIGN LABORATORY SUPPORT FUND (FUND FUNCTIONING AS AN ENDOWMENT)</b></p> <p>This endowed support fund (fund functioning as an endowment) is established to provide support for the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department’s Capstone Design Laboratory in the College of Engineering with a generous gift of \$58,400.00 from the Estate of Elizabeth Hock.</p>	<p>\$58,400.00</p>
	<p><b>JOAN CAROL HUEBSCHMAN PENFIL, J.D., ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the School of Medicine with a generous pledge of \$50,000.00 from Elizabeth K. Penfil and Brett Penfil.</p>	<p>\$50,000.00</p>
	<p><b>IRMA E. KLAETKE, BSN CLASS OF 1956, ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the College of Nursing with a generous gift of \$110,000.00 from the Estate of Irma E. Klaetke.</p>	<p>\$110,000.00</p>

	<p><b>MEHTA FAMILY ENDOWED ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the School of Medicine with a generous pledge of \$100,000.00 from Nina Mehta and Ketan C. Mehta.</p>	\$100,000.00
	<p><b>SUZANNE AND MICHAEL ROYCE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the College of Engineering with a generous gift totaling \$25,000.00 from Dr. Michele J. Grimm.</p>	\$25,000.00
	<p><b>FRANK W. SCHWARZ, M.D. '52 AND JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ, M.D. '64 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the School of Medicine with a generous pledge of \$25,000.00 from John J.H. Schwarz, M.D.</p>	\$25,000.00
	<p><b>CONTE' EMANUEL SMITH-EL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies with a generous gift of \$27,524.09 from an anonymous donor.</p>	\$27,524.09
	<p><b>STENGLE FAMILY MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENDOWED SUPPORT FUND</b></p> <p>This endowed support fund is established to provide major support for the Master of Public Health Program educational activities for students enrolled in the MPH Program in the School of Medicine with a generous pledge of \$25,000.00 from Deborah Stengle and Laura Stengle.</p>	\$25,000.00

	<p><b>DR. MUMTAZ USMEN ENDOWED CIVIL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education in the College of Engineering with a generous gift of \$25,000.00 from Dr. Mumtaz Usmen.</p>	<p>\$25,000.00</p>
	<p><b>WELDING AND METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ENDOWED SUPPORT FUND</b></p> <p>This endowed support fund is established to provide support for the Welding and Metallurgical Engineering Technology (WMET) Program in the Engineering Technology Division of the College of Engineering with a generous pledge of \$25,000.00 from Mark A. Jager.</p>	<p>\$25,000.00</p>
	<p><b>ANTHONY R. WEST MEMORIAL STUDENT AWARD</b></p> <p>This endowed scholarship fund is established to provide support for awards to M.D. and Ph.D. students in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at the School of Medicine with a generous gift of \$25,000.00 from an anonymous donor.</p>	<p>\$25,000.00</p>
	<p><b>JOHN M. ZAWISKIE MEMORIAL ENDOWED SUPPORT FUND</b></p> <p>This endowed support fund is established to provide support to students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Department of Environmental Science and Geology with expenses associated with fieldwork as part of their research and conference participation to present their research with a generous gift of \$25,000.00 from multiple individual donors.</p>	<p>\$25,000.00</p>
	<p><b>Total</b></p>	<p>\$670,924.09</p>

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Wilson advised that the Secretary received a number of requests from members of the University community to address the Board. He advised that each speaker will be given three minutes to present their remarks and would receive a 1 minute warning from the Secretary when their time is almost up. The speakers and their comments are as follows:

