



## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

September 29, 2023

### Regular Meeting

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

**Present:** Governors Atkinson, Barnhill, Busuito, Gaffney, Kumar, Kelly, Land, and Stancato; President Espy

**Also Present:** Provost Kornbluh, Vice Presidents Ezzeddine, Lindsey, Massaron, Poterala, Staebler, Stemmler, Wright, CHWO Clabo, Associate Provost Padgett; Associate VP Hafner, and Secretary Miller

### PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board Office received four requests to address the Board at today's meeting. President Espy invited each speaker to the podium, and advised that they would have 3 minutes to present their statement. A clock was provided to let the speaker know when their time had elapsed. Ms. Darrice Cain was not present when called to the podium. The remaining speakers and their statements are as follows:

#### Danielle Aubert:

OK I have. It says 3 to 5 minutes on the website, but I'm close to 3 minutes so but OK thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Danielle Albert, president of the Wayne Academic Union, also known as a AAUPAFT. Today I'm here to read a statement from the Coalition of Unions regarding problems across the university related to the onboarding of new hires and payroll errors for existing. Our chair, Maureen Kemp, was unable to be here today, so I offered to read in her place. Our Coalition represents staff, graduate employees, maintenance workers, full and part time faculty, and more. On September 12th, 2 weeks ago, representatives from nine of our labor unions met in person with leaders from Human Resources, where we articulated the issues I'm about to tell you about. So at the start of this academic year, large numbers of GTA's, GRA's and part time faculty did not receive their paychecks, necessary paperwork, or offer letters on time to begin this. Here's only one example -15 GTA's in Biological Sciences had not been paid or processed into the system until the 3rd pay period in mid-September. This delay in processing pay is especially detrimental to international students, who cannot legally take jobs

elsewhere and are fully dependent upon Wayne State for their income. When individuals are processed, we are also hearing about major errors such as a part time faculty member whose tax withholdings were processed incorrectly, leading to a paycheck of less than \$2.00. New administrative assistants working in units and departments are overburdened trying to meet deadlines, chase down paperwork and make sure their new hires are processed. They reported that they regularly have 5 to 10 custodians or groundskeepers running into issues with the way their hours are logged, who are then underpaid. They're having trouble with hiring because it can take weeks for applicants to receive a response, and this is for a position with the starting wage of less than \$15.00 an hour. Many of our members are living paycheck to paycheck, but when someone who is trying to support a family on \$15 per hour, more or less, misses a check, it creates a domino effect of issues and late fees that Wayne State is not doing enough to avoid. HR says that these workers need to be put into our web time entry system to prevent errors. We'd like to see this happen as quickly as possible. We repeatedly hear from employees who cannot find answers to basic questions about their benefits or options for taking leave, their emails and calls go unanswered. One person emailed ask hr@wayne.edu 11 times with no reply. When they do reach a person, they are given incorrect or conflicting information. HR has provided us with contact information that should help moving forward and we are going to try to help get the word out, but the fact that we're disseminating this information is a problem to begin with. I will say that Human Resources leaders have heard our concerns and they're taking them very seriously. Yet the fact that some of these issues exist is alarming. We've gotten to the point where we expect payroll problems. We need to stop this cycle. Safeguards have to be put in place to prevent this from happening. If we cannot on-board or pay our employees successfully, this university will cease to function. We ask for your support in helping to make sure these problems are addressed and do not continue to recur. Thank you.

**John Popiel:**

OK. Good afternoon. I'm JT Popiel, a PhD candidate and GTA in the History department and I'm also president of the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee. So, I just want to take some time to read statements from 2 new GTA's here at Wayne that were affected by the HR and payroll issues this semester. While all GTA, GSA's and GRE's were affected by these issues, an alarmingly high number of first year grad workers, most in fact, were impacted the most. The statements I am reading here today are only two of many we have already gathered, and more are coming in every day to us and we will be publicly sharing all of these statements. So, statement 1: Receiving my first paycheck weeks late was a financial hardship that also contributed to my own mental health issues. As someone with generalized anxiety disorder, it's extremely stressful to not receive a promised paycheck per contractual agreements without any notice expedited support as this event is full of uncertainty. This can lead to lots of rumination and what-ifs that are hard to control, especially coming from out of state. Not only are

