

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
December 10, 2020

These are the proposed minutes of the December 10, 2020 Board of Regents meeting.

The meeting of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents was called to order by Chairman James Webb at 1:30 p.m. via zoom and live-streamed.

The Board members present were: Regent Rich Baird, Regent Dennis Beagen, Regent Michelle Crumm, Regent Mike Hawks, Regent Eunice Jeffries, Regent Alex Simpson, Regent Mary Treder Lang and Regent James Webb.

There was a quorum.

Section 1

PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Regent Crumm moved and Regent Beagen seconded that the proposed minutes for the October 22, 2020 Board Meeting be approved as submitted.

Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Webb asked the Board if there were any items on the consent agenda the Board members wished to vote on separately. Hearing none, it was moved by Regent Treder Lang and seconded by Regent Simpson that sections 2-6 be approved in their entirety as presented.

Section 2

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve 1 staff appointment for the reporting period October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020: Janis Strickland.

Section 3

STAFF SEPARATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve four (4) separations and retirements for the reporting period of October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020: Cassandra Callaway, Jamee Southward, Parish Halsell and Qani Toro.

Section 4

EMERITUS STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommended that the Board of Regents grant Emeritus Staff Status to seven (7) staff members: John Charles, Technical Director of Theatre, retired 04/30/2020, Susan M. Gardner, Event Planning Coordinator, CES, retired 03/31/2020, Priscilla Hall, Department Secretary, Mathematics & Statistics, retired 12/01/2019, Marcelo Marandino, Event Planning Coordinator, Conference and Event Services, retired 01/31/2020, Mark Monahan, Director of Convocation Center, retired 09/30/2020, Dr. Jo Warner, Teacher Placement Specialist, Developmental Mathematics Program, retired 12/31/2019 and David Wilcox, Manager of Collections, SBS, retired 03/10/2020.

Section 5

EMERITUS FACULTY AND LECTURER STATUS

Recommended that the Board of Regents grant Emeritus Staff Status to three (3) former faculty: Paul Bruss, Department of English Language & Literature from 1969 to 2019 who retired after 50 years; Bernard A. Miller, Department of English Language & Literature from 1987 to 2020 who retired after 33 years; and Marilyn Wedenoja, School of Social Work from 1992 to 2020 who retired after 28 years, and one (1) former lecturer: Laura Martinez, School of Social Work from 2005 to 2020 who retired after 15 years.

Section 6

LECTURER APPOINTMENTS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve two (2) new lecturer appointments for the 2020-2021 academic year: L'Meese Greaney and Christine Uthoff.

Motion Carried

REGULAR AGENDA

Section 7

PRESENTATION: HONORS COLLEGE UPDATE PRESIDENTIAL AND SIDLIK/BOYLAN SCHOLARS REPORT

Dr. Ann Eisenburg, Dean of the Honors College, provided the board with a presentation recognizing the Fall 2020 recipients of the inaugural Thomas Sidlik and Rebecca Boylan Scholarship, as well as the 2020 Presidential Scholars.

Section 8

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regent Beagen moved and Regent Baird seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for December 9, 2020 and the Minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 9

ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regent Hawks moved and Regent Beagen seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the working agenda for the December 10, 2020 meeting and the June 18, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Section 10

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

Regent Beagen moved and Regent Baird seconded that the Educational Policies Committee agenda for December 9, 2020 and the minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried

Section 11

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Regent Baird moved and Regent Beagen seconded that the Board of Regents appoint Christal Eason to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Ann Arbor Learning Community; re-appoint Thomas Nikundiwe to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of The James and Grace Lee Boggs School; appoint Todd Bettison to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Detroit Public Safety Academy; appoint Sonia Jackson and Marcia Williams to three-year terms on the Board of Directors of Great Lakes Academy; appoint Bessie Harris and Harriet Rice to three-year terms on the Board of Directors of Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence; and re-appoint Carlos McMath to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of The Woodley Leadership Academy.

Motion Carried

Section 12

FALL 2020 BRICKLEY ENDOWMENT FOR FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION AWARDS

Regent Baird moved and Regent Jeffries seconded that the Board of Regents accept and place on file the report on the Fall 2020 Brickley Endowment for Faculty Professional Development and Innovation Awards.

Motion Carried

Section 13

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM: MUSICAL THEATRE, BACHELOR OF ARTS

Regent Beagen moved and Regent Treder Lang seconded that the Board of Regents approve a New Academic Program: Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre.

Motion Carried

Section 14

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Regent Jeffries moved and Regent Baird seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the minutes from the October 22, 2020 Finance and Investment Committee meeting and the Working Agenda for the December 10, 2020 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 15

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

Regent Jeffries moved and Regent Beagen seconded that the Board of Regents approve the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 University Capital Budget appropriation of \$5.1 million.

