



## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

September 13, 2024

### Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by President Espy in the Student Center Ballroom. Attendees were cautioned about disruption.

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 Clabo, Vice Presidents Gielczyk, Lindsey, Obasi, Poterala, Ripple, and Schweitzer, Chief of Staff Smiley, Senior Vice Provosts Baltes and Ezzeddine, Vice Provosts Cotton, Ellis, and Gardner, Interim Vice Provost Padgett, Acting Vice President Thompson, Associate Vice Presidents Davenport and Hafner, Assistant Vice President Phillips, Director Wallace, and Secretary Mille

### APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

#### *From the Board Meeting*

- A. Approval of the Official Proceedings of June 26, 2024
- B. Approval of the Revised 2024-2025 Schedule of Meetings

#### *From Academic Affairs*

- C. Establishment of a New Program for the Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Early Childhood Education
- D. Establishment of a New Program for the Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Middle Childhood Education
- E. Establishment of a New Program for the Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Multi-Age Childhood Education
- F. Change in the Name of the Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Early and Elementary Education to Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Elementary Education
- G. Change the Name of the Master of Arts in Teaching with a Major in Early and Elementary to Master of Arts in Teaching with a Major in Early and Elementary Education

*From Budget & Finance*

- H. Undergraduate Library (UGL) - Phase 2 Student Success Hub
- I. Kresge Eye Institute Laboratories Move to C.S. Mott
- J. State Hall Renovation - Fund Source Swap

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

**RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

The Board next ratified actions taken since the last Board meeting with the following motion:

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Barnhill and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors ratified actions (1) approving spending to design, solicit bids, and award contracts to continue the renovation of the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center portion of the Hilberry Gateway Performance Complex, and (2) approving the appointment of Bethany Gielczyk as the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer, taken by the Board on August 16, 2024. The effective date of this appointment was August 16, 2024. The motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP****CONFLICT OF INTEREST CONTRACTS**

Vice President Obasi presented four contracts for approval with companies owned or partially owned by a Wayne State employee. 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 vote 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.

***University Subaward from a Company Which is Partially Owned By A College Of Engineering Faculty Member***

- i) The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University and Signal-Wise, LLC
- ii) The contract will provide:
  - a. Scope: Test facilities and equipment at the Acoustics, Vibration, and Noise control (AVNC) Laboratory in the College of Engineering at Wayne State University will carry out the R&D activities required by the NSF STTR Phase I project.
  - b. Duration: The contract will have an initial term of twelve (12) months, with an estimated start date of May 1, 2024.
  - c. The place used to execute these experiments will be the AVNC Laboratory through the research team led by Dr. Sean F. Wu, distinguished professor of mechanical engineering at Wayne State University.
- iii) The pecuniary interest is based on Professor Wu's ownership of Signal-Wise, LLC. Professor Wu's share of Signal-Wise, LLC is 100%. Dr. Wu will therefore have the potential to financially benefit from the commercial success of the company. Dr. Wu has filed a Financial Conflict of Interest with the Office of Research Integrity.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Governor Kumar, supported by Governor Stancato, the Board of Governors authorized the president or her designee to contract with Signal-Wise, LLC to further develop intellectual property F-VAC (Forced-Vibracoustic Component) Analysis. This contract will be to perform services under a National Science Foundation Small Business Technology Transfer Program Phase entitled, "Aland Laser-assisted Targeted Noise Control." 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

***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 and Boritran, Inc.
- ii) The contract will provide:
  - a. Scope: An option to acquire an exclusive, worldwide royalty bearing license.

- b. Duration: The term of the option shall be for twelve (12) months with the opportunity to extend for a further period of twelve (12) months upon payment of additional consideration.
- c. Financial Consideration: An option fee of \$4,000. The previous action involving 20-1588, had an option fee of \$2,000.
- d. No university facilities or services of the university are included in the contract; and
- e. No university employees are assigned in connection with the contract.
- iii) Dr. Jack Sobel's pecuniary interest consists of a current fifty percent (50%) ownership of Boritran, Inc. Dr. Sobel will therefore have the potential to financially benefit from the commercial success of the company. Dr. Sobel has filed a Financial Conflict of Interest with the Office of Research Integrity.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Governor Land, supported by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors authorized the President or her designee to enter into a contract with Boritran, Inc., a Michigan Limited Liability Corporation, for an option for an exclusive license for commercialization of the intellectual property encompassing the development of a diagnostic entitled "Vaginal Microbiome Snapshot (VMS)," and a potential therapeutic through the creation of combination vaginal ovule containing 750 mg metronidazole and 600 mg boric acid for treatment of bacterial vaginosis. 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

***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 and NCNS Therapeutics, LLC.
- ii) The contract will provide that:
  - a. Scope: An option to acquire an exclusive, worldwide royalty bearing license.
  - b. Duration: The term of the option shall be for twelve (12) months with the opportunity to extend for a further period of twelve (12) months upon payment of additional consideration.
  - c. Financial Consideration: An initial option fee of \$2,000.
  - d. No University employees are assigned in connection with the licensing contract
- iii) Dr. Dutta's pecuniary interest consists of a current one hundred percent (100%) ownership of NCNS Therapeutics, LLC. Dr. Dutta will therefore have the potential to financially benefit from the commercial success of the company. Dr. Dutta has filed a Financial Conflict of Interest with the Office of Research Integrity.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Governor Kumar, supported by Governor Land, the Board of Governors authorized the President or her designee to enter into an option with NCNS Therapeutics, LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability corporation, for an exclusive option for an exclusive license for commercialization of the intellectual property encompassing the developing of a therapeutic to treat neurodegenerative disease. 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

