



## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

June 30, 2023

### Special Meeting of the Board of Governors

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm. by President Wilson. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present, with the following Board members in attendance:

**Present:** Governors Atkinson, Barnhill, Busuito (Teams), Gaffney, Kumar (Teams), Kelly, Land, Stancato; President Wilson (Teams)

**Also Present:** Provost Kimberly Andrews Espy (Teams), Secretary Miller

#### UPDATE ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

President Wilson extended a welcome to all in attendance and turned the meeting over to Governor Gaffney for an update on the Presidential Search.

Governor Gaffney extended his thanks, and reiterated the importance of today's meeting, the purpose of which is the election of the 13th President of Wayne State University. After a long and determined search, overseen by a thoughtful and diverse search committee, and after much deliberation by the Board of Governors, he advised that the Board is very happy to have reached this point, and that the Board is thrilled with their selection. He advised that Kimberly Espy has the Board's full confidence to lead the university forward, build on its current successes and together with our students, faculty, and workers, provide the greatness that our community deserves. He then read the following resolution:

Whereas the Board of Governors began its extensive national search for our next president in the fall of 2022, and whereas the Board of Governors wishes to extend its deepest thanks to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for their dedicated service after those past seven months. This included many hours of thoughtful discussion, thorough analysis and earnest service, as representatives of our institution; and

Whereas the Board of Governors, through its consideration of the search committees' recommendations and with input by high level administrators and Deans, we interviewed a number of highly qualified individuals interested in leading this great university; and

Whereas the candidate the board brings forward today, Kimberly Andrews Espy fulfills the qualifications the board requires of a president. She is a demonstrated

leader in higher education, having served as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas, San Antonio, as Senior Vice President for Research at the University of Arizona, as Vice President for Research and Innovation at the University of Oregon and as the Dean of the Graduate School at University of Oregon. She has built a record of incredible accomplishments at each university she served, including being serving as the president of the faculty Senate when she was a professor; and

Whereas Provost Espy has demonstrated leadership in many areas that are consistent with Wayne State's mission, including advancing student success and social mobility, ensuring access to a wide range of diverse students, many of them, first generation and traditionally underserved. She has promoted research, scholarship and engaged productivity productively with the community. This paragraph, I would say, was especially important to the board. We wanted a next president who shared the commitments and the vision and the hard work of the previous current President and all of you that have worked so hard to make student success so important, so successful in your efforts and put us on the map leading Michigan for social mobility and on the map nationally for social mobility. And we found a candidate to become our next President, who also not only has those same characteristics and values but has done that work with her career and especially at her current institution; and

Whereas Dr. Espy, an accomplished scholar in her own right, is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and an elected Fellow of the American Psychological Association. She received her undergraduate degree in psychology from Rice University and an MA and PhD in clinical neuropsychology from the University of Houston; and

Whereas, Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy's proven leadership in higher education, scholarship and her commitment to the mission and ideals that our university holds most dear make her an ideal candidate for the presidency of Wayne State University.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wayne State University Board of Governors unanimously elects Doctor Kimberly Andrews Espy as the 13th president of Wayne State University, effective August 1, 2023.

Governor Gaffney then asked for a formal motion to adopt the resolution. The following motion was then placed on the floor:

**MOTION:** Moved by Governor Land, and supported by Governor Busuito, that the Board of Governors approve the resolution and elect Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy as the 13<sup>th</sup> President of Wayne State University, effective August 1, 2023.

Governor Gaffney asked if there were any comments from members of the Board, prior to taking a vote on the motion. Board members offered the following statements:

Governor Stancato:

I have a comment. Those of you who are on the search committee and in the audience know that it just so happens that Dr. Espy was the very first person to be interviewed by the search committee. And because of that, I think we can all agree that our first impression of her might have faded. But that never happened. Instead, her initial interview set a very high bar, and at each step through the rest of the process, she continued to stand out as the candidate best qualified to lead our great university. And I just look forward to welcoming her to Wayne State University.

