

8-15-2019

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2019

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**WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING**

**August 15, 2019**

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**WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING**

**August 15, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Wright State University Board of Trustees was called to order by Mr. Sean Fitzpatrick, chair, on Thursday, August 15, 2019, 3:30 p.m., in the Double Bowler Conference Room, 2455 Presidential Drive. Mr. Larry Chan, secretary to the Board of Trustees, called the roll:

**Present**

Douglas Fecher  
Sean Fitzpatrick  
Martin Grunder  
Bruce Langos  
Andrew Platt  
Grace Ramos

**Absent**

Michael Bridges  
Stephanie Green  
William Montgomery

**II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

Mr. Fitzpatrick read the following conflict of interest statement:

It is of the utmost importance to ensure that all university decisions are free from any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Therefore, please be mindful of all obligations with which you have been charged as a Trustee of Wright State University; and take the steps you deem appropriate to perform your duties fairly and impartially.

**III. PROOF OF NOTICE OF MEETING**

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that the meeting was called by written notification and a quorum was present.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In accordance with the Ohio Open Meetings Law, the Board, after a majority of a quorum and by roll call vote, determined to hold a Special Executive Session by offering the following resolution:

## **RESOLUTION 20-2**

RESOLVED that the Wright State University Board of Trustees agreed to hold a Special Executive Session on Thursday, August 15, 2019; and be it further

RESOLVED that pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G), the following issues may be discussed in Executive Session:

- Personnel – Employment
- Pending or Imminent Court Action

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved for approval. Mr. Fecher seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **V. RECESS**

The Executive Session ended at 5:00 p.m. and the Board took a short break before reconvening in Public Session.

### **VI. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION**

The Wright State University Board of Trustees reconvened at 5:05 p.m. in Public Session, in the First Floor Gallery Space, 2455 Presidential Drive. Mr. Chan called the roll.

#### **Present**

Douglas Fecher  
Sean Fitzpatrick  
Martin Grunder  
Bruce Langos  
Andrew Platt  
Grace Ramos  
Shaun Wenrick  
Olivia Sneary

#### **Absent**

Michael Bridges  
Stephanie Green  
William Montgomery

#### **Chair's Statement:**

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the Wright State University Board of Trustees is a public body subject to the Ohio Open Meeting Act. It operates on a fixed agenda available to those attending the meeting. Person wishing to address the Board in its public session should submit a written request to the Board of Trustees' office 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to be placed on the agenda. However, all persons address the Board at the invitation of the Board and are subject to time

limitations and other guidelines established to maintain the good order of the meeting.

**VII. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

The conflict of interest statement was read by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

**VIII. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Trustee Fitzpatrick began the meeting with a moment of silence for Ms. Megan Betts and all those impacted by the events in the early morning of August 4, 2019. Dayton, and the Wright State community, were devastated by the Oregon District tragedy, in which Megan Betts, a Wright State student, was killed.

**IX. PRESENTATION OF THE 2019-2020 UNIVERSITY BUDGET**

President Cheryl B. Schrader spoke about Wright State's response to the Oregon District tragedy and the services made available to students and employees to help them cope with the trauma. Dr. Schrader and Provost Edwards received many letters, notes, and expressions of sympathy from around the world. A parent of an incoming freshman summed up her feelings as "heartbroken at the events of Sunday morning and the loss of a Wright State student in this senseless act of violence. But I also wanted you to know that watching you rally around and support your students and Raider family, I have never been more proud of the choice our daughter made to call Wright State home while she pursues her degree".

With FY19 coming to a close and final numbers due out in September, Dr. Schrader offered preliminary budget projections of an \$8.2 million budget surplus which is \$5.2 million over a previously planned surplus of \$3 million. This increase should favorably impact Wright State's FY2019 Senate Bill 6 score.

Per their request, the Board received a revised FY20 budget incorporating more conservative enrollment numbers. The revised budget included an increase of \$750,000 in SSI (based on recent legislative changes) and a planned enrollment cushion with a 16% decline in enrollment instead of the previously submitted 14%. From the budget presented last month, these changes reflect a 0.4 percent change in the total budget and a 0.6 percent change in the total operating funds budget.

**Revised Budget for FY2020**

<http://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2019/Aug/meeting/FY%2020%20August%2015%20Board%20Budget%20Presentation-Aug.%2015%2C%202019.pdf>

Current enrollment tracking shows a 13.7% decline over same week last year and has been improving as Wright State nears the start of Fall Semester. Work continues across campus to strengthen enrollment and retention.

Mr. Walt Branson, vice president for finance and operations and CBO, highlighted the budget changes made for the revised FY2020 budget. With the additional decrease in revenue triggered by decreasing the enrollment projection and the increase in SSI, the net effect is a \$1.5 million decrease in revenue. Planned reductions on the expense side include \$300,000 in utility savings, a \$300,000 deduction from central allocation pools, and the remaining \$865,000 in non-personnel reductions to be strategically determined by vice presidents and deans based on their earlier planning.

Mr. Branson reviewed the revenue and expense categories and presented the operating budget with and without auxiliaries. The total university budget for FY2020 including auxiliaries and restricted funds is \$363 million.

### **Questions and Discussions:**

Mr. Langos asked if the Vice President for Institutional Advancement and the position for the Chief Diversity Officer (as well as the costs of the search firm for these position searches) were budgeted in the FY2020 compensation line. Mr. Branson indicated that they were.

A discussion ensued about the issue of reserve powers and the scope of the Vice President position. While an Affiliate Entity agreement has not yet been signed between the Foundation and Wright State University, in the spring a request was made for a written legal opinion on risk to the university if the Reserve Power clause was waived for the Foundation. Since two university trustees already serve as representatives to the Foundation Board's Executive Committee, this relationship seemed to cover the representation needed. Mr. Chan described the reserve powers provision and Trustee Fecher reiterated that the underlying concern is making sure that the University is isolated from the activities of the Foundation.

President Schrader spoke about the focus of the Vice President of Institutional Advancement position. This position would hold responsibility for advancement, fundraising, stewardship cultivation, external relations, marketing, corporate and community relations, and incorporation of the strategic plan. Reporting to the president, this position replaces the dual Vice President for Advancement and President of the Foundation position previously held by Ms. Becky Cole.

The Foundation continues to move towards financial independence and will be hiring their own CEO position. Wright State would hire the Vice President for Institutional Advancement thus separating the position responsibilities and eliminating the crossover between the University and the Foundation.

Mr. Fitzpatrick indicated that while it is not the Board's purview to determine the relative merits of individual positions, he does have some concern that the level of compensation expense over last year is not decreasing as the university works on

realignment. President Schrader indicated that areas of restructuring and streamlining continue to be explored.

Mr. Fecher asked about the level of certainty that this budget adequately reflects all expenses and what areas might be of concern such as the relationship between enrollment/revenue or the potential for higher than expected medical expenses. Mr. Branson expressed a high level of confidence in the comprehensive scope of the budget and Mr. Shipley indicated that while compensation is the largest expense component, it is being carefully monitored and shows a \$4 million savings over the previous year.

**A. FY2020 Current Funds Budget**

The Board unanimously approved the following resolution with several Board members expressing frustration over the level of detail in the budget for a plan to grow revenue and increase enrollment. President Schrader responded that there has been development over the past year in terms of revenue generation and the Board will be hearing details of a multi-year enrollment management strategy in an upcoming August meeting.

**RESOLUTION 20-3**

WHEREAS, the university's current funds budget has been developed capitalizing on fiscal stewardship to deliver student success; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive planning and consultation within the university and with key stakeholders has been accomplished; and

WHEREAS, state funding is projected to increase slightly; and

WHEREAS, enrollment levels are anticipated to decrease; and

WHEREAS, the current state budget legislation allows for undergraduate tuition increases; and

WHEREAS, Wright State University has developed a budget to guide operations, realigning expenditures with revenues, to support the university's Mission, Vision and Values during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, said budget includes an array of other rates and fees, in addition to tuition; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the President may allow expenditures within projected income levels, may limit the expenditures of funds within any given category, may transfer funds within the major budget categories, and take

other such actions as may be in the interest of the university; and be it further

RESOLVED that the university's current funds budget as described in the accompanying schedules and tables now before the Board of Trustees be and, hereby are approved.

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved for approval. Mr. Fecher seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**X. NATIONAL TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Fitzpatrick proposed the creation of a separate sub-committee to explore the topic of national trustee and bring suggestions back to the Board for their consideration.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.