***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 and Ripple Biosciences, LLC.
- ii) The contract will provide that:
  - a. Scope: An option to acquire an exclusive, worldwide royalty bearing license.
  - b. Duration: The term of the option shall be for twelve (12) months with the opportunity to extend for a further period of twelve (12) months upon payment of additional consideration.
  - c. Financial Consideration: An option fee of \$3,000.
  - d. No university facilities or services of the university are included in the contract; and
  - e. No university employees are assigned in connection with the contract.
- iii) Dr. J. Richard Pilsner's pecuniary interest as the sole member of the LLC consists of a current one hundred percent (100%) ownership of Ripple Biosciences, LLC. Dr. Pilsner will therefore have the potential to financially benefit from the commercial success of the company. Dr. Pilsner has filed a Financial Conflict of Interest with the Office of Research Integrity.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Governor Kumar, supported by Governor Land, the Board of Governors authorized the President or her designee to enter into a contract with Ripple Biosciences, LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Corporation, for an option for an exclusive license for commercialization of the intellectual property encompassing the development of a diagnostic entitled "Sperm Epigenetic Aging Predicts Reproductive Outcomes." The proprietary technology and associated trade secrets describe an epigenetic clock (i.e., biological aging) for sperm that is associated with time-to-pregnancy (TTP) among couples trying to conceive. The 'clock' is also associated with gestational age, current smoking and phthalate exposure - indoor pollutants - and can assist in directing treatments. 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

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

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

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Land, supported by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors established endowment funds that totaled \$3,761,111.37, for the purposes presented. The motion carried.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Espy called on the committee chairs for their reports.

### ***Academic & Student Affairs Committee***

Governor Stancato advised that the committee met earlier today to review and approve five recommendations from the College of Education and received an interesting and informative look at the student body in a presentation from Provost Clabo and Charles Cotton, Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment. The recommendations included program modifications made due to grade band certification changes implemented by the Michigan Department of Education. The presentation covered the current student body, noting a rise in enrollment to over 24,000 students and a significant increase in master's students. Vice Provost Cotton discussed the flat tuition rate's impact, demographics of first-time students, and potential recruitment areas for the future.

### ***Budget And Finance Committee***

Governor Barnhill reported that the Budget & Finance Committee discussed three main action items: the construction of the second phase of the Student Success hub in the Undergraduate Library, relocating the Kresge Eye Institute laboratories to university-owned space in the Mott Center, and a fund swap in bond proceeds supporting the State Hall renovation project. Additionally, the committee received standard informational reports, reviewing purchasing exceptions and capital projects.

### ***Personnel Committee***

Governor Gaffney reported that the Personnel Committee received updates on faculty affairs and DEI efforts. Boris Baltes, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Personnel, discussed tenure track hiring, equity initiatives and contract negotiations. Professor Pramod Khosla, who served as the chief negotiator for the AAUP, offered his perspectives about the negotiations, which he thought were a great success. Interim Associate Provost Donyale Padgett outlined four strategic DEI areas, including a culture and climate survey, and education and training efforts. Chief HR Director, Carolyn Hafner,

provided an update on ongoing union contract negotiations, and SVP Bethany Gielczyk provided a brief update on a current HR review by the Accenture consulting group.

## **BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Governor Stancato focused her comments on events and activities that Wayne State University is involved in beyond its campus, which highlight its positive impact on Detroit. She advised that a representative from WSU attended a Detroit PAL breakfast, which celebrated women in sports, and featured a panel of female leaders in Detroit's sports industry. Erika Wallace, WSU's Athletic Director, was among the panelists, showcasing the university's engagement in empowering young girls through sports. WSU's School of Social Work collaborates with the Michigan Humane Society to assist low-income individuals who use Gleaners Food Pantry. The program addresses various needs, including those related to pets, demonstrating the university's commitment to community welfare. Governor Stancato also spoke about Inside Out Literary Arts and the Coleman Young Foundation. WSU partners with Inside Out Literary Arts to inspire young writers, and it has a significant presence in the Coleman Young Foundation, which provides scholarships. These efforts, and many more, highlight Wayne State's role in supporting educational and creative initiatives in Detroit.

## **PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS OF UNIVERSITY REPORT**

President Espy provided highlights on various aspects of the university's recent activities and achievements, which included the following.

- The Fall Semester began with an outstanding opening celebration, the Festifall, which featured more than 350 information tables informing students and the community about programs and engagement opportunities on campus.
- The university is seeing an increase in student enrollment, due in large part to its outstanding faculty, programs and the campus environment,
- The university welcomed more than 60 new faculty members this semester, including 33 who are on the tenure track. A new website has been developed, showcasing their interests and their departments.
- Research by Wayne State faculty continues to grow. Faculty have received significant grants and awards for research, including a \$4 million grant from The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service (SAMHSA) and a \$1 million congressionally directed project for computing infrastructure.
- The university has received substantial investments from both the federal government and the state of Michigan, including a \$4 million center for healthcare workforce development.
- Wayne State continues to engage with its community and alumni, and several partnerships were highlighted with leaders in various sectors and celebrating their contributions.
- Finally, looking forward, the university is hosting numerous events, including music, theater, and sports activities, encouraging community participation and support.

