

Proposed Meeting Minutes – ANNUAL MEETING

February 12, 2026

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Vice Chair Alan Turfe at 12:12PM on *Thursday, February 12, 2026*.

The Annual Meeting was conducted in person in the Student Center Ballroom and streamed live through the BOT website. Prior marketing encouraged the public to engage and those interested in providing comment were asked to notify Board Secretary Kahler Schuemann by 5PM, *Wednesday, February 11, 2026*.

Presiding in person were Vice Chair Alan Turfe, Trustees Kelly Burris, Lynn Chen-Zhang, Jon Hoadley, James Liggins Jr, Lisa Williams, and Kara Wood. Chair Shelly Edgerton connected virtually.

A motion to accept the *February 12, 2026* BOT agenda was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley, with a second by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes as exhibited from the *December 4, 2025 BOT Meeting* was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley with a second by Trustee Kelly Burris, and passed with full support of the voting members.

Remarks were provided by Vice Chair Alan Turfe – *Attachment A*, followed by remarks from President Russ Kavalhuna – *Attachment B*.

Faculty Senate President Amy Naugle, Western Student Association President Luke Kritzman, and Graduate Student Association President Claire Binford provided comments regarding their respective areas and outlined ongoing activities and initiatives relating to shared governance, promoting student involvement, and academic enrichment.

Next, President Russ Kavalhuna introduced WMU's Vice President for Research and Innovation, Remzi Seker, who presented *An Overview of Our Research Innovation and Creative Scholarship Enterprise: Yesterday, Today, and the Future*.

Related to Action Item 13 Transfer Stewardship of Asylum Lake Preserve to the County of Kalamazoo, a statement was read by BOT Secretary, Kahler Schuemann, as submitted by Jeff Steinman and then Lori Holmes addressed the Board during Public Comments Regarding Action Items.

As Action Items, BOT Secretary Kahler Schuemann presented the 2026 Western Michigan University Board of Trustees Officer Election Slate. The slate included: Chair Alan Turfe, Vice Chair Kelly Burris, Secretary Kahler B. Schuemann, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Jan Van Der Kley, and Assistant Treasurer Colleen Scarff. **A motion to adopt the 2026 Western Michigan University Board of Trustees Officer Election Slate** was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley, with a second by Trustee James Liggins Jr. and passed unanimously.

Next, BOT Secretary Kahler Schuemann advocated for WMU Board of Trustees Bylaws Revisions. **A motion to support the WMU Board of Trustees Bylaws Revisions** was made by Trustee James Liggins Jr with a second by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang. The Action Item passed unanimously.

For the next agenda item, Keith Hahn, WMU General Counsel encouraged support for a City of Battle Creek Lease Involving College of Aviation Property. **A motion to approve the City of Battle Creek Lease Involving College of Aviation Property** was made by Trustee James Liggins Jr., with a second by Trustee Jon Hoadley, and passed unanimously.

Vice President for Government Relations and External Partnerships, Jeff Breneman, next advocated support for the Transfer Stewardship of Asylum Lake Preserve to the County of Kalamazoo. **A motion to support the Transfer Stewardship of Asylum Lake Preserve to the County of Kalamazoo** was made by Trustee Kara Wood with a second by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Trustee James Liggins Jr., with a second by Trustee Jon Hoadley. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: Lease Agreement for the Montague House; Curriculum Proposals; and Personnel Report.

Said Abubakr addressed the Board in **General Public Comments**.

The BOT meeting ended at 1:43PM following a **motion to adjourn** made by Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang with a second by Trustee Jon Hoadley, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Kahler B. Schuemann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Kahler B. Schuemann, Ph.D.

University Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Western Michigan University

ATTACHMENT A

WMU Board of Trustees Vice Chair Turfe's Remarks February 12, 2026

Good afternoon and welcome to the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees' first meeting of 2026. This session represents our Annual Meeting—a required meeting in which we oversee annual business matters and appoint officers.

I'd like to move us directly into today's agenda, but first, I want to thank the Board for their willingness to take time from your schedules to attend the National Conference on Trusteeship next month in Denver. Your participation demonstrates your dedication to this board and to WMU.

Our fiduciary responsibilities are significant, and the level of engagement we see—particularly full board participation—speaks to our cohesiveness and our commitment to learning best practices in governance, fiduciary excellence and trusteeship.

Turning to today's meeting, we are filled with anticipation to hear updates and remarks from our shared governance partners and excited to celebrate our most recent class of employee graduates, who balance professional responsibilities while continuing their education here at Western. It has become a Bronco tradition in recent years for the President to acknowledge them, and we look forward to it.

We will also receive an overview of WMU's Research, Innovation and Creative Scholarship enterprise: Yesterday, Today and the Future, introduced by President Kavalhuna and presented by Dr. Remzi Seker, Vice President for Research and Innovation.

Later, on the agenda's action items, Dr. Schuemann will preside over the WMU Board of Trustees' annual officer elections and bring forward recommended action on proposed revisions to the Board's bylaws.

We will also hear from WMU General Counsel Keith Hahn regarding the renewal of a property lease agreement between the City of Battle Creek and the College of Aviation. In addition, Jeff Breneman, Vice President for Government Relations and External Partnerships, will present information related to a proposed transfer of stewardship of Asylum Lake Preserve to Kalamazoo County Government.

As part of today's consent agenda, the board will consider a lease agreement for renewal at the Montague House, curriculum proposals and a personnel report.

ATTACHMENT B

WMU Board of Trustees President Kavalhuna's Remarks February 12, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Good afternoon, trustees and colleagues. It is good to be with you in 2026— Happy New Year.

