



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 25, 2023

Minutes

Scanlon Banquet Hall A

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing also took place on YouTube.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Dr. Robert Martin, Vice Chair Ali Salehi, Secretary Dr. Gloria Williams, and Trustees George Gilmer, Theresa Jasmin, Chris Montemayor, and William Reichelt

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY:** Trustees Melissa Alvarado and Chloe Sanfacon

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Trustees Paul Boudreau and Madeline Landrau

Also present and participating were Westfield State University President Dr. Linda Thompson; Dr. Joan Kuhnly and Dr. Jamie Rivera of the Nursing Department; nursing students Julia Roe and Rawan Ebrahim; cabinet members Maggie Balch, Daniel Forster, Dr. Michael Freeman, Richard Lenfest, Jr., Lisa McMahon, Dr. Juline Mills, Dr. LaRue Pierce, and Stephen Taksar; and Associate Provost Dr. Brian Jennings.

The meeting was called to order at 2:53 PM by Chair Martin.

**MOTION** made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Montemayor, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022, February 7, 2023, and February 23, 2023, meetings. **There being no discussion, ROLL CALL VOTE** passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Alvarado, Gilmer, Jasmin, Montemayor, Reichelt, Salehi, Sanfacon, Williams, and Martin.

Board Chair Dr. Robert Martin shared the following words and ideas that have stood out to him recently as he observes higher education and specifically Westfield State University: 1) the **resilience** of students and the institution in spite of challenges, 2) the ability and necessity of thinking **collectively and collaboratively** in all of the institution's issues, including finances, enrollment, and academics, and 3) cognitive and behavioral **flexibility** in how things are done and in how students learn.

He referenced the following policy which was provided to the Trustees with minor revisions. There were no questions or concerns from the Board, so the minor revisions were adopted as presented.

- i. Taxation of Gifts, Prizes and Awards Policy (0603)

President's Report. President Thompson congratulated the faculty being promoted and receiving tenure. The NECHE site visit has taken place and changes are starting to be implemented based on their recommendations. Enrollment growth and economic health will be priorities for the institution and work on the next strategic plan will soon be started. She plans to bring together her leadership team, the Board, and

faculty members to evaluate current and future priorities. She provided an update on the IDEA framework through engagement.

Student Trustee Report. Trustee Sanfacon shared the dates for the commencement ceremonies. The SGA hosted Senator John Velis and President Thompson for a discussion about student mental health. Fresh Check Day and Unity Week ended with Spring Weekend. The SGA senate and executive board are in place following student elections. Daniel Currier was introduced as the new student trustee.

WSU Nursing in Puerto Rico: Cultural Immersion Experience. Drs. Kuhnly and Rivera introduced students Julia Roe and Rawan Ebrahim who presented on the nursing program’s recent trip to Puerto Rico. The students shared that this trip opened their eyes and helped them learn about nursing for all peoples and cultures and shared the impact on their future careers.

Academic Affairs Committee. Committee Chair Dr. Gloria Williams updated the Board on discussions held in the committee meeting and presented the following Motions, which were approved by the committee.

Provost Mills provided the process and levels of promotion and stated each candidate had met all requirements in the MSCA collective bargaining agreement. She provided a brief bio of each candidate and highlighted their teaching, scholarship, and contributions to the University. All candidates were present except for Drs. DiCarlo and McDiarmid.

**MOTION** made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Salehi, to approve the granting of promotion to the rank of Professor, effective September 1, 2023, to:

Dr. Imo Imeh	Art
Dr. Timothy LeDoux	Geography, Planning & Sustainability

To approve the granting of promotion to the rank of Senior Librarian, effective September 1, 2023, to:

Ms. Corinne Ebbs	Library
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To approve the granting of promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, effective September 1, 2023, to:

Dr. Arne Christensen	Biology
Dr. Lauren DiCarlo	Environmental Science
Mr. Anthony Furnelli	Marketing & Management
Dr. Susan McDiarmid	Health Sciences
Dr. Princy Mennella	Psychology
Dr. Beverly St. Pierre	Health Sciences

**There being no discussion, ROLL CALL VOTE** passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Alvarado, Gilmer, Jasmin, Montemayor, Reichelt, Salehi, Sanfacon, Williams, and Martin.

