

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
December 7, 2023

These are the proposed minutes of the December 7, 2023 Board of Regents meeting.

The meeting of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents was called to order by Board Chair Eunice Jeffries at 1:31 p.m.

The Board members present were: Regent Nathan Ford, Regent Mike Hawks, Regent Eunice Jeffries, Regent Jessie Kimbrough Marshall, Regent Chad Newton, Regent Anupam Sidhu, Regent Alex Simpson and Regent Marques Thomey. No regents were absent. There was a quorum.

Section 1

PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2023 GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Regent Ford moved and Regent Newton seconded that the proposed minutes for the October 19, 2023 Board Meeting be approved as submitted.

Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Section 2

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve twenty-seven (27) staff appointments for the reporting period September 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023: Patricia Ann Cabuena, Tyra Prince, LaJoyce Brown, Jennifer Cunningham, Sariah Metcalfe, Celia Culler, Mariam Dawwas, Jayson Macek, Zainab Aljibory, Emily Gould, Mikaylah Huff, Beth Skarnulis, Lisa Thorn, Katie Blanton, Carolyn Campbell, Lisa Schmidt, Biju Kalapurakkal, Neel Karia, Dwight Hamilton, Tevin Brown, Porter Westfall, Maher Salah, David Reyes, Thomas Fournier, Matthew Hiatt, Scott Beaton and Andrew Richardson.

Section 3

STAFF SEPARATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve sixteen (16) separations and retirements for the reporting period September 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023: Harbant France, Yanlin Sun, Ali Siewert, Danielle Weber, Emily Beaudrie, Heather Kuehneman, Kristine Kastle-Ruethe, Morgan Kusmits, Rose Golden, Sarah Ghotane, Anthony Duty, Jeffrey O'Donohue, Scott Hall, Jennifer DuChene, Robert Schneider and Cody Flores.

Section 4

EMERITUS FAULTY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended that the Board of Regents grant Emeritus Status to two (2) former faculty: John Gray Cooper, Professor, Department of Communication, Media & Theatre Arts from 1993 to 2023 who retired after 30 years; and Beth Henschen, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science from 1998 to 2023 who retired after 25 years.

Section 5

ACADEMIC RETIREMENTS/SEPARATIONS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve eight (8) retirements and five (5) separations for the period of May 16, 2023 through October 31, 2023: Sarah Cox, Jamie Ward, Beth Henschen, John Cooper, Elisabeth Daumer, Tricia Finger, Linda Isenhour, Sheila Longpre, Denise Tanguay, Carla Tayeh, Fraya Wagner-Marsh, Clyde Barnett III and Pamela Landau.

Section 6

PRESIDENT'S BONUS

Recommended should the Board of Regents find President Smith has met the criteria entitling him to a bonus pursuant Section 4.3 of the Third Amendment to President's Employee Contract, the Board authorize payment of such a bonus under that section.

Motion Carried

REGULAR AGENDA

Section 7

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regent Ford moved and Regent Sidhu seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for December 7, 2023 and the Minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 8

ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regent Simpson moved and Regent Newton seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Athletic Affairs Committee working agenda for the December 7, 2023 meeting and the December 8, 2022 Minutes.

Motion Carried

Section 9

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regent Simpson moved and Regent Ford seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Faculty Affairs Committee agenda for the December 7, 2023 meeting and the Minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 10

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

Regent Thomey moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Educational Policies Committee agenda for December 7, 2023 and the Minutes of the October 19, 2023 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 11

FALL 2023 BRICKLEY ENDOWMENT FOR FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION AWARDS

Regent Kimbrough Marshall moved and Regent Hawks seconded that the Board of Regents accept and place on file the report on the Fall 2023 Brickley Endowment for Faculty Professional Development and Innovation awards.

Motion Carried

Regent Thomey praised the outstanding presentation.

Section 12

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Regent Thomey moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents appoint the following candidates to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors for the following public school academies (charter schools) authorized by Eastern Michigan University: Adam Alobaidy for Global Tech Academy, Steven Carlson for Great Lakes Academy, and Sonia Jackson for Great Lakes Academy.

Motion Carried

Regent Thomey thanked Dr. Jolia Hill for the thorough annual report and the good discussion.

Section 13

2022-23 EMU CHARTER SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT

Regent Thomey moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on the file the 2022-2023 EMU Charter Schools Annual Report.

Motion Carried

Section 14

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Regent Newton moved and Regent Thomey seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Minutes from the October 19, 2023 Finance and Investment Committee meeting and the working agenda for the December 7, 2023 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 15

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 CAPITAL BUDGET

Regent Newton moved and Regent Hawks seconded that the Board of Regents approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 University Capital Budget appropriation of \$13.58 million.