We have already experienced an interesting beginning to the semester. There was a newspaper article in The Western Herald outlining how many times a president has canceled classes at Western Michigan University. When I accepted this role, I did not expect to lead in that category, however I have heard from several students and staff who felt those were the right decisions.

Despite the cold and snowy start, it has been a strong beginning to the semester.

I would like to acknowledge several trustees and recent events before recognizing our employee graduates.

First, I want to thank our Board Chair for joining us virtually and for her leadership and dedication to her alma mater. It has been an honor to serve alongside her, and I appreciate her continued guidance and service.

I also want to thank you, Mr. Vice Chair, for serving as the inaugural guest in our new leadership speaker initiative. We invited leaders from our community and beyond to share their leadership journeys with students. The event, held in the Lee Honors College, was a fireside chat in every sense of the word. It was a meaningful opportunity for students to hear firsthand about leadership experiences and lessons learned.

During the event, a surprise announcement resulted in ten students each receiving a \$1,000 donation toward their educational journeys. While I cannot promise similar outcomes in the future, I strongly encourage students to attend these events. They offer invaluable insights and inspiration.

Thank you for helping us launch what will become an ongoing and impactful tradition.

I would also like to thank Trustee Liggins Jr., for joining me at the Breakfast of Champions Celebration, recognizing our football team's MAC championship and Myrtle Beach Bowl victory. It is always a pleasure to celebrate such accomplishments alongside members of this board.

Thank you to Trustee Hoadley for participating in our meeting with the Gilmore Foundation. His expertise and presence were greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Trustee Chen Zhang for hosting an alumnus gathering in Naples, Florida. It provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with successful Broncos and reinforce their connection to Western.

I would also like to recognize the College of Aviation for securing over \$800,000 in federal funding, in partnership with Vice President Breneman, Fred Schaible, and U.S. Senator Gary Peters. These funds will enhance simulator and lab equipment for our students.

Additionally, the College of Education and Human Development secured \$100,000 to strengthen the K–12 educator pipeline. Only five universities in Michigan received this support. This achievement reflects our 120-year legacy of preparing outstanding educators.

I want to extend my gratitude to our facilities management team. They maintain 39 miles of sidewalks, 26.5 miles of roadways, and 96 buildings. Their work ensures our campus remains safe and operational, often in challenging conditions. We are deeply appreciative of their dedication.

The most enjoyable part of my remarks is recognizing our employee graduates—individuals who balanced professional responsibilities while earning degrees from Western Michigan University.

Sherrie Fuller

Christy Chambers

McGuire Gaideski

Nicole Lockwood-Womack

Linda Zelaya

Ramitha Kalhara Dissanayake Ralalage

Wei Zhang

Jeffrey Steinman

Nicole Jaskowski

Ross Brown

Joao Guilherme Brites Rei

Leonardo Simoncini

Edward Kudzia

Nusrat Nabi

Aidan Schmidt

Megan McDowell-Delgado

If you are here today, please stand so we may recognize and congratulate you.

All right, the last thing I have, Mr. Vice Chair, is just a shout-out to several of the great things happening on campus that I was privileged to be part of. I see the Dean of Fine Arts in the back. I was at his shop, the Richmond Institute of Design, where the Center for Humanities hosted an interesting art show. My daughter and I attended, and the show was about home, featuring art in many forms—spoken words, visual pieces, and other expressions of what we think about home. I was honored by Dr. Mills to make a comment about home and how I feel like Western Michigan University is my home. It was a great experience to have my daughter there with me. Thank you, Dean Guyette, for hosting that.

Right after that, Sammy and I went to a basketball game where our women's basketball team made a valiant effort against Miami, Ohio. Last night, our Board met in the Reed Fieldhouse and then watched our men's basketball team take on Toledo.

And that's just a few of the events that have been going on this campus that we're really excited about. So, when you see me out and about, please say hello. We're off to a great start, Mr. Vice Chair, and this semester is going to be a great one. I appreciate you giving me a few minutes to talk about it, and I'll take any questions from anyone.

Proposed Meeting Minutes – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

March 10, 2026

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Chair Alan Turfe at 3:00PM on *Tuesday, March 10, 2026*.

The Special Meeting was conducted virtually engaging through Zoom, a virtual platform. The engagement was streamed live through the BOT website. Prior marketing encouraged the public to engage and those interested in providing comment were asked to notify Board Secretary Elect Stacy Thinner by 5PM, *Monday, March 9, 2026*.

Presiding virtually in person were Chair Alan Turfe, Vice Chair Kelly Burris and Trustees Shelly Edgerton, Jon Hoadley, James Liggins Jr, Lisa Williams, and Kara Wood.

A motion to accept the *March 10, 2026 BOT agenda* was made by Vice Chair Kelly Burris, with a second by Trustee James Liggins Jr. The motion passed unanimously with those participating in the virtual meeting.

Related to Action Item 6 Newell Rubbermaid Property Purchase, Jason DeVries, as a representative of Faraday Defense, addressed the Board during Public Comments Regarding Action Items.

As Action Items, Chair Turfe presented the WMU Board of Trustees Secretary Election of Stacy Thinner. A motion to accept the election of Ms. Thinner as the WMU Board of Trustees Secretary was made by Trustee Kara Wood, with a second by Trustee Lisa Williams, and passed unanimously.

Next, BOT Secretary Stacy Thinner advocated for the Newell Rubbermaid Property Purchase. A motion to purchase the Newell Rubbermaid Property was made by Trustee James Liggins Jr., with a second by Trustee Kara Wood, and passed unanimously.

The BOT meeting ended at 3:29PM following a motion to adjourn made by Trustee Jon Hoadley with a second by Trustee Lisa Williams, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacy Thinner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Stacy Thinner
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University