

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
February 8, 2024

These are the proposed minutes of the February 8, 2024 Board of Regents meeting.

The meeting of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents was called to order by Board Chair Chad Newton at 1:34 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 DECEMBER 7, 2023 GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Regent Jeffries moved and Regent Thomey seconded that the proposed minutes for the December 7, 2023 Board Meeting be approved as submitted.

Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Newton 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 Ford and seconded by Regent Simpson that sections 2 through 7 be approved in their entirety as presented.

Section 2

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve thirteen (13) staff appointments for the reporting period November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023: Taylor Clarke, Tori Schuetz, Julia Atkins, Erin Boomer, John Randle Sr., Anna Hillaker, William Martin Jr., James Sanders, Hugh Smallwood, Ashley Benedict, Larry Brossia Jr., Claire McManus and Rosemary Schick.

Section 3

STAFF SEPARATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve four (4) separations and retirements for the reporting period November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023: Alexa Carlozzi, Eric Antolak, Nathan Clements and Wanda Parker.

Section 4

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATIVE/PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve two (2) Administrative/Professional appointments and transfers: Kimberly Lindquist and Marguerite DeBello.

Section 5

ACADEMIC RETIREMENT/SEPARATIONS

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve one (1) retirement and two (2) separations for the period of November 1, 2023 through January 15, 2024: Pamela Becker, Matthew C. Cooper and Brian Coffey.

Section 6

LECTURER APPOINTMENT

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve one (1) new lecturer appointment for the 2023-2024 academic year: Michelle Belt.

Section 7

EMERITUS FAULTY STAFF

Recommended that the Board of Regents grant Emeritus Status to two (2) former faculty: Elisabeth Daumer, Professor, Department of English Language and Literature from 1992 to 2023 who retired after 31 years; and D. Robert Okopny, Professor, Department of Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems from 1988 to 2022 who retired after 34 years.

Motion Carried

REGULAR AGENDA

Section 8

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regent Sidhu moved and Regent Ford seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for February 8, 2024 and the Minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 9

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regent Kimbrough Marshall moved and Regent Sidhu seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Faculty Affairs Committee agenda for the February 8, 2024 meeting and the Minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 10

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

Regent Jeffries moved and Regent Hawks seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Educational Policies Committee agenda for February 8, 2024 and the Minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 11

REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Regent Jeffries moved and Regent Thomey seconded that the Board of Regents reappoint 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: Charles Simms for the Detroit Public Safety Academy, Tina Poole for the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center for Excellence and Regina Walker for the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center for Excellence.

Motion Carried

Section 12

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Regent Thomey moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Minutes from the December 7, 2023 Finance and Investment Committee meeting and the working agenda for the February 8, 2024 meeting.

Motion Carried

Section 13

WEMU-FM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (JUNE 30, 2023)

Regent Thomey moved and Regent Hawks seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the WEMU-FM Financial Statements as of June 30, 2023 and related auditor's report.

Motion Carried

Section 14

EASEMENT – DTE GAS

Regent Simpson moved and Regent Ford seconded that the Board of Regents approve and authorize the President or his designee to finalize and sign a Provisional Easement for DTE natural gas near the Cornell Courts Apartment location.

Motion Carried

Section 15

AY25 APARTMENT RESIDENT MEAL PLAN RATES

Regent Simpson moved and Regent Jeffries seconded that the Board of Regents approve an additional meal plan option for the 2024-25 Academic Year for apartment residents only.

Regent Kimbrough Marshall thanked Finance Chair Thomey and CFO Valdes for their work on developing this meal plan for students on campus.

Motion Carried

Section 16

FORD LAKE ROWING COURSE

Regent Thomey moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents approve and authorize the President or his designee to finalize and sign a contribution agreement and a forthcoming operation agreement with Destination Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest for the shared investment in enhancements to the University's competitive rowing course facility.

Regent Thomey thanked the presenters for the excellent presentation provided during the Finance and Investment Committee meeting, stressing this project is a great community partnership.