Motion Carried

Section 16

**REPORT: 2022-2023 EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT**

Regent Simpson moved and Regent Ford 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, 2023.

Motion Carried

Regent Thomey congratulated the team for the clean audit and the outstanding year.

Section 17

2024-25 MEAL PLAN RATES

Regent Simpson moved and Regent Newton seconded that the Board of Regents approve a 4.9% increase to the meal plan rate for the Academic Year 2024-25.

Motion Carried

Section 18

3RD PARTY FUNDED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Regent Newton moved and Regent Sidhu seconded that the Board of Regents place on file the 3rd party funded capital projects with a combined total cost estimate of \$8.0 million.

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS AND PRESENTATIONS

TAB A

NAMING OF THE STUDENT ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE CENTER

Regent Sidhu moved and Regent Newton seconded that the Board of Regents re-name the Student-Athlete Performance Center the Incarnati Athletic Center, in accordance with the Board of Regents Policy 05.12.

Motion Carried

TAB B

APPOINTMENT OF EAGLE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BOARD MEMBER

Regent Hawks moved and Regent Ford seconded that the Board of Regents reappoint Regent Chad Newton to serve a two-year term on the Eagle Administrative Services Board from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025.

Motion Carried

TAB C

BOARD POLICY UPDATES

Regent Sidhu moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents approve revisions to the following existing Board Policies: Section 6.01.01 – Degrees, Certificates and Requirements for Graduation; Section 6.01.02 – General Undergraduate Curricular Requirements; Section 6.02.01.01 – Undergraduate Courses; Section 6.02.01.02 – Undergraduate Classes and Attendance; Section 6.02.01.06 – Undergraduate Academic Standing; Section 6.02.01.07 – Undergraduate Academic Honors upon Graduation; Section 6.02.02 – Academic Policies: Graduate; and Section 6.02.09.01 – Grades.

Motion Carried

TAB D

RESOLUTION: RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. CLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Regent Hawks moved and Regent Simpson seconded that Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents congratulate St. Clair Community College on its 100th anniversary.

Motion Carried

TAB E

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Reaume announced there were nine (9) requests made to address the Board of Regents. Each speaker was given up to three minutes.

1. Doris Fields and Dwight Hamilton (2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee) – 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week Overview
2. Decky Alexander – Engage@EMU. A Primer, Year in Review, and the Carnegie Classification in Community
3. Ethan Lowenstein (SEMIS at EMU) – Updates from the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition (SEMIS) at EMU
4. Caroline L. Sanders (Office of Engage) – Exciting news and updates regarding EMU's partnership with A2 YMCA's Collaborative Childcare Center

5. Jesse John (EMU Changing the Cycle) – Update regarding the EMU Changing the Cycle program
6. Melissa Thrasher (University Communications) – Enlighten U – EMU’s new podcast for students
7. Kimberly Brown (EMU McNair Scholars Program) – EMU McNair Scholars Program
8. Alicia Apperson (UACDC – Academic Advising) – The Registration Blitz event that took place on November 14th to assist our currently enrolled students register for next semester
9. Ali Duceatt (Chartwells/E Dining) – Thankful for You – community meal service and student engagement

TAB F

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Madam Chair and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

In just 10 days, the University will celebrate the most special of times on a college campus – commencement. I am thrilled to join members of the Board of Regents, University administrators, and our esteemed faculty and staff in congratulating more than 1,200 students who will conclude this part of their academic journey on Dec. 17. We are delighted to welcome our new graduates to the Eastern Michigan University alumni community, which numbers more than 186,000 worldwide. Here are some interesting facts about next week’s graduates:

- 18 are international students
- 10 are graduating with doctoral degrees
- 255 are graduating with master’s degrees
- 903 are graduating with bachelor’s degrees
- One is an ROTC student who will join the military to serve our country
- 157 are graduating Cum Laude with a 3.5 to 3.69 grade point average
- 191 are graduating Magna Cum Laude with a 3.7 to 3.89 grade point average; and,
- 128 are graduating Summa Cum Laude with a 3.9 to 4.0 grade point average

Our commencement speaker is metro Detroit business leader and philanthropist Gary Torgow. He is the chairman of the Board of Directors of Huntington Bank and will receive an honorary doctor of commercial science degree during the ceremony. We look forward to Mr. Torgow joining us for this special day.