Marcelis Turner

Good afternoon. My name is Marcelis Turner and I pretty much had to get my phone 'cause it was charging, but I've been trying to speak with you all for at least a year and a half. Two years now and I apologize for the exchange of emails. Oh, thank you, it was a issue pretty much on how the information came across, but pretty much I'm a senior at Wayne State University. I'm actually entering my 6th year. I was originally on pace for three years, 3 1/2 years. But if you look at my information. I'm a disabled veteran first generation of my family as a male to go to college, but the women in my family went to this university or Oakland and the conflict I had come into. The point is, come as a disabled veteran when I first came to the university. I should of had a 504 Form. I should have received accommodations. The review of what would you call it DSM, PTSD or trauma or mental health conditions? Or ADHD, learning disabilities, or even the fact that when I first, 1997 was my actual first time attending Wayne State University because I wasn't able to speak at a young age and then I didn't learn how to speak until 2005 and I actually attended the speech pathology and audiology department here that was provided to the community. How does this correlate? Since I've been at the University, Danes knew about these issues. Professors knew about these issues. No accommodations. I'm fully disabled below my waist. Both legs, both feet lower back, sciatic nerve, piriformis issues. Bruce, what is it? Fasciotomy is required for both my legs and both my feet. I diagnosed myself. The VA department is horrible in the state of Michigan and in Detroit. No medical doctors that represents me or the people of my community, so I've been having to play Doctor. I've been having to play with Department of Defense. I mean, haven't played at the VA. I'm had played the Department of the State. I've had to play at Wayne State University. I just now got accommodations my last semester with student disability services and I'm not putting on my person that I just got in 2019 because of the simple fact that when I came in university, I should have been with student disability services. My whole point is, what specifically are you all doing for veterans outside of us sending our money to the university? The classes being paid for in that seat. We're not being heard of and what are you doing for black males specifically? I should not have to share the rewards and what my people fought for with every single group, every single gender, every single sex. I've told you all I've had issues with professors telling me black males are homophobic and transphobic and we should be open with sleeping with them. That has nothing to do with my education. That has nothing to do with what I go through on a daily basis. I'm not a socialist, I'm not a communist. Every male in my family fought in every war. George Washington purchased my family in 1773. We was free before 1870 and educated. I should not have to sit in the classroom where people are saying Communism and

tribalism. I mean communism. Socialism is tribalism and if I'm not good with it, I'm not black. It's so much that goes on. Then I'm a black conservative, as I ran Donald Trump campaign, homeless, unemployed? My whole time [indistinguishable] university through chapter 31 vocrehab so the VA is aware I ran his campaign etc. etc. But at no point should the professor point me out and say look at that trumpster. Because I'm related to all the presidents, as I've just stated. Nothing my education so I get urine in my car, but again it's been two years. There's that you all have ignored me. I've been trying to speak to you for six and I I'm saying here, like you've been the president. I went to Detroit Public Schools. I've never seen you. I've never seen any Wayne State activity. I was in math course that was cancelled. I was robotics that was cancelled. I was in science now was cancelled. I'm gonna stop and let you talk. But my conclusion is I have to go. Because I have to get some stuff done it since I've been here. It's been no support and no help, and I've seen every single group of people come before me. The state of Michigan has no legislation and they have no resources for black males to be successful. That VA hospital and the programs with this university you all aren't producing black doctors. You're not producing black lawyers, I get where you're coming from? Hold on and I would like to follow up. That was my main thing. I presented it to the board but I keep saying I want to follow up and I want to sit down and see what we can do to solve it with solutions, because currently they're telling me I have to go to court. That's why I keep asking for solutions.

#### Harrison Cole

Hello dear members of the Wayne State Board of Governors, my name is Harrison Cole. I'm a fourth year student here at Wayne State. I'm also chairman of Wayne State YDSA, a student organization here on campus. We recently launched a campaign entitled Save Our Campus and its because of that campaign that I am speaking to you here today. Our campaign simply asked for basic necessities to benefit students and staff here at Wayne State. Our demands include, but are not limited to, fixing elevators on campus, fixing light posts on campus, raising the campus minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour free and on demand Plan B, and Plan C products in the Campus Health Center, and more. So far we've received over 800 signatures from students, faculty and staff and community members. We've received endorsements and support from multiple labor unions on campus, as well as other student and community organizations. Many of these supporters are in attendance here today. I feel the need to speak to you today about these issues because of the complete silence we have received about these demands. For the past month this petition has been spread through social media in classrooms passed around by flyers on campus, posted in the South End and more, and yet no one has reached out to talk to us about these demands. The only response we've received was the Wayne State Police Department taking down our posters threatening us with fines and jail time, and the Dean of Students threatening us with student code of conduct violations. This campaign is simply trying to bring attention to basic necessities across campus. We've received horrifying testimonials from students and staff, including reports of students in the Biology Department, sticking forks and electrical sockets just to get them to work. Multiple