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

TAB A

BOARD POLICY UPDATES

Regent Ford moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents approve revisions to the following existing Board Policies: Section 1.05: Bylaws and Section 15.01: Electronic Communications.

Motion Carried

TAB B

RESOLUTION: DR. CULLIAN W. HILL (COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY)

Regent Hawks moved and Regent Simpson seconded that the Board of Regents acknowledge the late Dr. Cullian W. Hill's extraordinary commitment to his community and his students.

Motion Carried

TAB C

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Reaume announced there were eight (8) requests made to address the Board of Regents. Each speaker was given up to three minutes.

1. Andy Rowden and Mike Price (EMU and Destination Ann Arbor) – Community Rowing Partnership
2. Greg Richards (E Dining) – Healthy Eating for Students
3. David Duggar and Monique Uzelac (Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium) – Update about the Early College Alliance (ECA) at EMU
4. Elizabeth Stoner (EMU Professional Programs & Training) – Great Lakes OSHA Education Center at EMU: what it is, who it serves, it's impact and funding
5. Doris Fields – MLK Week Report: An Overview of the Week and the Events that we put on during the celebration

6. Anke Wolbert (EMUFT) – EMUFT Input and Communication Proposal
7. Luke Yates (Engage@EMU) – Eagle Engage Corps
8. LaJoyce Brown (Office of Admissions at EMU) – The EMU Office of Admissions Inaugural High School Advisory Board

TAB D

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Chair Newton and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

I’ll begin my prepared remarks this afternoon, focusing on the profound significance of Black History Month. It is a time to reflect and celebrate the achievements, resilience, and impact Black individuals have made to shape our campus, communities, and nation.

At Eastern Michigan University, we stand committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse environment where every student feels valued and supported regardless of their background. Diversity is part of Eastern’s D-N-A. It is celebrated here, as evidenced by our “All Are Welcome Here” signage across campus. We are focused on providing opportunities for growth and leadership -- and Black History Month is a catalyst for ongoing dialogue, understanding, and education.

As such, we have several programs taking place throughout the month. Yesterday, alumna and fashion icon Desyrée Nicole visited campus for a series of events to commemorate Black History Month and National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Desyrée founded a luxury men’s clothing line based in New York City and participated in the Netflix program “Next in Fashion.” While a student at Eastern, she was a point guard on the basketball team that won the Mid-American Conference Championship in 2012.

Tomorrow, a group of students will travel to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit for an event sponsored by Eastern’s Black Student Union, the Center of Race and Ethnicity, and Campus Life. Registration for the museum tour and a list of other Black History Month activities can be found on the University’s Black History Month webpage.

Let us carry the spirit of Black History Month as we continue our journey toward a more just and equitable society.

While on the topic of a more just and equitable society, Eastern faculty members are being recognized for their recent work. Professor Tsu-Yin Wu, director of the University's Center for Health Disparities Innovations and Studies, is the lead author of a study published in a national journal that examines the relationship between racism, mental distress, alcohol use and firearm purchasing among Asian Americans during the pandemic.

Another national journal has published research conducted by three faculty members in the College of Business that assesses the impact of the Ukraine-Russia war on Ukraine refugees. Professor David Victor, Lecturer Kimberley Barker and retired lecturer Christine Day collaborated on the research project investigating the communication and cultural challenges the refugees face.

First-year student and Presidential Scholar Anyah Johnson has received the prestigious Gates Scholarship, awarded to only 300 students nationwide from a pool of more than 35,000 applicants. The Gates Scholarship is designed for exceptional minority students. Anyah is majoring in Aviation Flight Technology and is committed to increasing the number of women and Black pilots in the U.S.

In other good news, Eastern's nearly 500 student-athletes set a school record for the highest cumulative GPA in athletic department history with a 3.404 for the Fall 2023 semester.