President Espy concluded her report, and encouraged members of the Board and the university community to attend upcoming sporting and college events, advising that it is a very exciting time to be at Wayne State University.

### **SPECIAL TOPIC PRESENTATION: Introduction to New Leaders and New Roles**

Over the past several months, the university has been fortunate to fill a number of key leadership positions with a cadre of talented individuals, including two individuals currently at the university who have taken on new roles. President Espy invited each of them to provide a brief background on their experience and focus as they assume these roles:

*Dr. Ahmad Ezzeddine* is a long-time member of the university, now serving as the Senior Vice Provost for Partnerships, Workforce, and International Initiatives. He started his Wayne State journey in 1989, as an international transfer student and has had various leadership roles since then. In his new role, he focuses on the College to Career initiative, international programs, and partnerships with community colleges.

*Dr. Charles Cotton* serves as Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment. He is a first-generation college student, and is very excited about improving enrollment processes at the university. He highlighted the importance of personalized communication with prospective students and the need for timely and effective communication. He also commented on the university's commitment to student success and the nimble team within enrollment management that will focus on these efforts.

*Dr. Darryl Gardner* is the Vice Provost for Student Success, Support and Engagement, and has a long-standing association with the university. He spoke of his plans to enhance student success and support services, and briefed the Board on his plans to create a new Academic Support Unit. He also discussed the importance of leveraging data for proactive support and the need to reimagine academic advising. He is a life-long Detroit, and a 3-time alumnus of Wayne State University.

*Lynsey Crum* is the new Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations. She outlined her background and her vision of building an active alumni network that supports students' academic and career success. She emphasized the importance of public higher education and the impact of an active alumni network. She has begun meeting with deans, campus partners and alumni in support of this vision.

*Taunya Phillips* serves as the Assistant Vice President for Technology Commercialization. She has a strong background in academic technology transfer and discussed her plans to drive WSU's innovations for social and economic impact. Her vision is one of a high-functioning, efficient and collaborative office that supports faculty and engages with industry.



**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Information on Public Comment can be found in Appendix I.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie H. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors

## I. APPENDIX - PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Stancato provided opening comments to introduce the Public Comment portion of the agenda:

Public comment is a very important part of every meeting of this board. The board welcomes the opportunity to hear from students, faculty, staff and all in our broader campus community. We encourage this input that helps to inform our understanding of issues of concern to all of us.

In keeping with this commitment, earlier this year, we expanded the board's ability to receive and consider public comment through a new portal. The portal enables individuals to submit written and video comments which are shared with the board, in addition to the comments provided directly in today's session. We plan to continue to utilize this portal in advance of future meetings, so that we can harness technology to hear from as many members of the community as possible on a wide range of topics of interest. As stated in previous meetings. The purpose of this public comment session is for members of our community to share their perspectives with the board, not for interactive dialog. Please know we're listening to your remarks, reading your materials, and taking your perspective into consideration.

President Espy reviewed the process that will be followed, and advised that 15 speakers registered to speak by the deadline, and advised that the Board will be adhering strictly to the 3-minute time limit for statements. The speakers and their statements follow below.

### **NUZMEYA ABDRABBOH**

Hello everybody. Thank you guys all for taking the time for us to come and speak here. This is the time where your constituents, where your students, can come and speak to you, and it's really important that we're all, you're right. We're not engaging in dialog. We're here to present a concern, and it's very serious concerns. So before I start, I just want to go over, are we all familiar with the Wayne State mission values and the like the values and the mission statement of Wayne State University? I'm sure you guys, are you guys? Are you guys all know. So the Wayne State mission, mission values, the mission statement. We all are choosing to abide by collaboration, integrity, innovation, excellence, diversity, diversity and inclusion and leadership. So all of these things us as students, we've agreed to abide by them. You guys have agreed to abide by them, right? Some of you may have even had been input on what exactly it says on the website, right? All of you guys know what it says. You guys all understand it. And us as students, we are what we're hoping to see the university also abide by those values. Also abide by the mission statement that you guys put on the website. All of us look towards that when we say, we're making a decision, we're looking at something at Wayne State University. How does it align with the with the mission, values and the statement that this school has chosen to present for all of us? My name is Nuzmeya Abdrabboh. I'm a student at Wayne State University, and as a student, I'm concerned. I'm concerned that this university that's known for its commitment and academic excellence and social responsibility and ethical

standards, they are being violated. They're being violated with a critical issue, and we're one thing we're looking at is the investment portfolio. You guys know why I'm here. You guys know we've been coming to the Board of Governors meetings. You likely know many of us by name. Likely many of us have tried to reach out to you. I've tried to speak with you guys. You know who we are. You know why we're here. And I could sit here and talk about how I'm Palestinian, and my friends are Palestinian, and how they have family in Palestine, and I have family in Palestine, but I've realized that the past couple meetings, that doesn't really work. All of you guys, I'm not sure if it's not really, you're not understanding that we have had family members murdered or killed, but it's not really, it's not the approach that I think that you guys are willing to take. So you know what? It's okay. We're willing to look at a different route. I'm willing to set the deaths of our family members aside for one second to look you guys and speak that. How can we directly, how can we make this work?