reports of people being trapped in elevators that break in freefall multiple floors, reports of ceiling tiles falling on students, reports of disabled students living in dorms having to climb 7,8,9 or more stories just to get back to their dorm rooms because of broken elevators. We've had people say it is embarrassing for them to have their friends and family come to Wayne State and see it in this condition. Many of these issues are compounded by the fact that Wayne State has failed at hiring and in custodial and maintenance staff, which are responsible for keeping this campus running and safe for students to live, work and play here. Instead, Wayne State has elected outsource these jobs, laid off numerous people and this is not to mention the hardships endured by IT staff, professors, graduate students, dining workers and many others. From the perspective of the hundreds of people who have signed this petition, Wayne State isn't doing nearly enough. We asked the Board of Governors address these issues for the betterment of the entire campus community. We do this not out of spite, but out of a love for the university that all of us call home. Thank you.

#### Ken Whittaker

Good evening governors. My name is Ken Whittaker. I'm the parent of a I'm the proud parent of a senior here at Wayne State University who will be graduating with a degree in accounting next year. I'm also the executive director of Michigan People's Campaign and we're a proud member of the Defend Black Voters Coalition The Michigan People campaign engages voters around the state of Michigan with the guiding mission to fight for a participatory and reflective democracy on every level. An economy that works for us all and a society that dismantles racism and lifts up the common humanity in this state. A fundamental tenet of American democracy is the right to vote and equal rights to all citizens regardless of race, social, economic level or living conditions. That right is under attack right here in Michigan. On November 4th, 2020, Michigan People's Campaign was there to defend black voters in Detroit. When extremist forces attempted to stop the count by force. We won that day and we're going to continue to win in this state to protect black voters who are currently under attack. We're asking the board to join us in that fight. There's a lot at stake in this moment. We know that investigation after investigation has proven that the 2020 elections were the most secure elections in this state. Despite the fact that lawmakers are using the big lie that our elections were stolen to push forward a thinly veiled effort to make it harder for black and low income Michiganders to vote. The so-called Secure My Vote initiative stands in stark contrast to the bipartisan legislation that just passed the legislature on Wednesday. The defend Black Voters Coalition congratulates Democrats and Republicans for passing this legislation in these reforms to increase access to the ballot. But importantly, the reasonable election security measures. And this bill did not create racial, disparate situations, and access to the ballot. Passage of these reforms we're encouraging lawmakers to show that they aren't simply looking for an excuse to make it harder for black and brown and low income people to vote. We're not advocating for the university to stop vendors supporting any particular party, regardless of one's party affiliation. There should be a red line drawn when the money is being used to bankroll

legislators that are actually tearing down our democracy. We're asking the Wayne State Board of Governors to have an honest conversation about what this is. This isn't partisan. This isn't nonpartisan politics. This is about an extremist element that would rather disenfranchise my community than address our needs. Silence is not an option for our communities. The time to act is now and the proponents of this voter restriction effort submitted over 500,000 signatures that, when certified, could easily become legislation in lame duck. Wayne State has been a leader in social justice. I can stop, but I will say on behalf of Michigan people campaign and Defend Black voters coalition, we thank you for your time and consideration for Wayne State to take a stand in this critical moment.