And, keeping with athletics, please join me in celebrating the \$2 million gift from former cross country and track and field student-athletes Dan McClory and Keith Moore. Dan was a three-time captain of the cross-country team. Keith was a cross country and track and field team member and served in student government. After graduation, the teammates founded Boustead & Company Limited, a diversified financial services firm headquartered in Irvine, California. We are immensely grateful for their gift and ongoing commitment to Eastern Michigan University.

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

Thank you, Chair Newton.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

Recognition

- **Chanuth Jayatissa, Cameron Jones, and Karthikeya Thota** represented EMU at the **Institute of Electrical Electronics Engineer's IEEEExtreme** 24-hour hackathon. The TEAM placed ninth in the U.S.

- Eastern's **Information Assurance Student Association** competed in nine challenge categories: open source intelligence, cryptography, password cracking, log analysis, network traffic analysis, forensics, scanning and reconnaissance, web application exploitation, enumeration, and exploitation. The team placed 11th in the competition, and ranked first in Michigan.
- Associate professor **Adam Briggs** has received the **B. F. Skinner Foundation New Researcher Award**. The award recognizes innovative and significant research in behavior analysis conducted within the first 10 years of receiving a doctorate.
- Five faculty projects received **James H. Brickley Endowment for Faculty Professional Development and Innovation** awards to develop solutions to real-world issues, such as twisting body motion detection, interdisciplinary understandings of social change and the Civil Rights movement, understanding the links between human behavior and the brain, and how science can inform the future. **Ruth Armitage, Jin Bo, Rui Chen, Matthew Cook, Naomi Hashimoto, Renee Lajiness-O'Neill, Steven LoDuca, Elizabeth Neilson, and Ken Saldanha** received awards for their projects.
- Eastern's **Director of Admissions LaJoyce Brown** has been honored with the **Michigan Youth Appreciation Foundation's Distinguished Service Award** for her contributions to Metro Detroit Youth Day, which brings together youth from diverse backgrounds for sports, fun, and constructive activities.
- The EMU **Center of Entrepreneurship's Executive Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Venture Challenge**, an eight-week certificate program, awarded \$30,000 to two winners, **Paul Reiss and Jonathan Marceau**.

Of Note

- **Dr. Tsu-Yin Wu** has received a multimillion-dollar five-year grant from the **National Institutes of Health** to better understand racism during the pandemic that is associated with an increase in firearm ownership and carrying by Asian Americans, putting them at a higher risk of firearm injury.
- In a time of critical need, **Kroger**, alongside **Eastern Michigan University's Swoop's Pantry** and **EMU Athletics**, continues efforts to alleviate food insecurity among students. Due to the success of this joint effort, Eastern recognized Kroger at a basketball game for the company's recent contributions to Swoop's Pantry, amounting to \$20,000. Cumulatively, Kroger had extended support exceeding \$90,000 to the pantry through various grants.
- The **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** announced the launch of its new **Fundamentals of Cybersecurity Certificate** program. The virtual six-month program is designed to provide individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to enter the field of cybersecurity.

- EMU biology professor **Aaron Liepman** created a LEGO mosaic of Martin Luther King Jr. and other influential leaders during the famous 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery. The mosaic was unveiled on January 15 in the University Gallery in the Student Center. It is comprised of 16,000 hand-painted LEGO bricks and took more than 100 hours to build. The mosaic is on display in the Honor's College.
- On the most recent episode of the "**Enlighten U**" podcast, EMU graduate student Justin Walters candidly shares his struggles with burnout and over-commitment throughout his undergraduate and graduate studies. Podcast episodes are available on the EMU YouTube channel and on all major podcast platforms.
- The January episode of **EMU Today TV** provided an inside look at the development of an innovative new EMU video podcast focusing on student emotional well-being, "**Enlighten U**," and a new six-month program that provides individuals with the skills and knowledge to enter the field of cybersecurity. Episodes can be found on the EMU YouTube channel.

