



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

DATE: Thursday, January 26, 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: The Wolstein Center, Gerald H. Gordon Conference Pavilion, West Wing and via Zoom; livestreamed for public view.

PRESENT: Chair David M. Reynolds; Trustees Timothy J. Cosgrove, Patricia DePompei, Paul J. Dolan, Stephen F. Kirk, Lisa K. Kunkle, Alan G. Starkoff, and Vanessa L. Whiting; Student Trustees Brittany N. Sommers and Jake Wrege; Chair, CSU Foundation and Ex Officio Member Thomas E. Hopkins; Faculty Representatives Dr. Judy Ausherman and Dr. Anup Kumar; President Laura Bloomberg; and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, General Counsel and Vice President, Legal Affairs and Compliance Sonali B. Wilson.

Others in attendance: Provost and Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs Nigamanth Sridhar; Sr. Vice President of Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer David Jewell; Vice President and Dean of Enrollment Management Jonathan Wehner; Vice President of Advancement Julie Rehm; Vice President, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Roy Gifford; and Heather A. Link, Assistant Board Secretary.

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 12:54 p.m. He noted that the meeting was being livestreamed for public viewing and he confirmed the presence of a quorum.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting. Trustee Kirk moved approval of the minutes; Trustee Starkoff seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a roll call.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Reynolds welcomed members and noted a vibrancy on campus with the beginning of the spring semester. He reported that President Bloomberg and her team unveiled a new logo

for the University, and he was impressed with how the logo captures the spirit of the institution, “being in and of the city” as well as service to its students and greater community.

He reminded trustees that financial disclosure statements are due to the Ohio Ethics Commission by May 15, and if assistance is needed to contact the Board Office.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Bloomberg reported that Ms. Caryn Candisky has joined her leadership team in the role of Executive Director, Government Relations and Special Assistant to the President. She noted that her leadership team is working well together and this new appointment will help amplify ongoing initiatives. Work across campus continues to focus on enrollment; a campus leadership council, made up of academic leadership at the college level, has been meeting regularly. The next step is to pull together direct reports of the president’s cabinet to further enhance teamwork across campus for a deep dive into how the University addresses the four strategic themes of CSU 2.0.

President Bloomberg reviewed the “CSU Matters” video campaign which is distributed each month to students and the community, and she previewed the next offering which features CSU’s iconic physics professor, Dr. Jearl Walker.

The University was recently recognized by the All In Campus Democracy Challenge as a 2022 “Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting,” and by *The Princeton Review’s Guide to 399 Green Colleges*. President Bloomberg noted that these types of recognitions help people to become more aware of the campus culture and reputation.

The President mentioned scheduled student programming for the beginning of the semester (Week of Welcome), the successful women’s basketball season, the recent swearing in of the new Cuyahoga County Executive on campus, and the arts campus programming in the CSU Galleries and on the stages of Playhouse Square.

President Bloomberg ended her report illustrating the thought processes behind the new logo and the ability to share our story with the world—We are Cleveland State. The branding campaign highlights unique stories and connects prospective students with current students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Reynolds moved for the Board to recess into Executive Session to consider personnel matters involving the contract of a public employee and for the purpose of discussing imminent and pending litigation with the University General Counsel. Trustee Dolan seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken by the Secretary of the Board; voting in the affirmative were Mr. Cosgrove, Ms. DePompei, Mr. Dolan, Mr. Kirk, Ms. Kunkle, Mr. Starkoff, Ms. Whiting, and Mr. Reynolds. The motion carried.

Chair Reynolds excused everyone except the voting trustees and CSU Foundation ex officio member, President Bloomberg, Provost Sridhar, Dean Anglin, VP Gifford, Assistant Board Secretary Link, and General Counsel and Board Secretary Wilson. The executive session began at 1:19 p.m.

At 2:02 p.m., Chair Reynolds announced that the Board had finished its business in Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Trustees Sommers and Wrege reported on participating in monthly “leadership lectures” with current students who may want to participate in service activities, and an excitement sensed by students regarding the campus master plan. Trustee Wrege also suggested including “students who are parents” as an affinity group on campus, and observed that this group may have special attendance policy accommodation needs.

REPORT FROM FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Faculty representatives Kumar and Ausherman reported on recent work of the Faculty Senate including the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Core Curriculum and a faculty led committee that has proposed an academic server governance policy. It was noted that alignment is almost complete across the newly formed colleges (Arts and Sciences, Health, and Public Affairs and Education). Dr. Ausherman gave a shout out to college deans who are in training for the second free throw competition at an upcoming men’s basketball game programmed to attract faculty and staff.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Cosgrove reported on the meeting held earlier in the day; the committee received an update from Provost Sridhar on CSU's partnership with Tri-C, comparative data from ODHE Completion reports, an update on the College of Business Dean Search, and details on the approach to review our Core Curriculum.

The Committee approved two items, which are included on the consent agenda for full board approval. Chair Cosgrove also reported that Professor Hanz Richter and Associate Professor Caryl Pagel discussed the work that was accomplished during each of their professional leaves, and that Dean Stephanie Brooks provided an update on the College of Health. He commented that the presentations were excellent and highlighted the value of student-professor relationships, which he considers to be an indicator of a successful institution.

The Committee also received an update on the University's DEI and campus engagement initiatives.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Kunkle updated the members on the meeting held earlier in the day, which included a financial update from VP Jewell, an enrollment update from VP Wehner and an update from Legacy Strategic Asset Management advisors.

She noted that the Committee received an important update on the cybersecurity insurance market from Lockton Companies and will focus on the topic to help ensure that CSU is up to date on all aspects of cybersecurity and risk.

The Committee also reviewed two items for action, which are included on the consent agenda for approval by the full board, and there was an executive session during the meeting.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Kirk updated members that the Committee met on January 18, 2023, and continued their discussion and comprehensive review of the Board Bylaws. He noted that the committee reviewed each section to ensure accuracy and best practices for board operations. Board members received the information in advance of the meeting, and he provided a summary of the proposed changes.

Committee Chair Kirk moved that the Board approve the amendments to the Bylaws; Trustee Cosgrove seconded the motion. Board Secretary Wilson called the roll, and the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, it is a good governance process to periodically review the Board's Bylaws to make necessary amendments to reflect changes to the committee structure and responsibilities, to clarify and update other sections of the Bylaws, and to ensure that the bylaws are in alignment with best practices; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee undertook the process of a comprehensive review of the Bylaws over several meetings; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes have been reviewed by the Governance Committee and are being brought to the full Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the General Counsel and Board Secretary has reviewed and recommends the proposed revisions; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments are currently posted on the University's website for a thirty-day comment period as required by the Board's rulemaking policy:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the amendments to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees; and further instructs the University Administration to file the amended bylaws with the Ohio Legislative Services Commission after the thirty-day comment period at which time said Bylaws shall become final, subject to any changes or revisions deemed necessary by the General Counsel.

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Dolan reported on the meeting held on January 17, 2023, which included an athletic department update by VP Garrett. The University's student-athletes academic performance for the fall semester included a team GPA of 3.43, including 206 students on the Dean's list, and 10 students with League All-Academic honors. This was the eighth consecutive semester with a team GPA above 3.3.

Chair Dolan also reported new partnerships with The Aspire Group, Opendorse, and Teamworks. He reported that CSU received a \$100,000 grant from the NCAA for improvement of academic study hall spaces, including technology and furniture for student-athletes.

The Committee also received information on key findings and next steps from an external review on gender equity, completed in September 2022, conducted by Helen Grant Consulting; and background on the NCAA Transformation Committee, which was appointed by the NCAA Division I Board in 2021. The Committee was charged to reimagine D1 athletics and improve the student-athlete experience. While many of the recommendations are already in practice at CSU, there are recommendations that could have an impact on funding strategies, for example minimum financial aid requirements and additional personnel requirements.

REPORT OF THE CSU FOUNDATION

CSU Foundation Chair Hopkins reported that the current focus is on “all things Radiance” in anticipation of the May 11 signature fundraising event, this year recognizing the Levin Family’s contributions to the University (the President’s Medal). The Foundation Board is working to identify specific student success initiatives that may attract donors, including increased scholarship funds; he asked for full Board participation.

Vice President Rehm reported on FY23 attainment and annual giving, noting that progress is trending toward fulfilling the year-end goal of \$22 million. She highlighted recent gifts, including a \$3 million gift to establish an art and design student achievement program.

Vice President Rehm also reported that CSU alumni events are scheduled for Florida and Phoenix and that the University will hold a Giving Day on February 16.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Reynolds stated that routine matters, or those recommended by committees and discussed previously, are considered on the Consent Agenda. He asked if there were any items that Board members wished to discuss; there were none.

Trustee Starkoff moved, and Trustee DePompei seconded, the motion to approve the following consent agenda items: Ratification of the Appointment of Dr. Nigamanth Sridhar as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Faculty Professional Leaves of Absence FY23-24; Adoption of Campus Master Plan; Authorization to Execute Contract with an Electricity

Supplier; and Accepting Gifts and Pledges, 2nd Quarter, FY23, October 1, 2022—December 31, 2022.

A roll call vote was taken by the Board Secretary; the consent agenda was approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-2

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. NIGAMANTH SRIDHAR AS PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, in May 2022, Dr. Nigamanth Sridhar was appointed to the role of Interim Provost to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of former Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Laura J. Bloomberg, Ph.D. as the eighth President of Cleveland State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sridhar has filled that role since May, 2022, advancing the realignment of CSU's College of Arts and Sciences, College of Health, and the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education, hired three new deans, launched a comprehensive faculty-led process to review CSU's core undergraduate curriculum, and set in motion exciting initiatives with faculty leadership designed to advance our most significant priorities around student progress and success; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sridhar has been a member of the CSU faculty since 2004, serving as a Professor of Computer Science in the Washkewicz College of Engineering and as Dean of CSU's College of Graduate Studies before taking a leave to serve as Program Director in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources at the National Science Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sridhar has a deep commitment to the City of Cleveland and northeast Ohio, evidenced by his involvement in several Cleveland educational organizations and community partnerships, and as noted in his recognition by *Crain's Cleveland Business* as a Notable Immigrant Leader; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sridhar's success as the Interim Provost prepared him for the rigors of the permanent role, and presented CSU with a strong and highly qualified candidate for its next academic leader that would be difficult to replace absent a long and protracted national search; and

WHEREAS, in considering the benefits of appointing Dr. Sridhar to the permanent position of Provost, the President consulted extensively throughout the institution with faculty senate leadership, AAUP leadership, all the collegiate deans, the academic affairs leadership team, and the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, given the immediacy of the strategic work underway, the University greatly benefits from Dr. Sridhar's experience and preparation to lead the academic enterprise going forward;

WHEREAS, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the Ratification of the Appointment of Dr. Nigamanth Sridhar as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and recommends full board ratification:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointment of Dr. Nigamanth Sridhar to the position of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

RESOLUTION 2023-3

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE, AY2023-2024

WHEREAS, the individuals in the Professional Leaves of Absence Summary Report for the Academic Year 2023-2024 have been reviewed by the appropriate committees and administrators; and

WHEREAS, they have fulfilled the requirements for professional leave as set forth in Article 20 of the Agreement between Cleveland State University and the CSU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, or in the case of the College of Law faculty, of Section 3344-11-09 of the CSU Faculty Personnel Policies; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the Professional Leaves of Absence as submitted by the University Administration and recommends full board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees approves the granting of Professional Leaves of Absences for the academic year 2023-2024 to those individuals as outlined in the Summary Report.

RESOLUTION 2023-4

ADOPTION OF THE CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY 10-YEAR MASTER PLAN THAT ALIGNS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WITH THE VISION FOR A 21ST CENTURY URBAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS, in June 2021 the University entered into a contract with the Sasaki design firm to help bring to life a comprehensive plan for our future campus facilities that was visionary and took advantage of our location in a vibrant, urban center; and

WHEREAS, an existing facilities condition analysis was completed at the start of the project; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive year-long planning process kicked off that featured five subject matter working groups, a steering committee of University leadership, a robust stakeholder interview process that touched every aspect of University life including faculty, staff, students, facilities professionals, academic leadership, and external vendor partners; and

WHEREAS, four update presentations were provided to the Board of Trustees at various stages in the planning; and

WHEREAS, at its November 17, 2022 meeting, the Board was presented with the comprehensive Campus Master Plan Framework, including the introduction to emerging projects and a discussion of next steps; and

WHEREAS, the plan documentation process is completed and ready for adoption by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the Campus Master Plan as submitted by the University Administration and recommends full Board adoption:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Cleveland State University 10-year Master Plan as the guide for planning and development to realize the vision for a 21st century urban research University, with the understanding that capital projects coming from the plan will be brought to the Board for approval according to University policies and procedures.

RESOLUTION 2023-5

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER

WHEREAS, the University is currently acquiring energy through the local distribution company's Standard Service Offer; and

WHEREAS, pricing for energy through the Standard Service Offer may soon exceed the cost of purchasing energy through the de-regulated retail energy market; and

WHEREAS, to get the most favorable price, the University desires an ability to timely respond to competitive bids for retail energy during favorable market conditions; and

WHEREAS, due to pricing volatility in the energy market, it may be beneficial for the University to enter into a series of shorter contracts; and

WHEREAS, the University will not enter into any contract for retail electric supply that exceeds the projected local distribution company's Standard Service Offer price for a one-year period following the effective date of any such contract; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed this matter as submitted by the University Administration and recommends full board approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby grants the University Administration the authority to enter into one or more successive 1-3 year competitively bid electricity generation supply contracts over a five-year period, provided that the fixed retail cost for energy in any such contract shall not exceed the

projected local distribution company's Standard Service Offer price for power for a one-year period following the effective date of any such supply contract.

RESOLUTION 2023-6

**ACCEPTING GIFTS AND PLEDGE PAYMENTS
2ND QUARTER, FY 2023
OCTOBER 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022**

RESOLVED, that the gifts and pledge payments totaling \$4,530,009 received by the Cleveland State University Foundation during the period October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 are hereby accepted with thanks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President is hereby directed to use these gifts subject to their terms and conditions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON MARCH 16, 2023

Sonali B. Wilson
Vice President of Legal Affairs and
Compliance, General Counsel and
Board Secretary

APPROVED ON MARCH 16, 2023

David M. Reynolds
Chairman, Board of Trustees