Governor Land:

Yes, I would just like to say too, I want to thank the committee and I want to thank our chairman. I'll tell you, Chairman Gaffney really put in the hours and the time. I was not on the search committee but I was very happy with the candidates they brought to us on the board, and we had a good selection. Dr. Espy came to the top and I'm very excited about having her here at Wayne State. So, thank you, chairman.

Governor Kumar:

Thank you, Dr. Espy. We particularly want to welcome you to Wayne State University because we, as the board and the university, we have made a historic event by selecting you. Our first woman president, in 150 years! So, congratulations and thank you. And we're hoping that with your leadership, you will have Wayne State University make history. And that we are all the way in support of you. Thank you and welcome.

Governor Barnhill:

I just want to say it's particularly meaningful, especially in the immediate aftermath of the Supreme Court decision, where a choice was made to ignore the legacy of racism, discrimination and the negative impacts that has had in areas such as university admissions. But to bring in a president who has demonstrated success in a Hispanic serving institution, who, as you say, Chairman Gaffney, shares our commitment to social mobility, heartens me. And I'm also proud that we're also making history for the university with this selection. And so, for me, it's a signal of our commitment to ensuring that our students, no matter who they are, where they come from, will have an excellent opportunity to achieve success at our university.

Governor Kelly:

I'll echo the words of my colleagues and I won't repeat them. I can't better them. I want to say what a pleasure it's been for me to be a member of the search

committee, to be part of this whole exciting search and to welcome the new president, who will be able to build on the exemplary work of Dr. Wilson. And who is, I must say, welcomed unanimously by this board with great enthusiasm. I look forward, as I think we all do, to her service here.

Governor Busuito:

I want to echo what everyone else said. I have nothing but positives to add. When I reviewed all the CV's when this whole process started, before we met anybody or talked to anybody, she was my #1. After the first round of interviews, she was my #1. And as the interviews proceeded and the whole process continued, she just became a stronger and stronger candidate in my mind. And I just can't say how happy I am to bring her on board. Thank you for deciding and choosing to come and join us.

Governor Atkinson:

I appreciate the work of the search committee first and foremost. The process started before I was elected, and I know there was not doubt, but a little concern that we wouldn't be able to finish the process before the new school year started. But it was done, in record time. I really appreciate not only my fellow members on the board, but the members of the staff and of Wayne State - the process was just very participatory and I appreciate that. I, along with my fellow governors, welcome Dr. Espy. We have wonderful and large expectations for what she will accomplish here because we believe in this university, and we believe in her. My fellow governor spoke about the affirmative action decision. I think it's also important to point out the decision around student loans. I believe that Dr. Espy, along with my fellow governors, are committed to making sure that students who graduate here are not burdened with debt but a bright future. And I am expecting and hopeful that this new administration will bring that to bear.

Governor Gaffney thanked board members for their comments, and especially appreciated the comments about the search committee. He commented that he knows that they had a lot of help from a lot of people, and the Board appreciates that very much. He then asked the Secretary to call the roll:

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Land, and supported by Governor Busuito, the Board of Governors approved the resolution and elected Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy as the 13<sup>th</sup> President of Wayne State University, effective August 1, 2023. The motion carried with the following roll-call vote:

Governor Atkinson - yes  
Governor Barnhill - yes  
Governor Busuito - yes  
Governor Gaffney - yes

Governor Kelly - yes  
Governor Kumar - yes  
Governor Land - yes  
Governor Stancato - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Much applause and a standing ovation followed.

Governor Gaffney addressed Dr. Espy, commenting that she began the meeting as a Provost, and will leave the meeting as a President. He offered his congratulations and his thanks, and asked her if she had any comments at this time.