The University's graduate program in entrepreneurship has been ranked among the top 50 in the nation and ninth best in the Midwest by The Princeton Review and Entrepreneur magazine. The College of Business program continues to be a source of pride for the University, enabling students to gain extensive and in-depth knowledge about entrepreneurial processes while participating in many co-curricular activities. Congratulations to Dean Ken Lord and Professor of Entrepreneurship and Director of EMU's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Sanjib Chowdhury, and faculty and staff who support the program.

Thank you to the nearly 1,000 donors who supported University programs during our annual #GivingTuesday last week. More than \$526,000 was raised, supporting dozens of EMU programs, scholarships and initiatives. Among the many benefitting programs was Swoop's Food Pantry. Thanks to a \$12,000 matching gift from GameAbove, more than \$32,000 was raised to help us address food insecurity. Another \$20,000 matching gift helped WEMU raise more than \$40,000. You can learn more about the programs that received donations on EMU Today.

This past Sunday, we learned that the Eastern Michigan football team was selected to participate in the 68 Ventures Bowl in Mobile, Ala., on Dec. 23. This is the program's third bowl game in the last three years and sixth in the last eight years. It follows last year's 41-27 win over San Jose State in the Idaho Potato Bowl. Needing wins in the last two games of the season to become bowl-eligible, the team finished strong. Congratulations to Athletic Director Scott Wetherbee, Coach Chris Creighton, his assistants and staff, and our student-athletes who continue to represent Eastern with pride on the playing field, in the classroom, and the community.

As I close, please join me in offering a special thank you to Regent Emeritus Phil Incarnati for his \$2.5 million gift to EMU Athletics and the renaming of the Student-Athlete Performance Center to the Incarnati Athletic Center. Coupled with his previous gifts of \$1.5 million, his total giving to EMU Athletics is now \$4 million. Regent Emeritus Incarnati is the president and CEO of McLaren Health Care, one of Michigan's largest employers. He is a two-time graduate of Eastern and was a student athlete on the football team. He served as a member of the Board of Regents for 18 years from 1992-2010, including 10 years as the Board Chair. I am grateful that the University will recognize him for his tireless work and dedicated commitment to supporting this institution.

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

Thank you, Chair Jeffries.
James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

Recognition

- Eastern seniors in the **Interior Design** program were recognized for their rendering skills and creativity, with **Avianne Cole** taking second place honors and **Autumn O'Halloran** taking third place at the **National CET Student Rendering Awards**.
- **Fatemeh Fallah**, a doctoral student studying **Polymers and Coating Technology**, has earned the **Best Technical Poster Award** at the **36th Biennial Western Coatings Symposium and Show**.
- **Jason Folk**, a freshman studying **Philosophy and Political Science**, has been selected to serve on the **Michigan Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force**. Members act as student liaisons between the Michigan Department of State and their campus populations. The task force will ensure that young people's voices are heard in Michigan elections.
- **Shayla Mostyn**, a sophomore honors student studying **Sociology**, was interviewed by **Fox2 Detroit News** about being an ambassador for **The Friendship Circle**. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing basic human rights of support, friendship, and inclusion to individuals with special needs.
- **Karen Craig**, associate professor of **Finance**, has been appointed as the chair of the student chapters committee for the **Financial Management Association (FMA) International** organization. She will assume a three-year term and oversee, direct, and supervise FMA's student programs and the National Honor Society.
- **Intelligent.com** has ranked Eastern 11th in the nation for **Best Online Master's in Educational Psychology Degree Programs**.
- Eastern's graduate program in **Entrepreneurship** has been ranked among the top 50 programs in the nation by **The Princeton Review** and **Entrepreneur**. The program has been a source of pride, showcasing a track record of graduating students who establish successful companies and businesses.
- Eastern has been recognized for having one of the **Best Online Graduate Certificate in Human Resources Degree Programs in Michigan**, ranking 14th in the nation by **Intelligent.com**.
- **Intelligent.com** has ranked Eastern 12th in the nation for **Best Online Nutrition Degree Programs**.