they dealing with adjusting to graduate school, but I'm also adjusting to a new city with new roommates after moving across country, which is a huge investment I made based on my desire and decision to complete my doctoral program here at Wayne State. This made me feel unsupported by the university at large as a first-generation doctoral student moving out of state and has low income. This situation was also not reflective of a couple of Wayne State values such as "integrity". We keep our word, live up to our commitments and are accountable to ourselves and each other. We keep our contractual commitments which were broken and to quote leadership, we are proud of our long history as an anchor institution in Detroit and will continue to serve our community while playing a lead role in the city's resurgence. Leaders take care of all workers. Additionally, the situation was not aligned with a few goals of Wayne State's strategic plan such as teaching, learning, and student success, the heart of our university. How can students be successful without financial stability, diversity, equity and inclusion? An unwavering commitment supporting students financially is necessary for DE and I, supporting, not harming students with marginalized, underrepresented identities and financial sustainability and operational excellence are the necessary foundation for our mission. The hiring process, payroll is not operationally excellent, does not seem to be a sustainable system. This disconnect between promises from Wayne State and the situation with payroll a change is heartening and makes me worried about future situations similar to this one occurs. Now I wanted to read another statement, but I'm almost out of time and this is only one of many. Like I said, we are going to be continuing to share these publicly. Thank you.

**Marcelis Turner:**

Good afternoon. I'll try to be brief. I've come before to the Board of Governors with some issues. I just wanted to say they wasn't resolved. So as you all know, I'm a first generation male in my family go to college. I was born and raised on the east side of Detroit. My mother and my aunts all attended Wayne State or other colleges, but overall I came here on the Chapter 31. Hold on one second. Chapter 31, a rehab program, which is \$150,000, should be allocated to veterans to help with books, housing, things like that. I received zero. They pay for the funding, but with the support or other resources I received nothing. I tried to present this to the university because it's an administration issue and as a student I've been playing more policymaker and administrative than student. Never really got my friend to a thing together. It usually takes about two or three months for my finances to get together and with the veterans, funding is actually a bond that guarantees payment. So at no point in time should my funds be withheld. I also presented last time my 504 accommodations for my ADHD, PTSD, etcetera. I didn't get that until my last semester when I came to school. You can see I have a paper trail of my emails trying to get this together. Obviously, I was presenting to them. I didn't know what was going on. They're not very nice. They're not very social. And I've already made my complaints with that and in this overall curriculum as I presented. I'm a black conservative, which I don't like. I don't feel I have to explain, but for some reason,

professors like bringing that out. So I've worked in my past. I worked for two presidents. I started with Obama prior to going to the Navy, and then I actually was over Trump's, Black voices for Trump for the state of Michigan prior, before graduation, pretty much they pointed me out. Kind of highlighted the fact of what I practiced, even though my family wasn't technically what people referred to as slaves, so I shouldn't have to go into that demeanor or something. That label of my family with slaves, I'm African, et cetera. But overall I shouldn't have to explain myself politically when it has nothing to do with the class and overall this isn't a place for that. I've been told communism is tribalism and they try to correlate it to African tribalism or whatever, to try to convince me. And it comes off as indoctrination. And then just overall, I feel like it's a lot of misandry and reverse sexism for men. We should not be seen in classrooms, pitting black and white males against each other. At some point it comes off cause my PTSD is from when I was in Navy, he said no gays, no black, no Jews, no woman. So, it was kind of like that type of thing. So, you can imagine what I went through. But overall, like I said, I didn't get my accommodations, didn't get any assistance from my better resources. I literally was in my car as a homeless veteran and I presented this and the professor actually advertised this to the whole class to try to defame me and to shame me. So, this is just getting to the point, but some would be respectful for your time. But overall I've been patient. I haven't enrolled in like 2 years, but I literally have over 160 credits. So, I'm technically done and the only solution they gave me was general studies, even though I have the requirement for three degrees, so that's my rant. But like I said, we can get some mediation and some assistance because it's been no follow up and I've been beyond patient. So, thank you. Thank you.

President Espy thanked the speakers and moved to the next item on the agenda.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **BOARD MEETING:**

- A. Approval of the Official Proceedings of June 22, 2023 (Regular Board)  
*Approve proceedings as presented.*
- B. Approval of the Official Proceedings of June 30, 2023 (Special Board)  
*Approve proceedings as presented.*
- C. Establishment of a New Program for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Sciences (Academic Affairs)

*Authorizes the establishment a new degree program, the Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Sciences in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, effective fall term, 2024.*

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- D. Change in the Name of the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a Major in Information Systems Management to the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a Major in Technology Information Systems and Analytics (Academic Affairs)

*Authorizes the change of the title of the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a major in Information Systems Management to the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a major in Technology, Information Systems and Analytics, based on the recent change in the department name, effective Fall 2023*