Motion Carried

Section 16

**REPORT: 2019-2020 EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT**

Regent Crumm moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Eastern Michigan University Foundation Consolidated Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2020.

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS AND PRESENTATIONS

TAB A

**PRESENTATION: INNOVATING STUDENT TEACHING PLACEMENTS
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Dr. Mike Sayler, Dean of the College of Education, introduced Dr. Wendy Burke, Department Head of Teacher Education, and Dr. Beth Kubitskey, Associate Dean of the College of Education, to the Regents. Both provided the Board with the College of Education's innovations to student teaching brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

TAB B

BOARD POLICY UPDATES

Regent Crumm moved and Regent Beagen seconded that the Board of Regents approve revisions to existing Board Policies; section 2.3, Contract Authority, section 3.4.2.4 Emeritus Staff Status and section 3.7.7 Sexual Misconduct and Sex-Based Harassment Policy.

Motion Carried

TAB C

(Tabled)

TAB D

BUILDING NAMING APPROVAL

Regent Treder Lang moved and Regent Crumm seconded that the Board of Regents rename the Daniel L. Quirk, Jr. Building the "Judy Sturgis Hill Building" in honor of Judy Sturgis Hill, a former Associate Professor of Communication, Media, and Theatre Arts who had a lengthy and distinguished history as an Eastern Michigan University student and faculty member.

Motion Carried

TAB E

RESOLUTION: RECOGNITION OF MARY TREDER LANG

Regent Beagen moved and Regent Crumm seconded that the Board of Regents approve the resolution recognizing Regent Mary Treder Lang for her distinguished service to the Board of Regents and grant her Regent Emeritus status with all the rights, honors and privileges.

Motion Carried

TAB F

RESOLUTION: RECOGNITION OF JAMES WEBB

Regent Hawks moved and Regent Treder Lang seconded that the Board of Regents approve the resolution recognizing Regent James Webb for his distinguished service to the Board of Regents and grant him Regent Emeritus status with all the rights, honors and privileges.

Motion Carried

TAB G

OPEN COMMUNICATION

Vice President Reaume announced that one (1) person requested to address the Board of Regents. The speaker was given up to three (3) minutes to speak.

Colton Ray (Student Government VP) - Student retention, mental health, affordable housing and the need for higher State Appropriations.

TAB H

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Dec. 10, 2020

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

The University's efforts to remain nimble while focused on best safety practices continues to be a priority and is a significant factor in keeping our positive COVID-19 cases numbers relatively low, particularly in comparison to many of our peer universities in the state.

This is no small undertaking, and is a result of a strategic, pragmatic effort built on the expertise of the University's outstanding public health and operations professionals. This includes the members of the public health work groups, the members of the various subcommittees supporting the work groups, our contact tracing team, our testing team, our wastewater assessment team – and so many others.

What is making this overall effort so effective is that team members from each of these groups meet regularly, problem solve, coordinate and collaborate with one another, and intervene personally in individual situations and positive cases as they arise. It is truly a remarkable effort, and I thank everyone who has played such a vital role in keeping our campus community as safe as possible.

Our students have been outstanding in their support throughout this process. Their commitment to observing safe practices and wearing face coverings is extremely important to our efforts. Most days, when on campus, I observe 100 percent compliance from our students to the wearing of face coverings.

In the seven days ending Dec. 8, the University administered 1,241 tests that resulted in 14 positive tests. Since August 12, the University has administered a total of 12,944 tests that resulted in 108 positive results for a positivity rate 0.83 percent. The data is updated regularly on the University's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

I am deeply grateful to the committee members involved in the recommendation for the renaming of the Quirk Building to the Judy Sturgis Hill Building for their time and energy, and offer special thanks to the member of the Quirk family for her valuable insights throughout this process. This is an opportunity to live the mission and values of the University – and to celebrate the lifelong commitment of one of the finest individuals to graduate and then make a career at Eastern, the late Emeritus Professor Judy Sturgis Hill.

We must continually challenge ourselves to face the injustices of oppression and to build a more accessible, inclusive and equitable campus culture.

In October, the Board of Regents approved our recommendation to delay the start date of the winter semester one week to Jan. 13 to address any increase in COVID-19 spread during the holiday break. We've added another layer of safety precautions to that announcement. When winter semester begins, courses will be held in fully online/remote formats through Sunday, Jan. 24. Beginning Monday, Jan. 25, a limited number of those classes will transition to in-person formats.

The overall course delivery model for winter will be similar to the current semester in which approximately 10 percent of courses are in-person. The Provost conferred with Faculty Senate and other campus constituencies in making this recommendation.