Events

- The **School of Music and Dance** held its annual **Faculty and Guest Artist Dance concert** on January 26-27.
- The **Formosa Quartet, EMU Symphony Orchestra, and EMU Choir** performed as part of **The American Mirror Project**, a collaborative initiative that holds up mirrors to America and highlights personal reflections of what America means, on January 20.
- Eastern held the inaugural "**Night of Dreams**" event, a collection of performances by EMU students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members at Pease Auditorium on January 18, as part of the MLK Celebration week of events.
- During the MLK Celebration week of events, Eastern hosted a "**Walk to Freedom**" panel discussion on January 17, with Edith Lee-Payne an activist for social justice and participant in MLK's March on Washington.
- The **Holman Success Center** held its winter **Syllabus Scavenger Hunt Workshop** to help students learn organizational tips and time management strategies on January 17.
- EMU held its annual **Winterfest**, an event for students to connect with various student-run organizations on January 16.
- Eastern held its annual **MLK Jr. President's Luncheon** with keynote speaker **Victoria Pratt**, author of *The Power of Dignity: How Transforming Justice can Heal our Communities*, on January 15.
- Eastern's Choir hosted its annual **Holiday Candlelight Concert** on December 9 and 10.

- Eastern alumni and social media influencer **Jon Kung** made a stop on EMU's campus to give an **exclusive talk** about his career journey and how he rose to fame as a full-time content creator on December 5.
- **EMU Theatre** presented the stage play "**A Wrinkle in Time**" on November 30-December 3. The performance follows Meg Murry as she joins forces with Mrs. Whatsit, Charles Wallace, Calvin O'Keefe, and others to battle evil, rescue her father, save humanity, and discover herself.

Athletics

- Cross Country (Women): **Esme Davies, Ella Gavin, Kiera Hansen, Sofia Ivanko, Marta Moreno, Chloe Musta, Cara Weber, and Elena Wheeler** were named to the **Cross Country Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Cross Country (Men): **Sam Peterson, Grant Sweningson, and Kian Wiles** were named to the **Cross Country Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Football (Men): **Dimitri Douglas, Samson Evans, Jere Getzinger, Ryan Kingston, and Tanner Knue** have been named **2023 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District** honorees.
- Football (Men): **Steve Bird** has been named to the **Phil Steele MAC All-Conference first team**. **Brian Dooley, Mitchell Tomask, and Hamze El-Zayat** were named to the **Phil Steele MAC All-Conference second team**.
- Football (Men): **Steve Bird, Blake Daniels, Nick Deverauz, Dimitri Douglas, Samson Evans, Jere Getzinger, Alex Howie, Kaiden Keefe, Ryan Kingston, Tanner Knue, Carson Lee, Josh McCarty, Alex Merritt, Max Reese, Owen Snively, Mitchell Tomasek, and Daniel Warnsman** have earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Football (Men): **Samson Evans** has earned a place on the **College Sport Communications Academic All-American second team**.
- Soccer (Women): **Sophia D'Ambra, Mary Grimes, Tiffanie Hollingsworth, Secora Johnson, Meagan Lukowski, Ashley Schneider, and Lily Spotak** received **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Volleyball (Women): **Sabrina Gremm, Mackenzie Gross, Hannah Kivett, Emma McMahan, and Callie Minshew** received **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Volleyball (Women): **Callie Minshew and Abigail Stanford** have been named to the **College Sports Communicators Academic All-District** team.

- Eastern held a ribbon cutting for the new **GameAbove Golf Performance Center** at Eagle Crest Golf Course, marking the culmination of a visionary project that promised to redefine the landscape of collegiate golf training.
- Eastern's 497 student-athletes set a school record of the **highest GPA in the department's history** with a 3.404 cumulative GPA for the Fall 2023 semester marking the 28th consecutive semester of earning higher than a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Motion Carried

Chairman Newton and fellow Board members presented Regent Jeffries with a gift (Block E display and plaque) and thanked her for her outstanding leadership as Chair for the past three years.

Chairman Newton reminded attendees that the next general board meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2024. He called for any further business to be brought before the Board. There being none, Regent Ford made a motion to adjourn. Regent Hawks seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vicki Reaume
Vice President and Secretary to the Board of Regents