- Eastern has been recognized for having one of the **Best Online Bachelor’s Paralegal Studies Degree Programs in Michigan**, ranking fifth by **Intelligent.com**.
- Eastern has been acknowledged by **Intelligent.com** for being one of the **Best Online Colleges in Michigan**, ranking fourth among other Michigan colleges.
- Eastern has been recognized for its outstanding **Social Mobility** by the **U.S. News and World Report**, tying for first among Michigan universities for advancing mobility by enrolling and graduating a large proportion of economically disadvantaged students.
- Eastern earned a spot on the **2024 Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges**, highlighting the institution's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability.
- **Aric Kirkland**, director of desktop and classroom technology for EMU, was recognized by the **Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)** as a recipient of their **Outstanding Service Award**.
- The **62nd Annual Alumni Awards** were held on October 6. The Office of Alumni and Donor Engagement in partnership with the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Recognition, Awards, and Scholarship Committee, celebrated four deserving award recipients for 2023. **Chaz Stewart-Bunting** received the **Outstanding Young Alumni Award**, **Brian James Egen** received the **Alumni Achievement Award**, the **Hon. Daniel Opperman** received the **Distinguished Alumni Award**, and **Dr. Linda Pritchard** was honored with the **Dr. John W. Porter Distinguished Service Award**.

Of Note

- The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** has awarded the **Southeast Michigan Stewardship (SEMIS) Coalition** \$500,000 for a project titled “Community Resilience from the Youth Up: A Place-Based Education Strategy for Southeast Michigan.” Led by **College of Education** professor and SEMIS Coalition Director **Ethan Lowenstein**, the project addresses the urgent need to increase resilience in Detroit and southeast Michigan by partnering high school students and teachers with place-based educators, climate scientists, adaptation professionals, municipalities, and community organizations.

- **EMUiNVENT** has been awarded a **Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam** grant of \$7,500 to create an invention geared toward aiding community-dwelling elderly in changing positions safely. The InvenTeam will work with **Muhammad Ahmed**, professor of **Engineering**, and **Ryan Horne**, instructional coach of Howell Public Schools, who will guide students through the development of their invention. Additionally, the team will partner with **Spark East Innovation Center, Michigan STEM Network Region 2**, and **the Toyota Driving Possibilities Program**.
- The November episode of "**Enlighten U**," an EMU podcast for students, focused on alcohol use. **Chrissie Zavicar**, a 2004 EMU graduate, and **Dr. Brenna Breshears**, assistant professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, discussed the issue with EMU co-hosts **Lolita Cummings**, professor of public relations, and **Melissa Thrasher**, executive director of media relations.
- Two new sculptures have been installed by sculptor **Benjamin Victor** and funded by **GameAbove**. The two sculptures are located outside of the **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology**.

Events

- The **Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center** invited faculty and students to attend **Flipping the Script**, a student-led teaching and learning conference on November 30 to empower the learners to become the teachers, and the teachers to become the learners.
- The **Center for Digital Engagement** hosted its 13th annual **Digital Marketing Workshop**, "The Age of AI," with keynote speaker EMU alumni **Chris Prucha** on November 17.
- **EMU, the Hundley Foundation, Chartwells, and Golden Limo** hosted the second annual **Thankful for You** community event on November 16. They kicked off the two-part event with a "Thankful Meals to Go" giveaway, followed by a sit-down meal for community members, distributing 1,000 Thanksgiving-themed meals at the two events.
- **EDining** held its annual **Thankful** event for students to enjoy a Thanksgiving-themed menu and activities to bring friends together to celebrate the holiday on November 16.
- The **College of Education** held a **Dean EduTalk** with keynote speaker **Mama Söl** on November 14.

- The **LGBT Resource Center** collaborated with **Alpha Sigma Tau at EMU** and invited students to participate in their **Cis Day of Action** to help paint the free speech wall with messages of support and care for fellow gender-diverse peers on November 13.
- The **College of Health and Human Services** hosted its annual **Excellence in Interprofessional Education simulation event** on November 10.
- The **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** hosted a **Digital Dudes** event on November 10. More than 350 high school boys from 21 schools explored a wide array of hands-on workshops, covering topics such as coding, finance, drones, nursing, chemistry, orthotics and prosthetics, first aid, manufacturing, and electrical engineering.
- The **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** hosted its **Digital Divas STEM Conference** event on November 3. More than 600 girls attended from 21 schools, marking the culmination of over a decade of dedicated efforts to inspire young minds to explore the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- **Campus Life** hosted **Pumpkins on the Patio**, with Halloween festivities such as pumpkin carving, a haunted house, and cider and donuts, on October 31.
- The **Admissions Welcome Center** held its annual **Rise Higher: First-Generation Day** to celebrate first-generation, first-year students, on October 28.
- The **Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)** hosted a **Student Development Conference**, with Q & A session speakers from **Henry Ford Health, EMU UACDC, Bosch, UofM School of Public Health, Ozone House, Airfoil, The Henry Ford, and Ilitch Sports Entertainment** on October 27.
- The **Latinx Student Association** held its annual **Dia De Los Muertos** event on October 26 to celebrate the lives of the loved ones who have passed.
- **Peter Blackmer**, assistant professor of **Africology and African American Studies**, led the launch of **Reckoning with Racism, Resistance, and Emergency Management: Voices from the Grassroots**, a community-focused oral history project, on October 26.
- **Eastern** hosted a **Welcome Home Furniture Fair**, showcasing furniture options for the new on-campus apartments, Lakeview and Westview, on October 24-25.
- The **Center of Race & Ethnicity** hosted a **Treat Yourself Meet and Greet**, for students to meet the CORE staff on October 24.