I greatly appreciate the ongoing adjustments among our students, faculty and staff to accommodate these changes in what remains a very fluid and ever-changing situation due to the pandemic.

Registration for winter semester is now open to all students. Students are encouraged to register as soon as possible to ensure they get the classes they want.

It is hard to believe after this most challenging of semesters, but our winter commencement ceremony is only nine days away! We look forward to celebrating this special day with our graduates in the most virtual of ways. While we can't be with our graduates in person, we do have special plans to celebrate.

One that everyone can participate in is a special video we are creating for our graduates. Please join me in sending a short video offering congratulations to our newest graduates. Send your video to grad_2020@emich.edu (grad underscore 2020 at emich dot edu). **In your email, please include your name and your connection to the EMU community.** The deadline to receive videos is this Saturday, Dec. 12.

The final compilation will be published on commencement morning, Saturday, Dec. 19, along with a more formal graduation ceremony video and a list of names of all of our graduates. Our graduates will also receive a special social media filter via text and email to celebrate the occasion with balloons and other, specially designed celebration graphics. You can visit the [Commencement website](#) for additional details.

Last but certainly not least, I hope everyone will join me in a virtual standing ovation for Board Chairman James Webb and Regent Mary Treder Lang. Eight years of commitment to Eastern Michigan University! I have enjoyed working with you and very much appreciate the deep level of support and insight you have provided. I wish this standing ovation could be in person, but please know that it is with heartfelt admiration and appreciation that I thank you for your incredible service to Eastern Michigan University.

Additional information and accomplishments are listed in the appendix to this report on and the University website.

Thank you, Chairman Webb.
James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

Recognition

- **Interior Design** students from the **College of Engineering and Technology** won the top three places in the Student Rendering category in a nationwide CET Designer contest sponsored by Configura. **Olivia Grant** placed first, **Alondra Chavez** was second, and **Raina Hammitte** took third place. Last year, Eastern also took the top three spots.
- **Grigoris Argeros**, an associate professor of Sociology, and **Natalie Dove**, associate professor of Psychology, have done noteworthy research regarding COVID-19 data from Washtenaw County. The first phase was funded by **GameAbove Faculty First** funds and the second phase will be supported by a **College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Professional Development Award**.
- **David Victor**, professor of Management and International Business, has won the Association for Business Communication's Award of Merit, for outstanding achievement in the discipline of business communication.
- **Stephanie Wladkowski**, associate professor of Social Work, and her research team of three colleagues from St. Louis have been awarded a **National Institutes of Health grant of nearly \$430,000** over two years to study the health and quality of life for patients and caregivers after hospice care.
- Eastern's **Center for Jewish Studies** has entered into a four-year partnership with the **Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor** and the **Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life & Legacy Initiative** to promote after-lifetime giving and endowments.
- The graduate program in **Entrepreneurship** has been ranked among the **top 50 programs in the nation** by **The Princeton Review** and **Entrepreneur** magazine.
- Faculty from the **School of Social Work** have received a **\$221,680 grant from the Herrick Foundation** to help create a program that provides housing security for young adults experiencing homelessness, specifically as they transition out of juvenile detention facilities or jail within Washtenaw County. **Jennifer Kellman-Fritz**, social work professor and director of the School of Social Work; **Barbara Walters**, social work professor; and, **Bonnie Miller**, social work lecturer, will lead the efforts.
- Three EMU professors presented continuing education coursework to members of the **Society of Financial Service Professionals** in December. The topic was the potential ethical, financial, and clinical challenges associated with implementing legal guardianships. **Annemarie Kelly**, a practicing attorney and assistant professor of Health Administration; **Lewis Hershey**, professor of Marketing; and, **Christina**

- **Marsack-Topolewski**, practicing clinical social worker and assistant professor of Social Work, led the course.
- **Oksana Aliyev**, an Eastern alumna with a master's degree in Polymers and Coatings Technology, was selected as a delegate to the virtual **G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance summit** in October.

Of Note

- EMU and Henry Ford College (HFC) have entered into a partnership to offer **EMU scholarships to frontline workers who complete their HFC associate degree and pursue a bachelor's degree at EMU**. The partnership is an extension of HFC's participation in the State of Michigan's "**Futures for Frontliners**" scholarship program.
- **Yamiche Alcindor**, the **White House correspondent for PBS Newshour** and an **NBC and MSNBC Political Contributor**, will be the keynote speaker on January 18 for EMU's virtual **2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**, which runs from January 15-18.
- More than 1,300 supporters of Eastern gave more than **\$1.2 million in gifts** to a variety of scholarships, programs, and services on **#GivingTrueDay** on Tuesday, December 1.
- The **EMU University Archives** invites the EMU community to contribute any materials to assist in documenting the coronavirus pandemic, political turmoil, and racial unrest of 2020.
- A new episode of "**EMU Today TV**" has been released on Xfinity On Demand and on the university's YouTube channel. The episode features an in-depth look at the university's response to COVID-19.