- E. University Endowment Fund Policy - Revisions to University Board of Governors Common Fund Statute, Section 2.73.5 (Budget and Finance)

*Authorizes the approval of the revisions to the Wayne State University Code Annotated statute 2.73.05, the Common Trust Fund (CTF), as presented in the attached document Exhibit I. The effective date for these changes is October 1, 2024. The recommendation prohibits distributions from endowments when the market value is less than the gift value unless an exception is granted by the University's CFO and updates the language to provide both endowment and budgeting stability.*

- F. Matthaei Physical Education Center Repair & Upgrade (Budget and Finance)

*Authorizes the President, or her designee, to approve spending to design, solicit bids, and award contracts for the repair and upgrade of the Matthaei Physical Education Center located on 5101 John C. Lodge Service Drive with a project cost not to exceed \$6,450,000. Funding for this project will be provided by Bond Funds.*

- G. Applebaum - Magnetic Resonance Research Core Relocation (Budget and Finance)

*Authorizes the President, or her designee, to approve spending to design, solicit bids, and award contracts for the Applebaum building Magnetic Resonance Research Core Relocation with a project cost not to exceed \$2.0M. Funding for this project will be provided by the Office of the Provost and Bond Funds.*

H. Cohn Building - Nursing Classroom Redesign and Renovation (Budget and Finance)

*Authorizes the President, or her designee, to approve spending to design, solicit bids, and award contracts for the Cohn Building - Nursing Classroom Redesign and Renovation with a project cost not to exceed \$2,000,000. Funding for this project will be provided by the College of Nursing and Bond Funds.*

I. Undergraduate Library (UGL) - Warrior 360 Academic Engagement Hub (Budget and Finance)

*Authorizes the President, or her designee, to approve spending to design, solicit bids, and award contracts for the UGL-Warrior-360 Academic Engagement Hub with a project cost not to exceed \$1.15M. Funding for this project will be provided by Bond Funds and the Academic Student Affairs & Global Engagement division.*

J. Revisions to University Board of Governors Contract Awards Statute, Section 2.81.01 (Budget and Finance)

*Authorizes the approval of the revisions to the Wayne State University Code Annotated statute 2.81.01, Contract Awards, as presented in the attached document Exhibit 1, with the effective date for these changes of October 1, 2023. The recommendation would increase contract approval and competitive bidding thresholds to address inflationary increases since they were approved. The recommendation included provision of a one year report by the administration of the impact of the changes.*

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

## PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The next item on the agenda was approval of personnel recommendations submitted by Provost Kornbluh.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Kelly 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.

College of Engineering

Cameron Randale Bass, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, effective August 17, 2023.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Tesfaye Birke, for appointment as Professor tenure track, in the Department of Environmental Science and Geology, effective August 17, 2023.

Cort Rudolph, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of Psychology, effective August 17, 2023.

Robyn Spencer, for appointment as Associate Professor with tenure per University year, in the Departments of History and African American Studies, effective August 17, 2023.

Rhonda Williams, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of African American Studies, effective August 17, 2023.

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

George Wesley Taylor IV, for appointment as Associate Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of Art and Art History, effective August 17, 2023.

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Brian Barnes, for appointment as Associate Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, effective September 29, 2023.

Mike Illitch School of Business

Toyin Clotey, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of Global Supply Chain Management, effective August 17, 2023.

School of Social Work

Amy Watson, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, in the School of Social Work, effective August 17, 2023.

Bridget Weller, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, in the School of Social Work, effective August 17, 2023.

School of Medicine

Yongsheng Chen, for appointment as Associate Professor with 50% fractional tenure per University year, in the Department of Neurology, effective July 1, 2023.

Kimberly Espy, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of Psychiatry, effective August 1, 2023. \*Previously approved by the BOG on June 30, 2023.



Joseph Dunbar, for appointment as the William D. Traitel Endowed Chair, in the Department of Physiology, effective April 22, 2022- August 31, 2023.

Marta Rodriguez Garcia, for appointment as Associate Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, effective September 1, 2023.

Hasan Korkaya, for appointment as Associate Professor with 50% fractional tenure per University year, in the Department of Oncology, effective June 1, 2023.

Boris Pasche, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, in the Department of Oncology, effective August 17, 2023.

Noreen Rossi, Professor, Department of Physiology for transfer of fractional 50% tenure per University year, from the Department of Internal Medicine to the Department of Physiology.