One of your investments is Boeing. Boeing is a convicted felon. As of today, right now, the company Boeing is a convicted felon. It's the third largest military company, and it has felony charges. How does a felony, how does a company convicted of a felony agree with the values that you guys have set aside for us? How does investing in a company that has violated international law, humanitarian rights? How does it align with, with the mission value that you guys put to us. We're agreed to abide by them. How does this company abide by your guys' rights? The Department of Justice has convicted Boeing and all with their air 737 Max plane has killed over 300 people. 300 people are dead. This company is not only violating rights, but it is an un American company. This company is something that we have looked into, and we realized it's an unethical company. The presence of this company directly violates what you guys have put towards to us. You've all agreed we're going to be ethical. We're going to take a stand. We are going to say that we are valuing collaboration. So when I asked to speak with you guys and to meet with you guys, why has nobody taken a step towards that. I respect every single one of you guys. I respect the values I respect in the mission statement, I respect what this university has said that I need to agree to. Why don't you guys just want to meet with us? Collaboration and 24,000 students. President Espy, you said, 24,000 students. You said, students want to come to Wayne State University. I know for a fact students are terrified of Islamophobia on this campus. I know for a fact. [Ms. Abdrabboh advised allotted time had elapsed). I know for a fact you are terrified of unethical ways that this university has brought towards dealing with the students on this campus. I've said multiple times that we want to speak with you. We want to talk with you guys. We are willing. We've had an outside group review the investments at Wayne State University, and we know this group has looked into how we can directly change the investment into this community all Detroit. Detroit, community we are now willing. We presented we have a proposal for you guys. How can we turn the investments into unethical companies violating international law and humanitarian rights, and how can we invest into the Detroit community? You guys all us, all agree. Agree. Detroit is a diverse community that needs our help. How can we actively do that. We're standing on stolen land right now, and we're willing to sit with you guys and collaborate on how we can work towards a better community. And it seems like you guys don't want, we want to meet with the students. I'll end with this. I know I went over the time. I know I hear we went over the time. I think the mic was just turned on. Like we're

willing to meet with you guys. I'm willing to meet with you guys, any of you who want to discuss any proposal or after

### **EMMA STAMP**

Detroit is the blackest city in America, and you do nothing for your black students. That's why their enrollment and graduation rates are dropping. That's why you feel like you can use the word blacks to describe them. This isn't a white city, but it feels like a sundown town to minorities on campus, and you encourage that with your over policing and over surveillance. I know you're not from here Espy, so you don't know about our roots, but you should know, because it mirrors the rest of the country. It's the same social structure that keeps the richer power in the middle class drinking something that you're guilty of maintaining to the upper middle class. I'm not sure what a neuropsychologist knows about our history, but as someone from here pursuing four degrees from this institution, I'd like to enlighten you. The e Native Land Acknowledgement means nothing if we're just going to name Wayne County, Wayne State and Anthony Wayne drive after the man responsible for genocide and the forced relocation of Natives. Do you feel pride in keeping up with the colonizing traditions? You shouldn't maintain the status quo will one day harm your children's children, because this is a class issue, and you are used the same playbook to divide us that has been used for centuries. The carefully curated words you use only comes out when someone else pulls a string, misleading and reframing everything to exercise control. Your focus as president are just buzzwords. One of your focuses is on social mobility, but you raise tuition, and another is on diversity, equity and inclusion, yet you're over policing campus because of your fears over tiny Palestinian girls who has judged you feel you must snatch off to feel safe. You ignored every Arab at Festi-Fall. You don't need bodyguards. Islam is a peaceful religion. Our students need protection from you. You're not the president of the US. You're meant to be accessible. I was appalled that you raised my tuition so you could hand out cookies and legal pads at Festi-Fall. How many people couldn't afford to enroll this semester so you could have a little bit of promo and more police on campus. You have a huge focus on community engagement and research, just not when it comes to protesting or researching youth. So maybe do all these things you say you say you want to do at the university, and divest in killing babies by instead investing in the community. Invest in indigenous, minority owned companies right here in Detroit. Supporting the minority owned businesses will drive customer loyalty and brand reputation, leading to a greater profitability in the long run. Not to mention these businesses often qualify for federal or state support, so you will have government backed initiatives and programs. This is what you can accomplish if you do the right thing. Job creation and workforce development, local wealth retention, leading to community and infrastructure development and innovation that encourages entrepreneurship. This will reduce economic inequality. But something tells me you don't want that. You have the power to make it happen, but you will go down in the history as a silly goose. Your legacy tarnished because people put you in power and it crashed on it. While I'm here, I'd like to address the last BOG meeting where we heard lies and run arounds and SJP would now like to formally request a copy of that video, since you removed it from YouTube. Here are the rest of our demands, divestment from companies complicit in apartheid, full disclosure of investments, cease delegation trips to Israel and recommit to diversity, ensuring nonviolence and accountability for Wayne State University actions, amnesty, a cease fire statement, just like Detroit did, committing for a code of

conduct Board of Governors, obligatory responses. SJP won the Spirit of Detroit award. what are you going to do what..[time elapsed]

