



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

October 24, 2024

Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by President Espy in the Meijer Auditorium at the Grand Rapids Public Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

President Espy began with opening comments about both the pride the university has in being such an integral part of Detroit, and the importance of Grand Rapids and the western Michigan region, where so many WSU alumni reside. Today's meeting provides an opportunity to connect with community partners, local leaders and potential students, and President Espy extended a special thank you to Governor Land for her invitation and support of this visit.

Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present, with the following Board members in attendance:

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

Also Present: Provost Clabo, Vice Presidents Gielczyk, Lindsey, Obasi, Poterala, Ripple, and Staebler, Chief of Staff Smiley, Senior Vice Provosts Baltes and Ezzeddine, Vice Provosts Cotton, Ellis, and Interim Vice Provost Padgett, Associate Vice Presidents Davenport and Hafner, Director Wallace, and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

President Espy asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which includes the following items:

From the Board

- A. Approval of the Official Proceedings of September 13, 2024

From Academic and Student Affairs

- B. Establishment of a New Program for the Master of Arts in Teaching with a Major in Early Childhood Education
- C. Establishment of a New Program for the Master of Arts in Teaching with a Major in Middle Childhood Education
- D. Establishment of a New Program for the Master of Arts in Teaching with a Major in Multi-Age Childhood Education
- E. Discontinuance of the Pediatric Anesthesia Graduate Certificate
- F. Discontinuance of the Master of Education in Educational Psychology

- G. Change in the Principal Requirements for Earning a Doctor of Philosophy Degree
From Budget and Finance
- H. Contingency Reserve Transfer
- I. Law School Building Planning and Design
- J. Audiology Clinic Move
- K. Sale of Siemens Magnetom Verio MRI System

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

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no questions on the personnel recommendations, which were approved with the following action:

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Land, the Board of Governors approved the personnel recommendations for tenure, promotion to full professor and administrative appointments as submitted. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The following action was taken on the establishment of endowment funds:

ACTION: Upon motion by Governor Barnhill and supported by Governor Busuito, the Board of Governors established endowment funds that totaled \$1,008,000, for the purposes presented. The motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Espy called on the committee chairs for their reports:

Health Affairs Research and Economic Development Committee

Governor Busuito reported on the inaugural meeting of this committee, which provides a venue for discussion on critical areas of the university. The agenda included two presentations. Taunya Phillips, Assistant Vice President for Technology Commercialization, provided an overview of technology commercialization at the university and within the Michigan innovation ecosystem. She also provided details and background of a contract with faculty member Mark Hüttemann that the Board will consider later in the meeting. Ned Staebler, Vice President for Economic Development, introduced Wayne OPEN, a new initiative that aims to connect university stakeholders with external partners, offering a concierge-like experience. One of its initial successes is a memorandum of understanding with Michigan Central, to collaborate on 29 areas of mutual interest as its first university partner.

President Espy then called for a motion to approve the following contract:

University Contract to License Technology to a Company Owned by a School of Medicine Faculty Member

- i) The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, and Mitovation, Inc. The University of Michigan Board of Regents approved this transaction on September 19, 2024.
- ii) The contract will include the following provisions:
 - a. Scope: Exclusive, worldwide license with the right to grant sublicenses;
 - b. Field of Use: Production of medical devices for cardiac monitoring, respiratory monitoring, or cardiac and respiratory monitoring;
 - c. Duration: for the life of any patents on the University's licensed intellectual property or ten years following the first commercial sale of products utilizing the University's licensed intellectual property, whichever is later;
 - d. Other terms:
 - i. License issue fee;
 - ii. Licensee obligation to reimburse past and future patent expenses;
 - iii. Royalty on net revenue for licensed sales;
 - iv. Milestone fees
 - e. No University facilities or services of the University are included in the contract; and
 - f. No University employees are assigned in connection with the contract.
- iii) Current university employee Dr. Maik Hüttemann and former university employee Thomas Sanderson have a pecuniary interest in the license agreement as partial owners of Mitovation, Inc., and will therefore have the potential to financially benefit from the commercial success of the company, including the commercialization of the University's intellectual property described above.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kumar and supported by Governor Busuito, the Board of Governors authorized the President or her designee to contract with Mitovation, Inc., to enter into an exclusive license for the commercialization of intellectual property related to administration of light for therapeutic applications. The motion carried with the following roll-call vote:

Danielle Atkinson - Y
Bryan Barnhill - Y
Michael Busuito - Y
Mark Gaffney - Y

Marilyn Kelly - Y
Anil Kumar - Y
Terri Lynn Land - Y
Shirley Stancato - Y

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Governor Stancato reported that the committee reviewed and approved six recommendations, three of which were necessitated by grade band certification changes made by the Michigan Department of Education discussed earlier this year. Other changes included a proposal to change the principal requirements for earning a PhD,

reducing the number of dissertation credit hours to bring Wayne State's programs more in line with the industry standard. The committee also received an update from Provost Clabo and Charles Cotton, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment, on master's enrollment issues and enrollment and recruiting strategies. This included a discussion on the data for students admitted to college but choosing not to attend. The master's update included demographic data on age, race, ethnicity and domestic and international student enrollment, and a list of the colleges showing the largest increase in master's students.