**MOTION** made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Jasmin, to approve the granting of tenure, effective September 1, 2023, to:

Dr. Joan Kuhnly	Nursing
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To approve the granting of tenure with automatic promotion, effective September 1, 2023, to:

Ms. Jessica Grabowski	Health Sciences
Dr. Alina Gross	Geography, Planning & Sustainability
Dr. Tracy McLeod	Education
Ms. Amber Monroe	Library

**There being no discussion, ROLL CALL VOTE** passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Alvarado, Gilmer, Jasmin, Montemayor, Reichelt, Salehi, Sanfacon, Williams, and Martin.

Provost Mills shared the purpose and criteria for tenure and provided a brief bio of each of the approved tenured candidates and highlighted their teaching effectiveness, scholarship, and contributions to the University. President Thompson and Chair Martin presented each of the tenure-granted candidates with a medal. All candidates were present except for Ms. Monroe. Chair Martin acknowledged the hard work of those performing the evaluations and thanked the tenured candidates for their commitment to the University. He stated that these faculty members are a huge investment and precious resource of the University. He asked them to continue to use their wise voices.

A five-minute break was taken.

Governance and Nomination Committee. Committee Chair Melissa Alvarado updated the Board on discussions held in the committee meeting and provided common language for all committees to use in their charters.

Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Committee. Committee Chair William Reichelt updated the Board on discussions held in the committee meeting and stated that the motions to approve policy revisions brought to the committee were tabled until after policy revision review by counsel.

Financial Affairs and Advancement Committee. Committee Chair Ali Salehi updated the Board on discussions held in the committee meeting.

Audit Committee. Committee Chair Theresa Jasmin updated the Board on discussions held in the committee meeting and presented the following Motion approved by the committee.

**MOTION** made by Trustee Reichelt, seconded by Trustee Williams, to engage the financial audit services of WithumSmith & Brown, PC, for FY23. **There being no discussion, ROLL CALL VOTE** passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Alvarado, Gilmer, Jasmin, Montemayor, Reichelt, Salehi, Sanfacon, Williams, and Martin.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. Committee Vice Chair Chris Montemayor updated the Board on discussions held in the committee meeting and stated that the motion to approve the Charter brought to the committee was tabled until the June meeting.

There being no further business,

**MOTION** made by Trustee Reichelt, and seconded by Trustee Williams, to adjourn. **There being no discussion, ROLL CALL VOTE** passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Alvarado, Gilmer, Jasmin, Montemayor, Reichelt, Salehi, Sanfacon, Williams, and Martin.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM.

Attachments presented at this meeting:

- a. Draft Minutes of December 20, 2022
- b. Draft Minutes of February 7, 2023
- c. Draft Minutes of February 23, 2023
- d. Tracked Changes to Taxation of Gifts, Prizes and Awards Policy (0603)
- e. WSU Nursing in Puerto Rico: Cultural Immersion Experience Presentation

**Academic Affairs Committee:**

- f. Motion – Promotion
- g. Promotion Documentation
- h. Motion – Tenure
- i. Tenure Documentation

**Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Committee:**

- j. Motion – Residence Hall Policy (0590)
- k. Tracked Changes to Residence Hall Policy (0590)
- l. Motion – Free Speech/Demonstration/Picketing Policy (3020)
- m. Tracked Changes to Free Speech/Demonstration/Picketing Policy (3020)
- n. Motion – Alcohol and Other Drug Policy (4010)
- o. Tracked Changes to Alcohol and Other Drug Policy (4010)

**Audit Committee:**

- p. Motion – Engagement of Financial Audit Services for FY23
- q. Engagement of Financial Audit Services for FY23

**Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee:**

- r. Motion – Committee Charter
- s. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Charter