



## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Constantini Classroom  
Stambaugh Stadium  
Monday, August 10, 2020

*The YSU Board of Trustees met in special session Monday afternoon to hear reports on the university's preparation for the start of the Fall semester on Aug. 17. Here is a summary of the meeting:*

Pursuant to notice duly given, a special meeting (the three hundred sixty-ninth) of the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University convened at 1:00 p.m., on Monday, August 10, 2020, through the Cisco WebEx Video application.

All eleven trustees and two National/Global trustees were present for the online meeting, to-wit:

Participating virtually from the Constantini Classroom in Stambaugh Stadium were: Dr. Anita A. Hackstedde, chairperson of the board who presided, Mr. Joseph J. Kerola, Mr. Michael A. Peterson, Student Trustees: Ms. Victoria M. Woods, Ms. Galatini G. Lopuchovsky; Mr. James P. Tressel, President of the University; Dr. Mike Sherman, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Board Professional. Mr. Charles T. George, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, was also present.

Participating virtually from their business locations were: Mr. James Roberts, and Mr. Allen J. Ryan. Participating from their places of residence were: Ms. Capri S. Cafaro, Dr. John J. Jakubek, Ms. Molly S. Seals and National/Global trustees, Mr. Eric A. Spiegel and Dr. Helen K. Lafferty. Students, Faculty, Staff and other interested parties were also able to observe the meeting through online access.

Also present from the Tod Hall Leaders Conference Room in Tod Hall were: Dr. Brien Smith, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Mr. Neal McNally, Vice

President for Finance and Business Operations; Ms. Holly A. Jacobs, Vice President Legal Affairs and HR; Dr. Eddie J. Howard, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Claire Berardini, Associate Provost for Student Success and Ms. Julie Gentile, Director, Environmental, Occupational, Health and Safety.

The chairperson called the meeting to order and presided.

### ITEM I – PROOF OF NOTICE OF MEETING

Evidence was available to establish that pursuant to Article II, Section 2, of the Board's *Bylaws*; notice of today's special meeting was timely provided to each of the trustees, the student trustees, the national/global trustees and to the president.

### ITEM II - DISPOSITION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD JUNE 4, 2020

The chairperson stated that disposition of the minutes of the board's regular meeting held June 4, 2020 would be deferred until the next regular meeting of the board of trustees.

### ITEM III – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

#### **President's Report**

President Jim Tressel said there has been an "amazing amount of work" going on across campus to prepare for the Fall semester in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. "Our people have stepped up," he said. While the semester will be an "immense transition," he said he's confident in the plans in place at YSU for the safe delivery of instruction.

#### **Reports of the Take Charge of Our Future Focus Groups and Athletics**

##### **Calendar Scenarios for a Safe YSU**

Eddie Howard, vice president for Student Affairs, and Julie Gentile, director of Environmental Health and Occupational Safety, co-chair the group.

Howard reported that students started moving into campus residence halls on Monday, by appointment, and that about 500 will have moved in by Friday. He said many other activities are continuing related to Covid-19 and the start of the Fall semester: the City-University Compact, a group of officials across the city and county, met again last week to continue discussions about common issues related to the pandemic; more than 130 faculty and staff participated in a webinar to learn and ask questions about the university's return-to-classes plan and protocols; coordination continues with Mercy Health to provide the latest information to students and parents; and four videos have been distributed to students outlining campus safety procedures. He also reported that students are being asked to sign the Penguin Protection Pledge to assure a safe and healthy Fall semester on campus.

Gentile reported on three student groups that have been formed to help in the university's response to the pandemic: a Covid 19 case support group; the Penguin

Patrol, students throughout campus positively reinforcing social distancing, face coverings and washing hands; and Pete's Clean Team, helping to make sure all common areas are appropriately sanitized. She also said that the Youngstown Health Department has hired an employee to work specifically with YSU on contact tracing.

### **Creative Course Delivery**

Brien Smith, provost, reported on efforts to provide a variety of instructional delivery modalities in the Fall semester in order to limit the number of students coming to campus during the pandemic. The five modalities are: traditional, agile hybrid, virtual, online live, web-based. He said the university's Academic Continuity Team, formed in the Spring semester to help transition to on-line instruction, has provided numerous faculty trainings, guides and other resources for all modalities, as well as information on classroom safety, face coverings, disinfecting, etc.

### **Athletics**

Ron Strollo, executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics, said that student athletes have been back on campus since June 1 and that more than 200 are now at the university, following all safety and health protocols. He also said that any student athlete concerned about her/his safety has the ability to opt out without retaliation or loss of scholarship, although he said very few have. In addition, he reported that the Horizon League has delayed all Fall sports to Oct. 1, although he said that can change, and the Missouri Valley Football Conference is moving conference games to the Spring.

### **Enrollment**

Howard reported that 11,252 students are registered for Fall classes. While that is 622 students less than the same time last year, Howard said he is pleased given the impact of the coronavirus. He credited the hard work of people across campus and successful enrollment campaigns that targeted certain student populations. "Those efforts...have really helped us to get to where we are today," he said.

Claire Berardini, assistant provost for Student Success, agreed: "We're in a much better place than we thought we would be." She noted new student orientations were successfully transitioned this Spring and Summer from face-to-face to all online. IGNITE, the university's annual welcome-to-campus event for new students, has been changed to include individual student sessions on campus; more than 700 new students have made appointments. She also reported on the new 10-week YSU 1500 course for incoming students, intended to help students new to campus to more successfully manage the transition to college, especially needed in the pandemic environment.

And Mike Sherman, vice president for Institutional Effectiveness and Board Professional, reported on a variety of other activities related to enrollment and student success, including the work of the Academic Senate, a new degree audit system and better use of data in university decision making. He pointed out that standardizing enrollment reporting will be a priority giving the example that one recent report could be interpreted to indicate that enrollment is up (+8%), but that was for the comparison of the same point in time this year to last year. The critical percentage is for that point in time number compared to enrollment on the 14<sup>th</sup> day. That comparison indicated enrollment is down (-6%). This later approach provides perspectives on the actions

needed to achieve enrollment equal to or better than last year. He also acknowledged the actions taken by the colleges and academic programs to reach out to students who were enrolled in the Spring and were academically eligible but had not registered for Fall 2020 as of early July.

Trustee Molly Seals asked what role testing will play in the university's pandemic response. Howard and Gentile said there will be no regular testing at YSU. They said there has been much discussion at universities across the state about testing programs. Gentile said health departments in Youngstown and Mahoning County recommend testing only when someone is showing symptoms. She said YSU will support anyone who wants tested, adding that Mercy Health on Wick Avenue has voluntary testing with results returned within 24 to 48 hours. Tressel said the approach to testing seems to change every day and that he is comfortable following the city health department's recommendation on symptomatic and voluntary testing.

**State of the University:** Tressel announced that he will present the annual State of the University address 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12. For health and safety reasons, the address will be taped and streamed. He said the presentation will reassure the university community that YSU has taken the steps to make campus safe, will discuss the opportunities that this moment provides, and will emphasize that the return-to-classes plans will be successful only if everyone works together.

#### ITEM IV- REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

The chairperson recognized moved that the board of trustees of Youngstown State University enter executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, and/or compensation of one or more university employees and to review collective bargaining negotiations with university employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion to enter into executive session. The chairperson requested the secretary to conduct a roll call vote on the motion the results of which are as follows (YES being a vote in favor of the motion to enter executive session):

Mr. Roberts  
Ms. Seals  
Ms. Cafaro  
Mr. Ryan  
Dr. Jakubek

Mr. Peterson  
Mr. Kerola  
Dr. Hackstedde  
Mr. George

The vote being unanimous in favor of the motion to enter executive session, the chairperson declared the motion carried and the board entered executive session at 1:58 p.m. Present via WebEx in the Constantini Classroom and the Tod Hall Leaders' Conference Room were the trustees, the student trustees, the National/Global trustees, President Tressel, Dr. Smith, Mr. McNally, Ms. Jacobs, Dr. Howard, Dr. Sherman and the secretary to the Board, Charles George. Public access to the WebEx application was suspended during the executive session. While in executive session, the trustees discussed matters pertaining to YSU employment options and opportunities and heard

reports from administration regarding the status of collective bargaining negotiations prior to Covid-19 and the various collective options and alternatives. The board returned to public session at 2:42 p.m. at which time public access to the WebEx application was restored. No actions were taken.

#### ITEM V – COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMORIALS

The board considered no communications or memorials.

#### ITEM VI – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The board considered no unfinished business.

#### ITEM VII – NEW BUSINESS

The board considered no new business.

#### ITEM VIII – CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Board Chair Anita Hackstedde noted that the university's significant budget challenges prior to the pandemic have only intensified as the pandemic has spread. She referenced the changes required to respond to the Pandemic and noted that the university community had acted promptly and judiciously to respond to those circumstances and while also acknowledging the guidance provided through Board Resolutions, endorsing the FY-21 budget, and the *Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future*. She also said she is impressed and proud of the hard work and dedication that so many across campus has shown during this challenging time. "It's been outstanding," she said. "You're the reason why we are Y and Proud and why we will stay Y and Strong."

#### ITEM IX – TIME AND PLACE OF UPCOMING REGULAR MEETINGS

Chairperson Hackstedde said that the next regular meeting of the YSU board of trustees is scheduled to take place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2020, in the Board Room in Tod Hall, although it is possible that the meeting may be conducted virtually, as was today's special meeting.

#### ITEM X – ADJOURNMENT

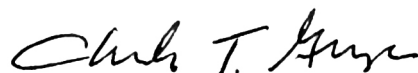
There being no further business to come before the board of trustees, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was duly adjourned by unanimous vote of all trustees at 2:45 pm.




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**Chairperson**

**ATTEST:**




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**Secretary to the Board of Trustees**