### **PAIGE SIMARD**

Hi, I'm Paige. I'm here to address you today regarding the repression and violence you have perpetrated against your students and the violence that you have allowed to happen in this university's name. There are now at least 186,000 Palestinians dead and countless more missing from the past year of genocide in Gaza. We, the students, have used the proper channels and passed student resolutions asking you to end our school's complicity in this slaughter. We have begged you to divest. We have pleaded for you to call for a ceasefire. We have peacefully protested and made demands. We have shown you images of dead babies killed by the bombs your investments supply. But rather than act accordingly and by the will of your student body, you choose to order the police to surveil, assault, and arrest us. You, the Wayne State Board of Governors, continue to side with oppression and allow armed officers to revoke us of our freedoms and deny us of our rights. You order this to happen, and in the face of their violence towards us, you remain silent, you sit and watch expressionless as they brutalize us, telling us we are wrong for taking a stand against genocide. How is it you can still believe that we are the violent ones, that we present a danger? You would rather side with police than your own students who you're supposed to represent. Police who are part of a system founded on catching runaway slaves. Police who account for disproportionately high rates of domestic violence in their own households. Police who do not keep people safe or stop crime or stop school shootings. Police who are responsible for murdering innocent black and indigenous Americans at higher and higher rates every single year. Police who take our money to fund themselves and leave us without health care or housing or education. Police who here at Wayne State, have ties with the genocidal apartheid occupation of Israel. This is the choice you gleefully continue to make, as you claim Wayne State prepares a diverse student body to thrive and positively impacts local and global communities. Tell me what positive impact are you making when your returns on investments are beheaded babies and assaulted students. Are your Muslim students and students of color thriving with high police presence here. You could easily and immediately take action on the Student Senate Resolution which advocates for student safety regarding WSU police. You could easily vote for divestment and make history. You could easily do all of these things, and you don't. And for that, I say shame on you, shame on your greed, your ignorance, your racism and Zionism. Your willingness to do nothing. History will remember you as powers and criminals, if it remembers you at all. The students are leading the way to justice, and you have yet to answer the call. Stop police violence on campus and stop investing in violence across the world.

### **LEJLA BAJGORIC**

My name is Lejla Bajgoric. I'm a new graduate student in Wayne State's History department, and I have to share that the biggest factor that caused me grief and doubt when deciding if I wanted to return to Wayne State this year is the fact that the Board of Governors still has not divested from companies that are profiting from war, genocide and the decimation of Palestinian life. In 2003 Wayne State was the first university in the country whose student body passed a divestment resolution, and 20 years later, the board is still failing to do right by its students, instead prioritizing more profiteering. Even worse,

this summer, you took the decision to brutalize and assault your own students during the progressive encampment movement that provided a clear beacon of morality and hope for all of us who are struggling with the fact that our government, our cultural and our academic institutions are so deeply implicated in the most well documented genocide of our lifetimes. Numerous student bodies and groups, including the Wayne State Graduate Student Senate, have come out in support of the brave pro Palestine student protesters, a new chapter for the faculty and justice for justice, Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine, was just established this year. It is only growing in numbers. No amount of repression is going to squash this movement. It is important to recognize that now. It is only going to propel it to grow even stronger. And I'm here today to add my voice to the growing student body across the country that is demanding that you divest our tuition money and resources of the endowment from the Israeli death machine. Lastly, before I go, I just want to point out some regents here today are representing unions. Some of you are representing feminist and economic justice organizations like Mothering Justice, health care, etc. If you all truly care for the wellbeing of workers, you would extend that solidarity to the workers of Palestine who are facing indiscriminate bombing and starvation by Israeli settlers who are blocking aid trucks, the return of polio in the 21st century. I mean the doctors on here have to care about this right? Because of the unsanitary conditions created by Israel. Or the workers who are being dragged into torture, torture camps with no charges. If we truly care for the dignity of mothers, we would extend that solidarity to the mothers of Palestine who are giving birth via C section, without anesthesia, or the Ethiopian Jewish women who are robbed of motherhood because they've been sterilized against their consent by the Israeli state. There is a deep, deep contradiction in values here. When we purport to care about workers, moms, those in need of care, and we make an exception when it comes to Palestinians. We make an exception when we say we'll still use our tuition money and we will fund the mass death of Palestinian life, workers, moms and all those who are suffering right now. I urge you to please, please listen to your student body expeditiously, and don't delay this any longer.

### JENNIFER MOSS

Good afternoon. My name is Jennifer Sheridan Moss. I'm a professor of Classics in the Language department in Liberal Arts and Sciences. I am also very proud to be a member of the Academy of Teachers. This is the beginning of my 29th year at Wayne State. So probably note to self, stop telling people I'm 29. I'm introducing myself today as the new president of the Wayne academic union that represents 1700 full time faculty and academic professionals. We are the people who carry out the mission of the university. We create and advance knowledge. We prepare our diverse student body to thrive. We positively impact local and global communities. We are Wayne State. I asked the members of my executive board just this morning what they loved about Wayne State, and with enthusiasm, they mentioned the students, their colleagues, and our commitment to the city of Detroit. We're very pleased to have begun this new academic year with a contract that recognizes our fundamental importance to this very important school. Our members, though, still have some concerns. First, it's troubling that our campus has turned into a police state. For decades, we have bragged about the safety of our campus, so why have we added outside security? Instead of feeling safe as we always did, now we feel less safe. Members of the campus community, who are people of color, feel particularly at risk as they consider that there is now an element of surveillance directed

toward them. Let's be clear, the campus is not under attack, and it never was. Please, let's spend this money pursuing our university mission. Second, we were pleased to add a statement of academic freedom to our new contract. Now let's ensure that we give our students the same. I want to share a long-time faculty perspective on student speech. I attended the board meeting in April when some of our students addressed you, as they have today. I know very well that their speech was not terribly welcomed by the board, but as a faculty member, I had a very different reaction. First, I was thrilled to listen to students who cared about the world around them enough to give a speech. So many students are so apathetic, but these students want the world to be a better place. Second, the students were so articulate, we've educated them well. I was proud of them. Honestly, it doesn't matter to me if I agree with the students or not. I'm delighted to see that we are producing active citizens. That is our mission, and since those students are our future, I would suggest that you consider listening to their message and scrutinize the university's investments to be sure that we are not profiting off the death of fellow humans or the planet.

#### **RIDAA KHAN**

Good afternoon. I'm glad to see a substantial police presence around campus today, I see some familiar faces in plain clothes, just an FYI to those in the gallery who might be unaware, and the increased security presence every day really protects students from the seemingly implicit violence their Muslim and Palestinian peers might present. Inviting the community for free food that accommodates all dietary needs near the Spirit Rock every day is unacceptable, but the roaches in the Engineering building are valuable members of our campus community. Let's throw our students in a DPD van for trespassing on their own campus instead. Historically, calling upon law and order during moments of social unrest has been done by those using oppressive tactics and the enemies of justice, who eventually become those who have to act upon the changes demanded by those who are victims of all the repression, violence that that law and order might entail. Violence against antiwar student protesters is not new. However, there was a point in time when universities were publicly funded by the state and were actual educational institutions instead of hedge funds that protect the interests of the state and its capital. All values of the university will remain insincere when the endowment is valued above human life of those who are victims of the US war economy and now even its own students. It's obvious to students, community and especially faculty members that the pockets of the administration are what keeps the school running, and none of us real people associated with the school are valued. I appreciate the condescending information session last meeting, where information that's already publicly available was explained and where people like Governor Barnhill committed to his unethical values by affirming that he wouldn't have divested from tobacco either. The public should also be informed of why investments in war profiting companies are so low risk and hard to retract from an institution when it's run like a business and not a school. Lockheed Martin is the world's largest military company. It manufactures multiple weapon systems that are used in war crimes against civilians and reconnaissance aircraft that are used to monitor the US Mexico border. They get \$67 billion in revenue, and 96% of their revenue derives from the defense sector. This simple fact is contradictory to all the social justice values projected by multiple B O G members and a lot of the statements made here today. We have not forgotten about the use of police against your own students. Your lack of addressing harm

done to students who were arrested and people who are severely disrespected. A hijab was removed by police and even sustained injuries from the excessive use of force speaks louder than the empty platitudes about your commitment to free speech. Activists are not criminals. Stop surveilling us. You have no idea about the students who don't feel comfortable speaking out because of your actions against pro Palestine and pro divestment actions, students have attempted many methods to get those in charge to meet with them, the most urgent being divestment. As long as this administration refuses to according to its own values, have civil discourse face to face with their students. You are not a legitimate administration.

### **SAFIA HANIYA YUSUF**

Good afternoon. I am a med student and an alumna of the class of '23 with a Bachelor's in Public Health. Do I look familiar to you all?. That's because you use my likeness in a brochure for prospective students and school media campaigns for the College of Nursing and the winter 2023 commencement. BOG, I am tired. Do you know why? It's not because I have finals coming up. It's not because I have been knee-deep in anatomy and biochem lectures. It's because you guys like using my face to promote diversity, when you target students who look like me and send out police officers to rip off hijabs, all because they want our institution to be on the right side of history and reflect our student body's values. Shame on you. As an alumna of this university who has had to see our young students being horrifically manhandled by cops that our tuition dollars pay for not one but three separate occasions, I call on the BOG to issue an apology to protesters subjected to police brutality, divest from all entities profiting from the occupation, cease the militarized policing of students and the provision of IOF training and propaganda to WCPD officers, provide full disclosure of investments, made by Wayne State, reaffirm first amendment rights, stop endangering students with rhetoric that conflates protests with destruction and violence, and issue a ceasefire statement. Three months ago, I was shocked by the number of wrapped bodies seen by my gross anatomy lab orientation. This was despite the fact that the cadavers were donated with consent for our medical education. I never thought that I would have to see multiple bodies laid out in one area outside of medical school, or perhaps a morgue. I'm clearly wrong. How painfully ironic? We all know that Detroit Medical College and Wayne State came to be as a result of physicians wanting to improve medical treatment and education in their community. As such, I've heard that the actions that I undertake as a medical student carried great weight. It would then be morally irresponsible for me as a future physician and patient advocate to just sit there in silence while the campus leadership conflates protests and dissent with violence, and protesters standing in the face of genocide are subject to the violence in Detroit, a city that passed a ceasefire resolution. I, as a woman of color and a Muslim medical student, can no longer, in good conscience, be okay with the university using me as one of their diversity tokens while police rip off hijabs of students and infringe upon first amendment rights. To campus leadership, you have made a grave mistake, and you have no idea what you have awakened. And to the brave student activists standing behind me, I am proud of you, so let me know, and as well as other alumni and community members, what we can do to support you. Thank you.



**THOMAS PEDRONI**

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Thomas Pedroni, and I'm an associate professor of curriculum studies in the College of Education. I don't know if most of the people in the room know this, probably most people up here do, but I want to draw your attention to that wall right there. That wall is not the end of the ballroom space. It's a screen. There's more space beyond it, and I know what's behind that wall right now. I don't know if most of you know there are 10 plus police officers in that space right beyond that wall. And this is why I know. Because I was looking for the ballroom. I didn't know where it was, because the meetings have been moving around online to try to avoid people, I guess.

But the custodial staff didn't know either, and so when I said I like to be let into the ballroom, they keyed me in, and I saw there. They can hear my voice right now. There are 10 police officers or more behind that wall in the space of this room right now. And I'd like you to imagine what they're there for. I'd like you to imagine what else they could be used for on campus right now, if there are maybe security issues on campus, they could be dealing with real issues instead of having City Shield there. And what I want to do is I want to draw your attention to the fact that there are two visions of the university and the police behind that wall represent one vision. I want to ask why aren't those police in here? I mean, if they're being utilized, why not have them against the law? Why are they hidden? The reason why they're hidden is because the university wants to maintain a facade of free expression and not repression of that free expression. But believe me, if you were to do something as dangerous as chant and link your arms, I am sure that we'd be seeing them very soon. They're ready to be directed by the gentleman right over there, as you know, right? Now there are two visions of a university. The one is the one that pretends that we're having open, civil discourse, yet has all the police behind the wall. And the other is those of us who really do believe in engagement, in what a research one university is about, especially one as important an area as a Detroit. And in that spirit, many of us are continuing to advance the mission of the university by organizing fora. I have organized a fora, along with many departments across campus and many student organizations for a film series called Voices of Palestine. It was put together, a lot of work. I will be sharing a print copy of that with the rest of the Board of Governors. Last thing real quickly, the endowment industry for higher education is over \$800 billion almost a trillion. [*notified time had elapsed*] We have the power, we have the power as a whole, to move the market and get investment companies to change.

**JENNA MAHMOUD**

Good afternoon. Honestly, you guys don't even deserve the first part of my speech. I just want to direct your attention to one of the investments of this school, that being Caterpillar, Inc. It is literally the epitome of the contradiction of the values of this very university. In Article 26 of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has a right to education, but this university's investments in Caterpillar deprives others of that right. In my village of Masato (SIC) in the southern Hebron Hills, in my uncle's land (SIC), that exact machinery destroyed the only elementary school in that area. You know what that means? That means children are left walking three hours to go to school, three hours to go to school. I'm their cousin, and I'm sitting here begging you to take your, retract your \$5 out of the machinery that deprives my family and my blood of school, of education, of the ability to read, of the ability to write. You guys, who you have the most

amazing people every single time sit here and speak to you and beg you to listen to me. I'm your student. I pay tuition that goes and destroys my cousin's school. My five year old cousin can't read. My five year old cousin can't write. She spends her time walking in 90 degree weather to go to school. And I'm sitting here begging all of you, all of you and whoever's on their phone, you're disrespectful, all of you to listen to me. Your money destroys the people I love's futures and education. They have. They're bright people. They're people who want to study, they want to read, they want to study math, they want to study engineering, they want to become doctors. But you guys are just sitting here acting like you're listening to me, and then next day, you act like I don't even exist. My org, Students for Justice for Palestine, won the Spirit of Detroit award, the city that you're in. You claim to embody the spirit of Detroit, but clearly you guys don't. We're asking for one single thing, to meet with us, sit down and talk, open discourse the way that you guys encourage this rhetoric. But again, you guys don't do it. We're just asking for one meeting, one meeting, and I promise you guys, we're actually the sweetest people alive. Is that it's just, I have to take time out of my day to beg you grown. You guys are all very grown to speak to me. That's it. Thank you.