### University Library System

Paul Bracke, for appointment as Professor with tenure per University year, effective October 15, 2023. Professor Bracke will serve as the Dean of University Libraries.  
\*Previously approved by the BOG on August 1, 2023

### **SPECIAL NOTES ON ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

Kimberly Espy, for appointment as President effective August 1, 2023 for the term of 5 years subject to the pleasure of the Board of Governors during the term of the assignment.  
\*Previously approved by the BOG on June 30, 2023.

### College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Stephanie Hartwell, for reappointment as Dean, effective August 1, 2023 for a term of 3 years, subject to the pleasure of the President or their designee during the term of the assignment.

### Honors College

John Corvino, for reappointment as Dean, effective July 1, 2024, for the term of 5 years, subject to the pleasure of the President or their designee during the term of the assignment.

Elena Past, for appointment as Interim Dean, effective June 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, subject to the pleasure of the President or their designee during the term of the assignment.

### School of Social Work

Sheryl Kubiak, for reappointment as Dean, effective June 30, 2023 for a term of 5 years, subject to the pleasure of the President or their designee during the term of the assignment.



### School of Medicine

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Boris Pasche, for appointment as Chair, effective August 17, 2023 for the term of 5 years, in the Department of Oncology, subject to the pleasure of the President or their designee during the term of the assignment.

### University Libraries

Paul Beavers, for appointment as Acting Dean, effective August 28, 2023 - October 14, 2023, subject to the pleasure of the President or their designee during the term of the assignment.

Paul Bracke, for appointment as Dean, effective October 15, 2023, for a term of 5 years, subject to the pleasure of the President or their designee during the term of the assignment. \*Previously approved by the BOG on August 1, 2023.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT**

### **Ratification of Electronic Vote**

Secretary Miller presented a request to ratify an action taken on August 1, 2023, as follows:

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Stancato and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors ratified the action adopted by the Board of Governors by electronic vote, completed on August 1, 2023, with a vote of 8-0. The action approved the appointment of Paul Bracke as Dean of the WSU Libraries and School of Information Sciences. The effective date of his appointment is October 15, 2023.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Espy opened her report commenting on the warmth and enthusiasm that she and her husband have received, which has been deeply appreciated. She has met with a wide array of people both inside and outside the university, who have provided thoughtful insights, discussed the importance of the university's partnerships for mutual success, and identified issues at the forefront of their minds. She expressed how glad she is to be here at this important time in the history of the university.

The president then offered highlights on a number of areas of interest. The university welcomed nearly its largest incoming undergraduate class, consisting of 4,450 new students, including 3,000 first-time in any college (FITIAC) students and almost 1,500 transfer students. This represents a 16% increase in first-year students and a 9% increase in transfer students compared to the previous year. The incoming class is noted for its diversity, with over 20% identifying as Black, more than 10% as Hispanic, and another 10% as Middle Eastern or North African, significant increases over the previous year. The president expressed hope for the positive trajectory to continue in the coming years. She then noted the university's participation in the Michigan Assured Admission Pact, a new

program for FITIACs entering college in fall 2024 and that the university is one of the three public R1 institutions in Michigan involved in this program.

The University is committing to admit all Michigan high school graduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, aiming to reduce stress for families and provide more pathways to college. The president expressed excitement about promoting this initiative to high school students, parents, secondary school partners, and college access organizations across the state. The hope is that this commitment will increase college enrollment, addressing Michigan's relatively lower rates compared to other states.

Wayne State University has been ranked at the top of universities in the country for providing the strongest return on investment, particularly for students with significant financial need. The ranking, conducted by Third Way, a nonprofit public policy think tank, places Wayne State in tier one, alongside prestigious institutions such as University of California, Riverside, and the University of Illinois, Chicago..

Wayne State University welcomed 73 new full-time faculty members this fall, with 39 of them joining the tenure track. Notably, Dr. Rhoda Joseph, an accomplished scholar in eGovernment/mGovernment from Penn State, has taken a leadership role in the newly reorganized Department of Technology, Information and System Analytics within the Mike Ilitch School of Business. Her appointment is part of the black studies cluster hire supported by the Mellon grant. Dr. Aisha Langford has joined Wayne State University's Department of Family Medicine, bringing expertise as a behavioral scientist specializing in health communication and medical decision-making across various diseases and contexts. These distinguished faculty members help position the university for growth in competitive external research awards. Federal research expenditures have increased by 13% year-to-date compared to the previous year, indicating a positive trajectory in research endeavors.