Events

- The 38th semiannual **Celebration of Student Writing** is being held from December 4-20. The research and writing fair showcases projects by more than 1,000 students.
- The third **Star Lecture** was held virtually on November 18. **Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein**, professor of Political Science, discussed the topic, "Prospects for Justice in Post-Election America."
- Eastern's **Center for Health Disparities Innovations and Studies** worked with the **Asian Community Toward Innovative Visionary Environment Coalition** to offer mobile flu vaccination clinics for Asian and Arab Americans from November 14 – December 8.
- The **EMU Winds & Percussion Day** for high school students was held virtually on November 14.

- The **College of Health and Human Services** virtually hosted more than 200 students and faculty from eight different programs in the annual **Interprofessional Education** event on November 13.
- A music event celebrating **Native American Heritage Month** was held virtually on November 12.
- The **Center for Entrepreneurship** welcomed **Chris Kaufman, CEO of StockX**, for Fall Speaker Series event, held virtually on November 12.
- The annual **Digital Marketing Workshop**, sponsored by the **EMU Center for Digital Engagement**, was held virtually November 9-13.
- The **Women's and Gender Studies program** in the **College of Arts and Sciences** presented a symposium, "Critical Border Crossings: Stories, Texts, and Their Feminist Travels," on November 6.
- The **College of Business** virtually held its annual **Alumni Business Conference** on November 5.
- The **Faculty Senate Task Force on Campus Climate, Race, and Diversity** sponsored a discussion about the presidential election and moving forward. Faculty experts in politics, social statistics, history, psychology, women & gender studies, and African American studies were on hand for the virtual discussion on November 5.
- **EMU Campus Life** and the **EMU Police Department** teamed up to provide a family-friendly night of **Halloween fun** on October 30.
- **YpsiWrites**, a nonprofit community writing center created in partnership with EMU's **Office of Campus and Community Writing**, celebrated its one-year anniversary with the "Writing Matters to Ypsi" event on October 24.
- The second **Star Lecture** was held virtually on October 22. **Dr. Barbara Patrick**, associate professor of Political Science, discussed the topic, "Race, Policing, and Social Justice in 2020."
- The **Philosophy Speaker Series** presented **Dr. Lewis R. Gordon**, University of Connecticut, who gave a virtual presentation on "Black Existentialism and Black Lives Mattering" on October 22.
- The **Women's Resource Center** sponsored "Taking a Stand 24/1," a virtual discussion forum, on October 21.

Athletics

- Cross Country (Men): The Eagles captured the **2020 MAC Championship**, their 24th conference title and 14th in the last 16 seasons. Coach Sue Parks was named **Cross Country Coach of the Year**. **Andy Payne** placed second, **Baldvin Magnusson** took third, and **Chris Devaney** placed fourth in the championship.
- Cross Country (Men): **Chris Devaney, Baldvin Magnusson, and Andy Payne** were named to the **All-MAC First Team**, and **Toby Gualter** earned **All-MAC Second Team** honors.
- Golf (Men): **Cougar Collins** has been named to Team Canada's National Amateur Squad.
- Volleyball (Women): The EMU program was recognized with the **AVCA Voting Community Award** from the American Volleyball Coaches Association for exercising civic duty through participation in the democratic process. 100 percent of eligible student-athletes and coaches voted in the 2020 Presidential election.
- The NCAA has announced that Eastern's has posted a multi-year GSR (Graduation Success Rate) of 87 percent. Eleven teams improved or matched last year's scores. Baseball, women's golf, gymnastics, soccer, and volleyball each boasted a 100-percent rate.
- Former EMU Track alumna **Asia Rawls** has been named to the "**Twenty in their 20s**" list by *Crain's Detroit Business*.

TAB I

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS - CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Regent Simpson moved and Regent Beagen seconded that the Board of Regents, in accordance with the Board of Regents By-Laws, Article IV, Section 4.01, elect Eunice Jeffries as Chair of the Board of Regents for a two-year term. Additionally, in accordance with the Board of Regents By-Laws, Article IV, Section 4.02, elect Mike Hawks as Vice Chair of the Board of Regents for a two-year term.

Motion Carried

TAB J

2021 MEETING DATES

Regent Crumm announced that the 2021 meeting dates are as follows; Thursday, February 18, Thursday, April 22, Thursday, June 10, Thursday, October 14 and Thursday, December 9.

Chairman Webb reminded attendees that the next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2021. He called for any further business to be brought before the Board. There being none, Regent Crumm made a motion to adjourn. Regent Treder Lang seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vicki Reaume
Vice President and Secretary to the Board of Regents