Elisheva Johnson

Good evening, my name is Elisheva Johnson and I am the executive director of Emerging Justice. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak to you all today. I heard that you all have increased black votes here, so I know you care about voting. Emerging justice empowers. Communities to honor unapologetic fight to dismantle all systems of injustice throughout Michigan. Our communities right? Our communities have a right to vote and it is central to that mission. That is what led us to be founding members of the coalition called Defend Black Voters. I serve on a steering team, a DBD, of the DBD coalition. We are a multiracial campaign anchored by a coalition of Michigan based black led racial justice organizations. We formed the DBD Coalition to fight the voter suppression efforts in Michigan. Emerging justice addressed you at the last meeting in June, alerting you to the attack on our communities. We are facing the so-called Secure Michigan Vote Initiative to pass voter suppression measures around Governor Whitmer's veto using a loophole in Michigan law. This thinly veiled effort, which the legislators could vote on by the end of this year, uses the big Lie as an excuse to push a set of voter restrictions designed to make it disproportionately harder for black and low-income Michiganders to exercise their freedom to vote. I know those votes count because you all increased those votes here. In December 2021, we asked the six largest corporation funders of the extremist Michigan State lawmakers backing voter suppression to back up their publicly stated positions on voter rights and social justice. So, I know my time is up. But I would like to appeal to your hearts right now. In December 2021, we asked six largest corporation funders of the extremist Michigan State lawmakers backing voter suppression to back up their publicly stated positions on voting rights and racial justice. Those vendors were Wayne State, our Blue Cross Blue shield of Michigan and Delta Dental of Michigan. Our coalition has been clear that we don't think any corporation has publicly stated its support of racial justice and voting rights should be contributing to any legislator that remains committed to racially targeting voter suppression. So, I ask that you all. And I appeal to your hearts. Voting matters, especially in Detroit, especially for people of color. We have fought so hard to such a rich history here. You all are a part of it. Your students are a part of it. We need you to stand with us. We're coming here and asking for solutions. Thank you.

Aqeela Muntaqim

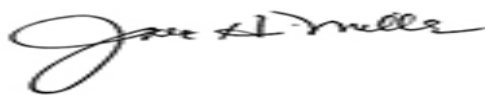
Thank you and good afternoon. My name is Aqeela Muntaqim and I am deputy director at Mothering Justice Action Fund and I'm here to speak on behalf of our founding director Danielle Atkinson, who was also one of two democratic nominees for the Wayne State Board of Governors. At Mothering Justice Action fund, we organize black mamas and mamas of color on the issues that matter to us. Whether it be issues around reproductive rights, access to affordable childcare or paid sick leave, a common theme to all of our issues is voting rights. We know that Wayne State University shares many of these same goals both within the university community, and instilling these values in the students that go on to pursue careers here in our communities in Michigan and abroad. Mothering Justice is also a proud and founding member of the defend Black Voters Coalition, which was formed to fight the voter suppression efforts that, by design, is disproportionately harder for black and working class people to vote. That's why the defend Black voters campaign matters to us. And it matters to me. We recognize corporations funding voter suppression like Blue Cross Blue Shield are essentially funding political campaigns directly in opposition to what matters to black women and what matters to black mamas. Ironically, Wayne State contractors Blue Cross and Delta Dental have issued strong racial justice statements, and the Blue Cross CEO even signed a joint statement against the very voter suppression bills that were compiled into the so-called Secure My vote Voter Suppression initiative. Defending Black lives and investing in our community and investing in our communities means that we must do more than just issue a generic statement or change social media pages to a black square. We are asking you to take a stand against university dollars going to support those who are attacking the freedom to vote for black and low-income Michiganders. Even if the attackers' motivations are partisan, the Wayne State governors have an opportunity to take a principled stand for Michigan. If our elected officials don't take action, black, brown, and working-class people will be left to fend for themselves while university dollars fund the attack on their voting rights. We hope that the Board of Governors will ultimately choose to move companies like Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to align their political spending with the values of this university and the need to defend our democracy and civil rights in Michigan, and I ask, can your communities the community that you serve count on your support? Thank you.

President Wilson thanked the speakers for their comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors