



*BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINTH MEETING  
Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.**

**Endeavor Room, Student Union 156**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chair Gunlock, Vice Chair Conway, Treasurer Ferris, J. Ebbing, R. Kejriwal, E. Miller, R. Peters, J. Thompson, M. Crabtree, L. Johnson, B. Bucklew (Webex), D. Fecher, A. Goyal, B. Whiteside, J. Wilson (Webex)

**Absent:** A. Platt

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gunlock called to order the September 12, 2024, meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**A. Roll Call**

Chair Gunlock asked the Secretary, Daniel Palmer, to call the roll. A quorum was present. Gunlock read the Chair's Statement and the Conflict-of-Interest Statement.

**Chair's Statement:**

The Wright State University Board of Trustees is a public body subject to the Ohio Open Meetings Act. It operates on a fixed agenda available to those attending the meeting. Persons 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.

## **Conflict of Interest Statement**

It is of 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.

## **II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Gunlock requested the Board move into Executive Session pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G).

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-01**

RESOLVED that the Wright State University Board of Trustees agreed to hold an Executive Session on September 12, 2024; and be it further

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

- To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1); and
- Conference with an attorney for the Board regarding disputes with the Board that are subject of pending or imminent litigation pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3); and
- Matters Required to be Kept Confidential Pursuant to Federal Law or State Statute pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(5).

Vice Chair Conway moved to approve the resolution and Trustee Kejrival seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

## **III. RECONVENE**

### **A. Roll Call**

The Board of Trustees, at the calling of Chair Gunlock, reconvened at 3:25 p.m. Chair Gunlock asked Board Secretary Palmer to call the roll and a quorum was present.

## **B. Swearing in of New Trustees**

Chair Gunlock began by welcoming the new members to the Board of Trustees that were appointed by Governor Mike DeWine: Mrs. Ellen Miller, Mr. Ricky Peters, and Ms. Lauren Johnson. He noted that each of them brought different strengths that would elevate the University.

Sean Culley, General Counsel, administered the oath of office to Trustees Miller, Peters, and Johnson.

## **IV. RECESS**

Chair Gunlock moved the Board of Trustees into recess to begin the committee meetings.

## **V. RECONVENE**

### **A. Roll Call**

The Board of Trustees, at the calling of Chair Gunlock, reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Chair Gunlock asked Board Secretary Palmer to call the roll and a quorum was present.

### **B. Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Trustee Peters moved to approve the minutes and Trustee Thompson seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

## **VI. REAPPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL TRUSTEE**

Chair Gunlock noted the Board of Trustees was very fortunate to have National Trustees that are well-respected members of the community and possess expertise in areas of strategic importance to the University. He noted the University had been able to leverage their strengths to pursue opportunities that were transformative to the University and community as a whole.

Chair Gunlock noted that Trustee Bryan Bucklew was a perfect example of a National Trustee that had used their professional experience and expertise to assist the University on an initiative that would transform the delivery of medicine in the Miami Valley. He added that Trustee Bucklew, along with Trustee Goyal, were the Board representatives on the enhanced affiliation working group with Premier Health and their expertise was invaluable to the work of that group.

Chair Gunlock added that Trustee Bucklew's appointment as a National Trustee expired at the end of September and recommended the Board reappoint Trustee Bucklew to an additional three-year term.

Trustee Kejriwal moved to approve the appointment and Trustee Peters seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

## **VII. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Gunlock noted the Board received very positive reports from the Enrollment and Student Success teams, adding that first-time, full-time student headcount had increased again in 2024. He noted its significance, indicating the brand reputation was growing stronger and further confirmed the University was executing a strong enrollment management plan.

Equally as important, Chair Gunlock stated Wright State University was once again recognized as the top university in Ohio in social mobility of the students it serves. He noted that recognition demonstrated that a Wright State University education not only positively impacted the graduates, but also transformed the lives of their families and the communities in which they live.

Chair Gunlock concluded by stating Wright State University was seen as a leader in transforming how a regional university delivers higher education in the State of Ohio. He noted Governor Mike DeWine visited campus a few weeks prior. Chair Gunlock noted that the Governor complimented the University's leadership team for their work and was impressed with the new partnership with Premier.

### **A. Reports**

Chair Gunlock accepted written reports from the following: Advancement, Communications, Foundation, and Marketing. The reports are contained in the Board attachments.

## **VIII. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Chair Gunlock recognized President Edwards for the report of the President.

President Edwards began her report by highlighting the tremendous gains in enrollment, with the University achieving a total enrollment increase of 7.1% from the previous year and a 44.3% increase for first-time, full-time students since 2021. She applauded Ms. Susan Schaurer and the Enrollment Management team for the execution of a strong enrollment plan.

President Edwards highlighted Wright State University being recognized by the Wall Street Journal as the top university in State of Ohio in terms of social mobility of its students. She noted this recognition fits into the mission of the University, as the vision of the University is to "To be a diverse, inclusive university that positively transforms the educational, economic, and social fabric of the communities we serve."

President Edwards concluded her remarks by sharing the excitement that was on campus, highlighting student move-in and first weekend, with record student attendance.

## **A. Approval of New Hires, Appointments, Promotions, and Separations**

Next, President Edwards offered the academic and administrative appointments and changes as part of the meeting attachments to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

### **APPROVAL OF NEW HIRES, APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, AND SEPARATIONS RESOLUTION 25-02**

RESOLVED that the academic and administrative appointments, changes, retirement, departmental reporting, resignations, and terminations submitted to this meeting be, and the same hereby are approved.

Vice Chair Conway moved to approve and Treasurer Ferris seconded. Chair Gunlock asked that each Board Member review the names and confirm that they do not have a conflict. The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

## **B. Approval of Research Contracts and Grants**

President Edwards shared that Wright State University had recorded 270 awards totaling \$65,724,462 in external funding for the time period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Recent funding received by the University includes \$58,542 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to Dr. Gary Schmidt, College of Liberal Arts for “From STEM to SHTEAM Through Story-telling and Dialogue”. The purpose of this grant is to expose high-achieving students from underserved school districts to the interdisciplinary study of the humanities through a summer bridge program. In this program, students will approach issues of contemporary relevance by integrating the content and methodologies of different humanities disciplines, dialoguing with STEM students, and exploring how data and facts are transformed into narrative through storytelling.”

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

### **APPROVAL OF RESEARCH CONTRACTS AND GRANTS RESOLUTION 25-03**

RESOLVED that the research contracts and grants submitted to this meeting be, and the same hereby are approved.

Trustee Ebbing moved to approve and Trustee Kejriwal seconded. A roll call vote was conducted and the resolution passed unanimously (9,0,0).

## **IX. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

### **A. Academic and Student Affairs**

Chair Gunlock asked Trustee Ebbing to give his report on the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee meeting.

Trustee Ebbing stated the committee received very strong reports on both enrollment and retention. He noted the residential student population was at its highest rate in 10 years and the first-time student headcount was up over 7%. Trustee Ebbing added that retention rate has seen a positive increase. He noted all of this was indicative of the execution of a strong enrollment management plan and an indication that many of the high-impact practices have begun to positively impact retention.

Trustee Ebbing noted that the committee approved two resolutions to be considered by the full board.

He offered the following resolution:

#### **SUPPORT OF THE TEAGLE FOUNDATION GRANT RESOLUTION 25-04**

WHEREAS, the Teagle Foundation has issued a request for proposals for the Cornerstone: Learning for Living grant, aimed at revitalizing the humanities in the general education of institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, the College of Liberal Arts is developing “The Wright Questions” program, a curricular redesign of the general education courses offered within the College designed to enhance student interest and excitement in the humanities; and

WHEREAS, “The Wright Questions” will have four central themes, including (1) Can Humans Live in Harmony with Nature; (2) Are Humans Different from Machines; (3) What is a Healthy and Good Life; and (4) What Explains War, Violence, and Justice, which explores topics that mirror student career and major interests; and

WHEREAS, the College of Liberal Arts desires to apply for the Teagle Foundation’s grant to support curriculum development, course materials, marketing, advising, peer mentors, and professional development for faculty to effectively teach interdisciplinary paired course groupings as part of the pathways; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its support for the College of Liberal Arts’ application for the Teagle Foundation’s Cornerstone: Learning for Living grant and subsequent development and implementation of “The Wright Questions” program.

The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

Trustee Ebbing offered the next resolution:

**APPROVAL OF COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES REORGANIZATION  
PLAN**

**RESOLUTION 25-05**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has the authority to establish, alter and abolish, and prescribe the principal functions of, major academic divisions, colleges, centers, departments, and professional schools within the University; and

WHEREAS, the President recommends creating the School of Nursing within the College of Health, Education, and Human Services and establishing the School of Aviation Science and Technology, increasing the visibility and reputation of the programs; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the proposed organizational change is in the University's best interests; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the College of Health, Education, and Human Services Reorganization Plan dated September 2024 is hereby approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President, or her designee, is authorized and directed to take and perform all lawful actions she reasonably deems appropriate to effectuate the Board's directives herein.

The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

**B. Finance, Audit, Governance, and Compliance**

Next, Chair Gunlock asked Trustee Ferris to give her report on the Finance, Audit, Governance, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Trustee Ferris added that the committee received positive news that the enrollments continued their strong trajectory from the previous year, with a year over year increase of 7% and a 44% increase for first-time students since 2021. She noted that the enrollment increases, along with strong improvements to retention, have had a strong positive impact on the university budget, exceeding enrollment projected at the June meeting.

Chair Ferris noted that with this good news, the University must remain steadfast in its fiscal discipline that had steadied the ship. She added that fiscal discipline would continue to be a long-term practice the University must continue to employ for long-term sustainability.

Trustee Ferris noted that the committee approved two resolutions to be considered by the full board.

She offered the following resolution:

### **APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-06**

WHEREAS, in order for the University to conduct business on an on-going basis, and provide products and services in a timely manner, purchases must be made; and

WHEREAS, these expenditures may amount to greater than \$250,000 and up to \$500,000, requiring committee approval, or may exceed \$500,000, requiring Board of Trustees approval; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that authorization is granted for the accompanying contracts greater than \$250,000 and up to \$500,000 before the Finance, Audit, Governance, and Compliance Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED that authorization is granted for the accompanying contracts exceeding \$500,000 before the Board of Trustees.

The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

Trustee Ferris offered the following resolution, read by title only:

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RETIREMENT PLAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-07**

The resolution was unanimously approved by a roll call vote (9,0,0).

#### **X. REPORT OF THE FACULTY PRESIDENT**

Dr. Wooley delivered the Faculty Senate report and indicated her priorities for Faculty Senate in the upcoming academic year.

#### **XI. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEES**

Chair Gunlock invited student Trustees Madisyn Crabtree and Lauren Johnson to provide their report. Trustees Crabtree and Johnson provided an update on student activities during the first weeks of the Fall 2024 semester.

#### **XII. OLD BUSINESS**



Chair Gunlock noted there was no Old Business.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Gunlock noted there was one item of new business before the Board of Trustees.

Chair Gunlock stated that at the June budget meeting, the Board of Trustees appointed seven members to the Academic Council for the Wright State Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development. He added that unfortunately, Judge Adolfo Tornichio was unable to accept his invitation to serve on the Council due to the Council's scope of service exceeding the practice of law.

Chair Gunlock stated Lt. General (Retired) Richard Reynolds had been recommended to be appointed as the seventh member of the Academic Council. He noted General Reynolds would be able to provide unique insight and expertise to the academic council, particularly concerning initiatives around the armed forces and veterans.

Secretary Palmer read the following resolution:

**APPOINTMENT OF GEN. RICHARD REYNOLDS  
TO THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL FOR THE  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CIVICS, CULTURE, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**RESOLUTION 25-08**

WHEREAS, Section 3352.16 of the Ohio Revised Code, adopted under Substitute House Bill 101 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, established the Wright State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development "the Center" as an independent academic division within the University reporting directly to the President; and

WHEREAS, the Center is directed to provide instruction on (1) the foundations of free societies; (2) the American Constitutional order, which includes the United States armed forces; (3) responsible and informed citizenship; (4) the purpose and role of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base; and (5) the workforce needs of the Base; and

WHEREAS, The Center at Wright State University has been granted special authority to waive out-of-state surcharges for military-connected students and recognizing military service for academic credit, furthering Wright State University's mission in being military-friendly campus; and

WHEREAS, the Center is to serve as a catalyst for dialogue and conversation among members of the campus community, placing a strong foundation for responsible and informed citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Center is guided by a seven-person Academic Council appointed by the Board of

Trustees with the advice and consent of the Ohio Senate; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Wright State University Board of Trustees appoints Lt. General (Retired) Richard Reynolds to the Academic Council for the Wright State Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary, or their designee, is authorized and directed to inform the Clerk of the Ohio Senate that this Resolution has been adopted and to request the advice and consent of the Ohio Senate, as required by law.

Trustee Thompson moved to approve and Trustee Peters seconded. A roll call vote was conducted and the resolution passed unanimously (9,0,0).

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, Vice Chair Conway moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Kejriwal seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.