Budget and Finance Committee

Governor Barnhill advised that the agenda included several reports and actions on capital expenditures. Funds were authorized for planning and design of the new Law School building and the move of the Audiology clinic, and a sale of surplus equipment was approved. Reports included a budget update delineating budget to actual expenditures, the summary of major capital projects, and the purchasing exceptions report.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Governor Stancato brought forward a recommendation from the Executive Committee on a change to presidential compensation, which follows the Board's annual review of the President's performance for the preceding year. Governor Stancato highlighted many of President Espy's accomplishments during her first year in office, and advised that she has proven to be a strong leader, assessing institutional, financial and academic needs, and solidifying partnerships with the community, city and state. In recognition of her service and achievements, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors recommended compensation changes which are outlined in the following Board action:

ACTION: Under the terms of the President's employment agreement with the University, she received an automatic 3% compensation increase on August 1 2024. Upon motion by Governor Barnhill, and supported by Governor Busuito, the Board of Governors approved the Executive Committee's recommendation for an additional 4% increase (above the 3% previously received) in annual base compensation, effective August 1, 2024. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS OF UNIVERSITY REPORT

President Espy provided highlights on a number of the university's recent activities and achievements, which included the following:

- Congratulations are extended to Governor Atkinson, who was awarded the Women's Official Network's Wonder Woman Award for her work with Mothering Justice;
- A number of faculty members were highlighted for their excellence and impact, including Cynthera McNeill, who received a \$600,000 award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to advance equity;
- Professor Jorge Chinaea was honored as a game changer by Ilitch Sports and Entertainment and Comerica Bank for his community impact;

- Wayne State has been recognized as one of the nation's top 100 public universities, and ranked 62 in social mobility;
- Chief Anthony Holt, head of the WSU Police department, received the Community Pillar Award for outstanding service from Detroit's Rescue Mission;
- TechTown is celebrating 20 years of impact. Over this period, TechTown has supported more than 6000 businesses and entrepreneurs, created 2200 jobs and generating more than \$400 million in capital;
- The university has engaged in a number of new partnerships, including collaborations with the Detroit City Football Club and Ilitch Sports and Entertainment, to support Warrior Athletics;
- In terms of civic engagement, Wayne State is competing in the 2024 campus voter registration challenge and is actively engaging with alumni across the country.

SPECIAL TOPIC PRESENTATION: STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: TEACHING AND LEARNING

Provost Clabo was introduced for a presentation on the Teaching and Learning aspect of the university's Strategic Plan. The strategic plan presentations provide a review and critical analysis of the university's progress in reaching its goals.

Provost Clabo began by providing context for the metrics being presented, and advised that the university has made much progress and faced a number of challenges in improving student success over the past 14 years. At the forefront of the positive changes are significant improvements in graduation rates, time to degree and in student retention. She added that these areas require further work, particularly in closing the graduation rate gap between different racial and ethnic groups.

The Provost provided key charts with metrics outlining progress in graduation rates and enrollment and retention for both the university, and its peer institutions. Additional slides provided key demographic data for the university's 24,000 students on a number of measures including the percentage of full-time (79%), transfer students (31%) and adult learners (15%). 42% are first generation students, and 49% come from Pell-eligible households.

Other key points:

- Wayne State has seen a notable increase in six-year graduation rates, particularly among Black or African American students, whose rates have improved by 4.3% compared to a decline among peer institutions. However, there remains a significant gap between the graduation rates of white students and those of Black or African American, Hispanic, and multi-racial students.
- The university has experienced a slight decline in total enrollment, but it is less than the decline seen at peer institutions. Graduate enrollment has shown a positive trend this year, reversing an eight-year decline.

- First and second -year retention rates have remained steady, with Wayne State performing on par with peer institutions. However, retention rates for Black or African American, Hispanic and multi-racial students lag behind those of white and Asian students.
- Additional charts provided context on the number of degrees awarded for the past 7 years for WSU as compared to its peers. While these numbers remain stable, 2023 showed a slight drop-off from the previous year.
- A key metric continues to be improvement in graduation rates, and reduction in time to degree.

The university is reviewing implementation of new efforts for targeted interventions to improve student success among specific populations, drawing on national best practices and predictive analytics. The goal is to narrow the graduation rate gap and ensure that all students have equal opportunities to succeed. A question was raised on whether the university has allocated sufficient resources for implementation of these initiatives. Provost Clabo advised that while resources are always welcomed, specific needs will be more apparent once they have completed their reviews and developed implementation plans.


The committee also discussed the student debt ratio, the factors that impact it, and the potential of adding financial literacy programs to the college experience. Key offsets remain the availability of financial aid, and the 4-year graduation rate, which impact the social mobility factors previously discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning the meeting, President Espy extended her thanks to the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and its staff, who hosted this off-site meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors