

**Minutes of the Formal Session  
of the  
Oakland University Board of Trustees  
February 2, 2024**

**Present:** Chair Robert Schostak; Vice Chair Joseph Jones; and Trustees Brian N. Calley, David Kramer (via Zoom), Dennis Muchmore, Colleen Ochoa Peters, Trina Scott, and Stefen F. Welch

**Also Present:** President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz; Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Joshua D. Merchant; Provost Britt Rios-Ellis; Vice President Rochelle A. Black, Vice President Boyd C. Farnam, Vice President Stephen W. Mackey, Senior Vice President Glenn McIntosh, Vice President Michael J. Westfall, Vice President John O. Young; Athletics Director Steven C. Waterfield; and Student Liaison Red Douglas and Student Liaison Payton Bucki

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Robert Schostak invited Oakland University Student Liaisons Red Douglas and Payton Bucki to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Call to Order**

Chair Schostak called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Banquet Rooms A and B of the Oakland Center.

**C. Roll Call**

Dr. Joshua D. Merchant, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, conducted a roll call and all of the Board members were present.

**D. President's Report**

Before President Pescovitz began the President's Report, she recognized the sudden loss of one of OU's prominent faculty members, Dr. Mark Rigstad, Professor of Philosophy. Dr. Rigstad leaves a legacy of integrity and was a tireless advocate for human rights and a more compassionate, peaceful world. He served 9 years as chair of the Department of Philosophy and served as a university senator and led many committees and initiatives. He was an innovative thinker and a loyal friend.

President Pescovitz's report included OU Pride & Updates, including Oakland University ranked 7<sup>th</sup> safest college campus in U.S. and safest campus in Michigan; Ranked by Academic Influence, a Texas-based think tank; Fall Commencement; Honorary Degree Recipients; Carnegie Community Engagement Designation; Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration;

Research; OU received redesignation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the National Security Agency (NSA) and a special thanks to Distinguished Professor Huirong Fu, program coordinator of the M.S. program in Cybersecurity and founding director of the OU Center for Cybersecurity.

Dr. Christopher Coleman, Dean, School of Nursing, presented an update on the School of Nursing.

Mr. Michael Westfall, Vice President for University Advancement, gave a brief update on Aspire. Advance. Achieve, The Campaign for Oakland University. He thanked all who participated and contributed in making this campaign a huge success, including the donors for their generosity and advocacy; the Board of Trustees for their leadership and generous philanthropy and for 100% giving participation since 2019; President Pescovitz for her vision and being a great colleague and mentor, generously leading by example via her personal philanthropy since her arrival in 2017; the Cabinet and Deans for their partnership and guidance, as a group they have had 100% giving each year of the campaign; the faculty and staff for their feedback and support, with nearly 1,000 giving annually through the OU fund drive; and lastly, his Advancement team members, past and present, for their expertise and individual and collective efforts. In closing, Mr. Westfall shared the campaign celebration video.

Chair Schostak and Trustee Ochoa Peters thanked Mr. Westfall for his great leadership and for putting together a great team.

#### **E. Consent Agenda for Consideration/Action**

##### **Consent Agenda**

##### **Treasurer's Report**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees accepts the February 2, 2024 Treasurer's Report.

##### **Minutes of the Board of Trustees Formal Session of December 4, 2023**

##### **Acceptance of Gifts and Pledges to Oakland University for the Period of November 21, 2023 through January 26, 2024**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees accept the gifts and pledges to Oakland University identified in the Gifts and Pledges Report, Attachment A, for the period of November 21, 2023 through January 26, 2024.

(A copy of Attachment A is on file in the Board of Trustees Office.)

##### **Acceptance of Grants and Contracts to Oakland University for the Period of November 1 – December 31, 2023**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees accept the grants and contracts to Oakland University identified in the Grants and Contracts Report, Attachment A, for the period of November 1 – December 31, 2023.

(A copy of Attachment A is on file in the Board of Trustees Office.)

**Approval of Honorary Degree for Camille Jayne**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Business *Honoris Causa* to Camille Jayne.

**Approval of Honorary Degree for Nora Chapa Mendoza**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities *Honoris Causa* to Nora Chapa Mendoza.

**Approval of Honorary Degree for Bruce Miller**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa* to Bruce Miller.

**Approval of Honorary Degree for Daniel Skovronsky**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* to Daniel Skovronsky.

**Creation of the Oakland University Eye Research Institute Constitution**

RESOLVED, that notwithstanding any provision of the proposed, Eye Research Institute Constitution, the Board of Trustees reconfirms its legal authority to grant, modify and rescind internal constitutions when the Board of Trustees determines such action to be in the interest of the institution or required to comply with its obligation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, under the conditions set forth above, approves the Constitution of the Oakland University Eye Research Institute, attached hereto, effective February 2, 2024.

(A copy of the Constitution of the Oakland University Eye Research Institute is on file in the Board of Trustees Office.)

**Authorization for Leasing Space at Oakland West Campus to Community Partners**

RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration be authorized to negotiate lease agreements for space within Oakland West Campus with community partners; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President and the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and their respective designees, to perform all acts and deeds and to execute and deliver all contracts, instruments, and documents required by this resolution that are necessary, expedient, and proper in connection with the leases; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that said contracts, instruments, and documents shall be reviewed by and be in a form acceptable to the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel prior to execution, and be in compliance with the law and with university policies and regulations and conform to the legal standards of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

**Amended Board of Trustees Contracting and Employment Appointment Authority Policy**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the attached amended Contracting and Employment Appointment Authority Policy.

(A copy of the amended Contracting and Employment Appointment Authority Policy is on file in the Board of Trustees Office.)

**Amended Board of Trustees Competitive Bidding Purchasing Policy**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the attached amended Competitive Procurement Policy.

(A copy of the amended Competitive Procurement Policy is on file in the Board of Trustees Office.)

Trustee Calley seconded by Trustee Jones, moved approval of the Consent Agenda and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

**F. New Items for Consideration/Action**

**Resolution of the Oakland University Board of Trustees Recognizing the Achievement of “Aspire. Advance. Achieve. The Campaign for Oakland University”**

Chair Schostak presented the Resolution of the Oakland University Board of Trustees Recognizing the Achievement of “Aspire. Advance. Achieve. The Campaign for Oakland University” recommendation as set forth in the agenda item.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the following resolution recognizing the Achievement of Aspire. Advance. Achieve. The Campaign for Oakland University.

WHEREAS, Oakland University embarked on a transformative campaign to enhance its academic programs, scholarship support, and opportunities for its students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, Aspire. Advance. Achieve. The Campaign for Oakland University, the largest in the history of the University, was launched with the vision of advancing Oakland University's mission and strengthening its position as a leading institution of higher education; and

WHEREAS, the campaign aimed to provide critical support for scholarships, research, innovative and programs, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Oakland University community, including alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, rallied together with unwavering dedication and commitment to the campaign's success; and

WHEREAS, the collective efforts of donors, volunteers, and supporters yielded remarkable results, surpassing the initial campaign goal of \$150 million ahead of schedule; and

WHEREAS, Aspire. Advance. Achieve. The Campaign for Oakland University has exceeded expectations, achieving an extraordinary milestone that will have a lasting impact on the University and its constituents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oakland University Board of Trustees hereby acknowledges and commends the remarkable achievement of surpassing the campaign goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its deepest gratitude to all individuals, organizations, and partners who generously contributed their time, resources, and expertise to the campaign's success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, Vice President for University Advancement Michael Westfall, the University Advancement team, Cabinet, Deans, Faculty and Staff for their leadership and efforts in the achievement of the campaign goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognizes the profound impact of this achievement on Oakland University's ability to provide exceptional educational experiences, enhance scholarship support, foster innovation and creativity, and empower students to realize their full potential; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees pledges to honor the trust placed in Oakland University by diligently stewarding campaign funding support and ensuring its strategic allocation to further enhance the University's programs, facilities, and opportunities for all members of the campus community.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees this second day of February, 2024.

After discussion, Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Ochoa Peters, moved approval of the recommendation, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Roll call vote:

Chair Schostak:	Yes
Vice Chair Jones:	Yes
Trustee Calley:	Yes
Trustee Kramer:	Yes
Trustee Muchmore:	Yes
Trustee Ochoa Peters:	Yes
Trustee Scott:	Yes
Trustee Welch:	Yes

### **Bachelor of Science in Data Science**

Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, presented Bachelor of science in Data Science recommendation as set forth in the agendum item.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the School of Engineering and Computer Science to offer the Bachelor of Science in Data Science; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost will complete annual reviews of the Bachelor of Science in Data Science degree program to evaluate academic quality and fiscal viability to determine whether the program should continue.

Dr. Louay Chamra, Dean, School of Engineering and Computer Science, gave a brief summary of the Bachelor of Science in Data Science.

Dr. Debatosh Debnath, Associate Professor of Engineering, gave a brief presentation on the Bachelor of Science in Data Science.

After discussion, Trustee Muchmore, seconded by Trustee Scott, moved approval of the recommendation, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

### **Oakland University School of Nursing Simulation Laboratory Expansion**

Provost Rios-Ellis presented the Oakland University School of Nursing Simulation Laboratory Expansion recommendation as set forth in the agendum item.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the School of Nursing Simulation Laboratory Expansion project at a total cost that will not exceed \$1,500,000, which includes a 10% contingency; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and their respective designees, to perform all acts and deeds and to execute and deliver all contracts, instruments and documents required by this resolution that are necessary, expedient and proper in connection with the School of Nursing Simulation Laboratory Expansion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that all said contracts, instruments and documents shall be reviewed by and be in a form acceptable to the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel prior to execution, and be in compliance with the law and with university policies and regulations and conform to the legal standards of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

Dean Coleman gave a brief presentation on the Oakland University School of Nursing Simulation Laboratory Expansion.

After discussion, Trustee Welch, seconded by Trustee Kramer, moved approval of the recommendation, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

**G. Other Items for Consideration/Action that May Come Before the Board**

Mr. Joey Colby, OU Graduate Student, addressed the Board regarding personal recognition of faculty and staff; additional accessibility resources for disabled students; and hiring faculty of color.

**H. Adjournment**


Chair Schostak adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted,

Approved,



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Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.  
Chief of Staff and Secretary to the  
Board of Trustees



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Robert Schostak  
Chair, Board of Trustees