- The **EMU Symphonic Band** held a concert on October 22.
- Eastern's **Honors College** hosted its annual **Fall Festival**, a time for students to relax, paint pumpkins, games, while snacking on some fall treats, on October 21.
- The EMU **Wind Symphony**, under the direction of **Dr. Mary K. Schneider**, presented its first concert of the semester on October 20. The concert featured **John Dorsey**, professor of percussion.
- Eastern held its annual **Swooptacular Spooktacular** on October 20.
- The **Theater Program at EMU** presented the musical **Sweet Charity** on October 19-22.

Athletics

- Cross Country (Women): The Eagles took **second place** at the **MAC Championships**. **Esme Davies** took second place in the competition.
- Cross Country (Women): **Esme Davies** and **Paige Marchant** both earned **All-MAC First Team** accolades and **Marta Moreno** was named to the **All-MAC Second Team**.
- Cross Country (Men): The Eagles took **fifth place** at the **MAC Championships**.
- Cross Country (Men): **Marcus Kemp** earned **All-MAC First Team** honors.
- Football (Men): **Mitchell Tomasek** earned **All-MAC First Team** honors for the second consecutive season, becoming the first EMU punter to do so in back-to-back years. **Brian Dooley**, **Jaylon Jackson**, **Tanner Knue**, and **Joe Sparacio** earned **All-MAC Second Team** nods.
- Football (Men): **Brian Dooley** has been nominated for the **Wuerffel Trophy**, which is presented annually to the top community servant in college football. **Dooley** was also named one of 20 semifinalists being considered for the 2023 **Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year**.
- Football (Men): **Tanner Knue** has been named a nominee for the 2023 **Burlsworth Trophy**, given annually to the most outstanding football player who began his career as a walk-on.

- Soccer (Women): **Kate Robinson** and **Olivia Sipsock** were named to the **MAC All-Freshman Team**, and **Kate Robinson** was named **MAC Freshman of the Year**.
- Soccer (Women): **Sophia D'Ambra**, **Mary Grimes**, **Ella Holland**, **Secora Johnson**, **Meagan Lukowski**, and **Lily Spotak** have been named **College Sports Communicators Academic All-District**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Callum Robinson** competed for Canada in the Pan-American Games in Santiago, Chile in November.
- Volleyball (Women): **Callie Menshew** was named to the **All-MAC Second Team**.
- Former EMU football player and current Las Vegas Raiders standout **Maxx Crosby**, along with his wife **Rachel Crosby**, former EMU soccer student-athlete, have committed \$1 million to the EMU Athletics Department.
- In a heartwarming celebration on November 18, Eastern Michigan University paid tribute to the legacy of former Men's Basketball Head Coach **Ben Braun** by officially naming the court inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center as "**Ben Braun Court**." Braun's coaching tenure at EMU spanned 11 seasons, during which he accumulated an impressive list of achievements, including 185 victories, three Mid-American Conference (MAC) Regular Season Championships, three MAC Tournament titles, and three NCAA Tournament selections. His success was further underscored by three MAC Coach of the Year awards and a remarkable 106-35 home record.

TAB G

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS – CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Recommended that the Board of Regents elect Chad Newton as Chair of the Board of Regents and Nate Ford as Vice Chair of the Board of Regents for two-year terms.

Motion Carried

Each board member personally thanked Regent Jeffries for her steadfast leadership as Board Chair, recognizing the great amount of time she put into the role leading the board, especially during the pandemic. Many stressed her professionalism and graceful leadership style. In addition, they praised her for being the first African American, female board chair and mentioned how thankful they were that she still had one remaining year left on the board.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chair Jeffries, Regent Emeritus Dennis Beagen and President Smith presented Steve Martin with a commemorative service coin thanking Steve for his outstanding service at the University, especially during each Board of Regents meeting.

Chairman Jeffries reminded attendees that the next general board meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2024. She called for any further business to be brought before the Board. There being none, Regent Ford made a motion to adjourn. Regent Newton seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vicki Reaume
Vice President and Secretary to the Board of Regents