President-elect Espy then made the following statement:

Thank you Governor Gaffney. Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you so much for being here. I also thank the Board of Governors for electing me the 13<sup>th</sup> President of this truly outstanding institution. I am just so honored and humbled to serve the Wayne State community as its next president. I know that my service will begin on such a solid foundation of the University's remarkable 155-year history. And I particularly appreciate the last decade of transformative leadership by Dr. M Roy Wilson. Thank you.

While 13 is not commonly known as a lucky number, if one digs just a little bit deeper, the number 13 actually represents transformation and renewal. The completion of one cycle and the beginning of another. I actually can't think of a more fitting number for today. As I look forward, I look forward to joining you all in person soon and spending time with the campus and the Detroit community. I can't tell you how ready I am to get started. But in some ways, though, I feel like I already belong. The search committee, that included so many colleagues from every corner of the campus, was just so welcoming and thoughtful and made clear what a very special place Wayne is. During the search and interacting with both the committee and the board, it was abundantly clear that serving as Wayne's next president is truly an opportunity of a lifetime. This university today, and through its history, has served such a vital mission that has positively impacted so many. Generations of students from all walks of life have been able to attend a university renowned for its scholarship and innovation, and then go on to become productive, prosperous citizens and community leaders. Many were first in their family to go to college or from diverse backgrounds where many doors were historically closed to them or had children of their own at home to care for while in college, pursuing their own dreams. Wayne State's doors were open then and remain open today

and into the future, welcoming students from every background with a straightforward message. You belong here and you will succeed. In fact, Wayne State is a leader in redefining academic excellence that is enabling students to succeed through access to a world class education with a faculty second to none.

This mission of transformative social and economic mobility is at the center of my own values, and one that I've championed throughout my career. It was clear to me that everyone with whom I spoke during the search was equally committed to these core values that are woven so deeply into both the history and the fabric of Wayne State. What an honor it is for me to be joining such a university in such a wonderful community. In my mind, the past, the present, the future of Wayne State and Detroit cannot be separated. Neither Wayne State nor Detroit would have achieved a success without the other. As a native Midwesterner, I am familiar with the cycle of revitalization and the renewed excitement for an even brighter future that builds on the past legacy of success. Fundamentally, thriving cities and communities are enabled by great urban public research universities. And in turn, research universities are enhanced through deep engagement with the cities they serve. This reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationship between Wayne State and Detroit is truly remarkable and a national model for how a university, its faculty, staff and students can play a critical role in the life and health of the city.

Whether it be the innovations and new businesses that are spawned through Tech Town, Wayne's impactful medical research and services that improve community health or the well-prepared Wayne State graduates that supply the region's workforce year in and year out. I embrace this urban empowerment model and I'm eager to join the University community to take up this important work. In short, I'm really excited to make Detroit my home. From my perspective, Wayne State has all the ingredients to achieve its vision, a focused strategic plan, a great team that includes a distinguished and supportive board and strong university leadership. A commitment to the success of its rich mosaic of students, nationally recognized faculty with outstanding scholarship and impactful health services, an expanding research portfolio, and a vibrant campus in the heart of a great city with an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit. What positive momentum for the future. So let me close where I started. I'm deeply grateful to the board for this opportunity. As your President, I look forward to embracing the challenges ahead together. Being President #13, I am now, in fact, your #1 Wayne Woman Warrior. I'm honored to join this great university. And I look forward to serving with you all, our students and community. Thank you all very much.

Governor Gaffney brought forward a gift for President-elect Espy, a monogrammed university letter jacket, as her first gift from the campus community - Dr. Espy thanked Governor Gaffney, and advised that she would put it to good use. Governor Gaffney then turned the floor back to President Wilson.

President Wilson extended his congratulations and welcome to Dr. Espy, and offered his assistance in the transition and afterwards, in whatever way he could be helpful. He added that he believes she will have a wonderful time at Wayne State and that it has been a great 10 years for him. He thanked everyone for being here, offered final congratulations to Dr. Espy, and commented that there is an exciting future ahead.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors

DRAFT