

**MINUTES
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

December 7, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Required statutory notice having been given the fourth quarterly meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held on December 7, 2023, at the Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room at Jody Richards Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chair W. Currie Milliken at approximately 1:00 p.m. (CT).

ROLL CALL

The following Regents were present, representing a quorum of the Board:

Regents Present:

Regent Phillip W. Bale

Regent Linda Ball

Regent David Brinkley

Regent Gary Broady

Regent Melissa Dennison

Regent W. Currie Milliken, Chair

Regent Cynthia Nichols

Regent Shane Spiller

Regent Doris Thomas

Regent Jan West, Vice Chair

Regent Sam Kurtz

Others Present:

Timothy C. Caboni, President

Andrea Anderson, General Council

Beth Dillon, Assistant to the President for the Board of Regents

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following meeting minutes were distributed to the Board for review in advance and presented for adoption:

- August 11, 2023

MOTION

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 11, 2023, was made by Regent West and seconded by Regent Brinkley

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Action Items:

- AA-1 Academic Program Suspension Floristry, Minor [p 1]
- AA-2 Academic Program Suspension, Master of Science in Child and Family Studies [p 2]
- AA-3 Approval of Emeritus Appointments [p 3]

Information Item:

- The Role of Copulas in the Housing Crisis (*Dr. David Zimmer*)

MOTION

Motion to approve item AA-1 was made by Regent West and seconded by Regent Dennison.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Other _____

MOTION

Motion to approve item AA-2 was made by Regent Brinkley and seconded by Regent Thomas.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Other _____

MOTION

Motion to approve item AA-3 (first Emeritus appointment) was made by Regent Spiller and seconded by Regent West.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Other _____

MOTION

Motion to approve item AA-3 (second Emeritus appointment) was made by Regent Thomas and seconded by Regent Spiller.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Other _____

FINANCE AND BUDGET

Action Item:

- FB-1 Acceptance of auditor's report and financial statements for year ended June 30, 2023 [p 1 and attached reports]
- FB-2 Approval of 2023-2024 statement of revenues & expenditures [p 2 and attached report]
- FB-3 Approval of 2023-2024 operating budget revisions [p 3]
- FB-4 Approval of personnel actions [p 4 and attached reports]
- FB-5 Approval of internal audit charter revisions [p 5 and attached report]

MOTION

Motion to approve items FB-1 was made by Regent Brinkley and seconded by Regent West.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Other _____

MOTION

Motion to approve items FB-2 through FB-5 was made by Regent Brinkley and seconded by Regent Spiller.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Other _____

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Information Item:

- LLC presentation

EXECUTIVE

Action Item:

EX-1 Approval of Provost Emeritus appointment [pp 1-2]

*EX-2 Approval of the philanthropic naming of the softball equipment room [p 3]

***This item was not presented at the Executive committee meeting on October 20, 2023.**

Chair W. Currie Milliken highlighted some of the contributions Dr. Lee contributed to Western Kentucky University. President Caboni followed Chair Milliken by pointing out the guidance Dr. Lee provided and thanked him for what he did for WKU and for him personally. Dr. Lee followed up with a few words of thanks to the board for the appointment.

MOTION

Motion to approve items EX-1 was made by Regent Thomas and seconded by Regent Spiller.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Other _____

MOTION

Motion to approve items EX-2 was made by Regent Dennison and seconded by Regent Thomas.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Other _____

Information Item:

- Philanthropy update (Amanda Trabue)
- President's evaluation

Chair Milliken read his typed statement regarding President Caboni's evaluation:

The WKU Board of Regents recently completed our annual evaluation of President Caboni with 100% participation among Regents. Throughout his tenure as President and accelerating during the past year, President Caboni has proven to be an effective leader with a remarkable ability to advance our university, create stability, and promote an overall culture of excellence and innovation. The Board continues to confidently support President Caboni's leadership and forward-looking vision for Western Kentucky University.

President Caboni's stewardship has helped WKU to make significant and rapid progress toward achieving the ambitious goals outlined in the university's 10-year Strategic Plan. His dedication to our institution's mission and thoughtful approach to challenges have been instrumental in driving transformative improvements in student success, academic excellence, and WKU's influence across our broader region. These efforts have not only enhanced WKU's current standing but have also solidified a robust foundation for future growth and success.

While the evaluation period focused on the previous academic year, WKU's positive momentum has certainly continued into this fall semester with notable achievements already occurring in the first half of the 23-24 academic year including:

- The first increase in overall degree-seeking enrollment in 13 years;
- The highest first-to-second year student retention in recorded university history;
- The commencement of construction on WKU's long-awaited new Gordon Ford College of Business building; and
- Commitments of more than \$92.9 million for the WKU Opportunity fund, which exceed President Caboni's original \$50 million goal by nearly \$43 million, 4 years ahead of the planned conclusion date.

The Board of Regents' review of President Caboni's performance makes clear that, because of the difficult work undertaken and the success of those endeavors, WKU is better positioned for the future under his leadership. We look forward to celebrating WKU's future successes as the university continues *Climbing to Greater Heights*.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future meeting dates:


- December 8, 2023 – College Recognition Ceremonies
 - January 19, 2024 – Committee Meetings
 - March 1, 2024 – First Quarterly Meeting
 - April 12, 2024 – Committee Meetings
 - May 2, 2024 – Second Quarterly Meeting
 - May 2, 2024 – Commencement
 - May 3, 2024 – College Recognition Ceremonies
 - June 7, 2024 – Special Budget Approval Meeting
 - June 7, 2024 – Committee Meetings
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ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:07 p.m. (CT).

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the minutes herein above set forth an accurate record of the second quarterly meeting held August 11, 2023, in the Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room at Jody Richards Hall and further certify that the meeting was held in compliance with KRS 61.810, 61.815, 61.820, and 61.825 (enacted as Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of House Bill 100, 1974 Regular Session, General Assembly).


W. Currie Milliken, Chair
WKU Board of Regents
Approved on 3/01/24


Doris Thomas, Secretary
WKU Board of Regents
Approved on 3/01/24