Two notable projects have been awarded to junior faculty at WSU, the first is a \$3.6 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health awarded to Dr. Hilary Marousek, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, who will study peer victimization and the causes of anxiety disorders in adolescence. The second award involves Dr. Carolyn Harris from the Department of Chemical Engineering and Material Science who received a 5-year \$2.7 million grant from NINDS to investigate the reasons behind shunt obstruction with neural cells, aiming to improve the treatment of pediatric hydrocephalus.

Wayne State University is actively supporting and advancing tech-based businesses in Detroit's rich and cooperative ecosystem. The Tech Town initiative is recognized for its significant contributions. Efforts are underway to more fully engage students in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, recognizing the importance of providing them with valuable experiences in the small business sector, which accounts for nearly 60% of jobs nationwide. This initiative aims to equip students with career-ready tools for their future.

Wayne State University's Division of Development and Alumni Affairs has raised \$101 million in philanthropy for the fiscal year, surpassing its \$80 million goal. This achievement

is attributed to the generous support of donors and the philanthropic community, highlighting the significant impact this funding will have on faculty, students, staff, and the broader community.

Turning to Athletics, President Espy advised that Wayne State Athletics has entered into a partnership and product supply agreement with Nike to become the official apparel and uniform provider for Warrior Athletics, which will include an online store. Additionally, Wayne State Athletics is now streaming home events through the pay-per-view service Flow Sports, which originally began a contract with GLIAC members in 2022.

Support for Wayne State Athletics has a significant impact on students, with 146 recipients of the Division II Athletic Director Association Academic Achievement Award for the 2022-2023 academic year. This award is given to students who maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA throughout their last four semesters of college. The university has had a total of 1,142 recipients of this award over the past 12 years, highlighting the positive influence of athletics on academic achievement.

The president thanked Governor Gaffney for an enjoyable time at the North American International Auto Show, where the Wayne State College of Engineering showcased a driving simulator as part of the exhibition. This highlighted the college's wide-ranging research initiatives in the mobility sector at AutoMobili-D, which showcases new and evolving technology designed to make mobility safer and more efficient, and to promote Detroit's future economy.

President Espy closed her report with a short video capturing the vibrant atmosphere of her first few months on campus and expressing optimism for Wayne State's bright future.

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

Governor Gaffney acknowledged the president's efforts in reviewing the university's administrative structure and practices, expressing support for her plans and goals. He looks forward to collaborating closely with President Espy and mentioned the upcoming board retreat in mid-October, which aims to enhance the board's understanding of Wayne State's complexity and improve its service to the university.

Governor Gaffney expressed his deep appreciation to the members of the presidential search committee for their hard work and successful efforts in helping to recruit President Espy. He commended the collaboration of faculty, students, deans, administrators, researchers, hourly workers, and community members involved in the process, acknowledging the considerable effort invested in the search and expressing satisfaction with the outcome.

Governor Gaffney acknowledged Michael Wright's impending retirement and commented on the significant work VP Wright undertook several years ago, when the campus faced an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease. During that time, Michael, as the chair of the Crisis Preparedness Committee, played a key role in addressing the issue, finding a balance between transparency and preventing panic. Governor Gaffney closed his report

expressing his gratitude to Michael for his years of thoughtful contributions and handling such challenges.

### **SPECIAL TOPIC: MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS**

President Espy introduced Director Alyssa Huth-Bocks, who leads the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development. The institute, founded over 100 years ago, remains at the forefront of research and training in child development, contributing significantly to the university. She asked Tim Stemmler, Interim VP for Research, for any additional comments about the Institute, and Director Huth-Bocks, to kick off the presentation.

VP Stemmler advised that Director Huth-Bocks joined the University from Case Western and has been doing an excellent job. She oversees the university's oldest center and institute, and he anticipates that the board will be impressed by the innovative initiatives she is leading.

Ms. Huth-Bocks began by noting that the current mission of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute (MPSI) for Child and Family Development is to conduct multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach in child and family development. Their focus is on improving the health and well-being of children, youth, and families, with a particular emphasis on urban settings like Detroit. The institute has 13 core faculty members with joint appointments across the university and 8 affiliate faculty from various departments, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Over the past five or six years, the faculty has secured more than \$15 million in research grants.

The Institute's faculty focus on research in four thematic areas: developmental transitions which examine transitional phases of life; biological and environmental risks and protective factors, where they study challenges and enhancers of health and well-being for children and families; interventions for children and families which includes evaluating clinical programs to improve health; and developmental neuroscience, which explores the relations between brain markers and functions, health behavior, and overall well-being across the lifespan. Their approach is developmentalist, considering aspects across a continuum and throughout the lifespan.