#### JENNA SUKKAR

Afternoon. My name is Jenna Sukkar. I'm a student here at Wayne State. I'm here today to remind you about the ongoing genocide that has been happening in Gaza over the past 11 months that Wayne State you guys all sitting here are complicit in. Last week was our first day back to school, which was also supposed to be the back to school for the people of Gaza. Because of your complicity in this genocide, you have taken away the right to education from 1000s of people. Not a single school or university remains in Gaza, all having been blown into pieces. Caterpillar, a US, multinational manufacturer of heavy engineering machinery, whose equipment is used in home demolitions. Caterpillar bulldozers have been used to crush homes and humans. One scenario was when Caterpillar bulldozer crushed Rachel Corrie to death. Rachel Corrie was an American student, an American student activist who was protesting in front of the nest Allah (SIC) family's home in Gaza where she was staying. She was speaking through a megaphone, determined to get the bulldozer to stop while wearing an orange construction vest, she expected it to come to a halt, but instead she was crushed to death while children watched in horror through a crack in their garden wall. Caterpillar is one of the many companies that play a vital role with all of you as well in the occupation of Palestine and the ongoing genocide in Gaza. We demand divestment from companies that are complicit in apartheid, full disclosure of investments. Cease delegation trips to Israel and recommit to diversity, ensuring nonviolence and accountability for the WSUPD actions, ceasefire statement, committee for student code of conduct and Board of Governors obligatory responses. There's no riot here. I really don't understand why guys keep sending cops in riot gear. Board of genocide, your hands are red. Divest now.

#### LANA KADI

As-salamu alaykum. My name is Lana Kadi. I'm going to invite you all to look at me in the eye for the next three minutes. All facts public commentators have provided are quite interesting. I mean, I'm wondering, what in the world are arms dealers doing at my university, let alone them being our so called leaders, devoting themselves, and I quote, to one university and is able to work carefully to develop the excellence of that institution.

This is on the Wayne State BOG page. Your words are empty. Your quote, unquote achievements and plans for a better future you spent an hour on are empty. What excellence have we seen besides you all excelling at facade and cowardice? You know you are frauds. You have no right to be up here and act like you aim to attempt for excellence, Espy. You do not care about your jobs. You feel relaxed in your life, lack of truth, control, love, understanding, divine connection, faith, unity with the blood of innocent children, elders, women and men, and it is on your hands. You choose this. You have internalized characteristics from and many, and many have actually become today's Pharaoh, today's Hitler, today's Leopold, today's Stalin. Look at your hands. The blood is oozing everywhere you go, every step you take, I see your papers are stained. Blood is in every stroke of that damn pen. Blood in the very eyes you turn away. You are bleeding. You choose to participate in genocide, in murder, in supporting international law-breaking companies in the brutal slaughter, in perpetuating rape and racism, systems of racism. You have betrayed yourselves and the people whom you're supposed to lead. You are guilty. You are the ones who should be getting arrested. You are the ones who should be being surveilled. You are the ones who are a threat to our safety. You can be as technical as you want, scheme all you want. The Empire is falling. The people in power have failed. You have failed to care for your country, you have failed to care for your community. You have failed to care for your students, your job, your family, your friends, yourself, your soul. You failed. You're dead, but you're dead, but still alive. Your titles mean nothing. Try to redeem yourself. Meet with your students. You are dead yet alive. Do you think you can revive your abandoned and yearning hearts? I do. Meet with your students. There's a light within all of us. You choose to keep it covered with darkness, or you get to clean it up, connect it with your true nature, your light, your love, your mercy, Your light your love, your mercy. Look at me when I'm talking. Your light your love, your mercy. Meet with your students, please.

### ZAYNAH JADALLAH

Hello. There was a letter that was supposed to be sent to the President in response of the resolution. The letter pretty much represents the consensus of the board. Okay, so just like the group that you may have, you may have different views of points of view, opinions. The letter represents pretty much the consensus point of the board on this matter. So unfortunately, world, the board won't be voting as a resolution because there's no support for it. Okay? They said, so sorry. It probably is not the news that you wanted to hear, but I wanted to follow up with you. I said, Thank you so much for that. We actually, what we were saying is, and we're thinking that, you know that it's going to be hard process, a process, to move forward with the divestment, but it would be slightly impossible if you would be able to bring it up. So in order for you to be able to bring it up as a public agenda item, like, is there supposed to be, like, a vote before that? Or can you just tell me, like, how I'm going to bring it up? He said, Yeah, no, it's going to be voted on the agenda. There's the committees, and then the first thing we do is public board meetings. We vote on it, and then it's called our consent agenda. I said, so has that happened yet? They said, No, no, that happens at the meeting. I said, so I'm thinking, like, strategically, how is the best way to move forward? Meaning, specifically, in order to sway other board of governors to even like, start thinking about divestment like? Then he cut me off and said, I think showing up to board of governors to show support, and then if they have a list of signatures. I said, Yeah, we do. We do. I asked, So, in order for that to happen, do you

think that you should at least try to have the resolution on the table, and then if they vote no, they vote no. But then we have everything, because, you know, the semester is ending and that we have a huge wave of support coming. They said, if you want, I'm pretty sure that the answer is going to be no, but if that's what you want, I said, Yeah, we would love that, at least that, because, you know, we believe in the divestment others may just because do it, because of pushback and pressure. So if it doesn't matter to us, if you would, if you'd be able to do that, we would appreciate that, just like say you have enough support and people want it on the agenda. If they say no, they say no, at least we tried. They said, Okay. I said, thank you. I really appreciate it. Thank you. I'll send it to you again. This was an April conversation with a Board of Governor member before students were assaulted by the police for attending a BOG meeting and the agenda, and the agenda was never amended, and the resolution was never put on it. Okay, they said to me. They said, Okay, I don't know if that's French for No, but everything that happened after this promise was not okay, not thanks to the Board of Governors and we still would like to meet.