The Institute has two formal training programs. The MPSI Fellowship program admits 8 to 10 doctoral-level graduate students annually from various academic units, providing enhanced research training, professional development opportunities, and exposure to national scholars. Trainees in the program also benefit from research colloquia, writing groups, and an annual research day. The Infant Mental Health Dual Title Program, the first of its kind in the U.S., accepts students at both the Master's and doctoral levels, with over 30 current participants from diverse disciplines.

The Infant Mental Health Dual Title Program involves students who willingly commit to receiving 15 extra credit hours of coursework in infant and early childhood, along with a year-long clinical placement supervised by the institute. Students actively engage in advocacy, participating in the Science Policy Network of Detroit (SciPol-Detroit), a group

working to translate science into public knowledge and connect with lawmakers and the public. Two students, Nicole Kouri and Haley Briscoe, were present to share their experiences and insights, and their statements follow below.

Nicole Kouri: MPSI Fellowship Program

Thank you. I am Nicole Kouri. I'm a MPSI fellow and a fifth-year doctoral candidate in clinical psychology. I study interpersonal violence exposure, post-traumatic stress symptoms, and its impact on adolescent interpersonal development. As a clinical trainee, I work with adolescents and adults who have experienced trauma and persons with opioid use disorder. Most days I'm in three different places, including working at a methadone clinic, working at Hamtramck High School, and meeting with undergraduate research assistants and my mentor. This is my third year as a MPSI fellow, proud MPSI fellow. The Fellowship program has given me the opportunity to really hone my skills as a thinker and writer. In my experience as a graduate student, I think I can get stuck in the weeds with my To Do List. I have to cross things off. I'm caught up with patients, caught up with departmental milestones that I have to meet, but every week for two hours on a Thursday, I get to have some intellectual breathing room. Permission to ask questions. Think about social issues that can be addressed with Research. And I also get to connect with my peers and practice translating my research to an outside audience. So being part of the MPSI program has helped me become a more rigorous scientist and pursue research priorities that are meaningful to the wider community. Thank you.

Hailey Briscoe: IMH Dual Title Program

Good afternoon. My name is Haley Briscoe. I am a dual title macro social work student with infant mental health and actually, the dual titles compelled me to apply to Wayne State in the first place, as it is one of the first programs of that kind. I was really intrigued and compelled by that unique lens into the inner working of the parent child relationship, in addition to the practicum and practical applications with that through the internships that I was involved in. And so through the dual title program, I was introduced to some of the most intelligent, empathetic and enthusiastic professors and students that frankly had ever been throughout my academic career. And all of which had similar interests but different reasons that compelled them to apply and possibly work for the program. So, while I came into the program with the understanding of the parent child relationship, I leave with a deeper lens and insight into how important the first three years of life are into these social emotional development, behavioral and mental health of clients that we see throughout their entire lifespan. After I graduate this December, hooray, I plan to employ my education and networks established in the city of Detroit to work with community-based organizations in the implementation of evidence based programs for setting up families with our youngest citizens for success. Along a pathway of social development, again with those holistic approaches to care that I've learned through this program, I look forward to supporting the work of myself

and the dual title students I've come across through my years here at Wayne State.  
Thank you for listening to me.

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Ms. Huth-Bocks concluded by noting that the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute (MPSI) is actively engaged in community programming, outreach, service, and research. With a history dating back to 1920, MPSI supports the early childhood workforce, training thousands of professionals annually in various child-serving sectors. The institute reaches over 1,000 parents through its digital parenting moments newsletter, provides clinical services for infant and early childhood mental health, hosts the Giant Step Teen Conference for over 200 teens, and operates an on-site early childhood center with a five-star accreditation, offering free tuition for low-income families and Pell Grant-eligible Wayne State students. Overall, MPSI, with over 20 faculty members and \$15+ million in grants, has a substantial impact through its multifaceted approach involving research, training, and community service.

Governor Atkinson shared a personal experience of participating in a study at MPSI. Although she doesn't know the specific focus of the study or its outcomes, she expressed gratitude for the experience, acknowledging that it heightened her awareness of the importance of articulating stories, ultimately contributing to her growth as a parent.

The Board thanked Ms. Huth-Bocks for her presentation.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The President reported that three of the Board's standing committees met during the morning session. A detailed report of the discussions during each committee meeting can be found in the Minutes of those committee meetings. The Executive Committee chaired by Governor Gaffney also met. She then called on each of the Committee chairs for a report.

### *Executive Committee*

Governor Gaffney advised that the board discussed a legal update, received a real estate report, engaged in discussions about administrative restructuring, talked about the State's regulatory changes for safe alcohol sales at colleges, and reviewed benchmarks for the strategic plan, noting strong progress in most areas.

### *Budget and Finance Committee*

Governor Barnhill reported that the morning committee meeting covered a lengthy agenda containing several important and critical issues for the university. The committee discussed a finance update focusing on budget impacts from economic factors, improved graduation rates, and enrollment trends. Two policy changes were considered to stabilize the endowment during economic downturns and enhance efficiency in purchasing. Standard reports on major capital projects and purchasing exceptions were received, with no action items related to the contingency reserve. The committee approved



recommendations for four capital projects including HVAC improvements at Matthaei, funds to relocate the Magnetic Resonance Core Research Center, renovation of classrooms at the College of Nursing, and investment in Warrior 360 physical assets to support Wayne State University's mission. Those action items were approved on the consent agenda earlier in the meeting.

### *Academic Affairs Committee*

Governor Stancato advised that the committee met and received an informative presentation on the undergraduate student body, emphasizing the largest-ever honors class and maintaining academic excellence. The Honors College itself saw a 64% increase over the previous year. The six-year graduation rate increased to 60.3% from 27.6% a decade ago. The committee approved two action items, the establishment of a new program for a Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Sciences and a revised program name for the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a major in Technology, Information Systems, and Analytics. These items were approved on the consent agenda earlier in the day.

### *Personnel Committee*

Governor Gaffney reported that the Committee discussed the implementation of a promotion process for teaching track faculty, reviewed tenure track faculty hiring (81 new faculty, 56% women, 37% from underrepresented groups), and examined grant-funded initiatives like NSF Gears and SIEDS projects. Associate Provost Danielle Padgett updated the committee on recent DEI initiatives, highlighting the work of the DEI Council and DEI Office, with schools and colleges developing specific plans based on the Social Justice Action Committees' goals and recommendations for Wayne State University.

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

The provost and the vice presidents submitted informational reports describing activities in their respective divisions. President Espy advised that there were action items that will be taken during the presentation of these reports, and called on each of the Executive Officers, asking whether each had anything to add or highlight from their reports.

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

Provost Kornbluh introduced Patricia Romer, the new Associate Vice Provost for Auxiliary Academic Affairs representing Housing and Dining. Ms. Romer expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and support she has received at Wayne State since starting on August 1st. She highlighted the impressive trajectory of the university and emphasized the positive interactions she has had with students, who have shared their experiences and ideas for enhancing the residential and dining experience. The university implemented a multifaceted effort to increase residence hall occupancy, including successful enrollment efforts and enhanced welcoming week activities led by student engagement partners and resident staff programs. The ongoing engagement of resident assistants and community



directors in building community within the halls was acknowledged as making a positive impact.

She discussed the success of the residential experience, particularly the first-year program (FYRE). Financial incentives were offered to encourage student participation in FYRE, with ongoing assessment of their impact. Changes to campus facilities, such as the Chatsworth Patio, were noted to have positively influenced student community development. Fall occupancy experienced an 11% overall increase, with gains in every residence hall, especially those supporting the first-year residential experience. The total population being supported is 2,738, the majority of whom are undergraduate students.

The FYRE program realized success in providing support and resources to first-year residents. Initially implemented in Chatsworth Hall, the program expanded to include first-year residents in Ghafari and Towers Residential Halls, attributing its success to partnerships across campus, including library resources, wellness programs, and safety initiatives. The success of residential programming, particularly for first-year students, was highlighted as a model for potential improvements in programming for other undergraduate students, professional schools, and graduate programs.

Providing quality and affordable facilities to support graduate population efforts was emphasized. Current and upcoming projects, such as replacing electronic locks and elevator renewal, were mentioned. Looking to the future, there is a need for a comprehensive plan with partners in FP&M and Corvias (P3 partner) to address capital renewal in buildings where it hasn't been done in the past. Prioritization is based on condition assessments, work orders, facility complaints, resident input, and other factors. Towers Residential and University Towers were highlighted as priorities, due to heating and air conditioning concerns impacting return rates and occupancy. Ms. Romer expressed eagerness to discuss these initiatives further during the upcoming facilities tour scheduled for Board members following the meeting.

Finally, Ms. Romer provided an update on Wayne State Dining, which is now branded as the 313 Dining Company, managed by Aramark. The rebranding has been positively received, with a focus on addressing previous concerns. New initiatives include an allergen-free station in Towers Cafe, improved labeling for allergens, Halal, and Kosher foods. A station in Towers is Halal certified, and efforts are underway to introduce more affordable, cost-effective, and tasty point-of-sale operations. The partnership with Aramark is aimed at providing the best dining solutions for students.

#### **Division of Research Awards Report Quarter 3 - FY2023**

#### **New Research Awards Over \$100,000 April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023**

Interim VP Stemmler highlighted the significance of recent grants at the university, emphasizing the impact of technologies like MRI in enabling researchers to secure major grants. Specifically, Dr. Hillary Mazurek received a \$3.2 million grant and is noted as a major user of MRI technology, showcasing the positive returns on investment in such advanced research tools.

## Government and Community Affairs Report

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Vice President Lindsay acknowledged the appointment of two board members, Governor Stancato and Governor Land, who are serving as co-chairs of the Michigan Grow Together Council. Additionally, he noted several work group appointments, including Dr. Ahmad Ezzeddine, Governor Barnhill, and Emily Thompson. He briefly discussed the potential impact of a federal government shutdown, should one occur, on the university. Lastly, he noted the passing of longtime California Senator Dianne Feinstein.

### Economic Development

VP Staebler advised that the upcoming Detroit Celebration of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or "Toast of the Town," is scheduled for Thursday, October 5th, at the I2C building. The event will feature the Salute Awards and showcase 37 companies with cool technologies. President Espy is expected to make remarks, and he looks forward to seeing everyone at the event.

### Development and Alumni Affairs Report

Vice President Ripple reported that he is very pleased with the Division's achievements this year, and advised that a new position has been created within the Division, the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Culture. A successful search was conducted, resulting in the appointment of Dr. Raymond Griffin, who will start the following week.. The new role is expected to enhance communication and engagement with diverse alumni, contributing to the growth of philanthropy and partnerships.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENTS

Vice President Ripple 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 by Governor Land and supported by Governor Stancato, the Board of Governors established endowment funds that total \$6,885,168.58, for the purposes presented:

1. The Marianne Brandt Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students financing their education in the College of Education. **\$25,000**
2. The Peter D. Cummings and Julie F. Cummings Endowed Support Fund to provide support for the Levin Center at Wayne Law. **\$100,000**
3. The Walter N. & Kathleen A. Humann Family Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students financing their education in the Mike Ilitch School of Business. **\$60,000**

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4. The George R. Husband Endowed Professorship in the Accounting Department in the Mike Ilitch School of Business to recognize faculty scholarly achievement and support the scholarly activities of the holder of this endowed professorship. **\$361,584.29**
  5. The George R. Husband Endowed Scholarship in the College of Engineering. to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students financing their education in the Accounting Program in the Mike Ilitch School of Business. **\$361,584.29**
  6. The Josen Family Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students financing their education in the School of Medicine. **\$25,000**
  7. The Mary Lou Kouba. Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students financing their education in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **\$200,000**
  8. The Dominic L. Marsalese, M.D. and Audrey C. Marsalese Endowed Scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students financing their education in the School of Medicine. **\$25,000**
  9. The Craig and Shari Morgan Student Design Biomedical Engineering Endowed Support Fund to provide support for the Student design Program in the Biomedical Engineering Department in the College of Engineering. **\$127,000**
  10. The Carl R. Johnson Organic Syntheses Endowed Lectureship to support scholarly lectures in the Department of Chemistry at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **\$50,000**
  11. The Ruth F. Ratner Endowed Support Fund to provide support for the University Art Collection. **\$100,000**
  12. The Eugene J. Secor College of Engineering Cooperative Program Endowed Support Fund to provide support for the Cooperative Program in the College of Engineering. **\$500,000**
  13. The Tanghe Family Endowed Scholarship in the College of Engineering. to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students financing their education in the Accounting Program in the Mike Ilitch School of Business. **\$25,000**
  14. The John D. Ferguson & Tamara Van Den Bergh Ferguson Endowed scholarship is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress, and provide assistance to students financing their education at Wayne State University. **\$5,000,000**

15. Frank and Bernice Winkler Engineering Co-Op Internship Endowed Fund provide aid to students financing their education in the College of Engineering's Career Services Co-Op/Internship Program. \$25,000

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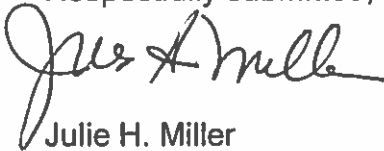
**DISSOLUTION OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Busuito, the Board of Governors dissolved the George R. Husband Endowed Memorial Fund in the Mike Ilitch School of Business, as presented. The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors