

Proposed Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2026

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees (BOT) Formal Session was called to order by Chair Alan Turfe at 12:10PM on *Thursday, April 16, 2026*.

The 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 Stacy Thinnies by 5PM, *Wednesday, April 15, 2026*.

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

A motion to accept the *April 16, 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 *February 12 and March 10, 2026 BOT Meetings* was made by Trustee Jon Hoadley with a second by Trustee Kara Wood, and passed with full support of the voting members.

Remarks were provided by 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.

President Russ Kavalhuna introduced WMU's Interim Vice President for University Advancement, Kahler Schuemann, who presented *Investing in WMU's Future: Collaborating with University Advancement*.

Chair Alan Turfe introduced and asked President Kavalhuna to present the *WMU/AAUP Scholarships for First Generation Students*.

- Mason Sanchez, Latin and Philosophy Major
- Varya Rahoizha, Aviation Flight Science Major
- Shofi Alom, Electrical Engineering Major

There were no public comments regarding Action Items.

As Action Items, General Council Keith Hahn, presented the WMU Non-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy for revision. **A motion to support the WMU Non-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy Revisions** was made by Trustee Kara Wood with a second by Vice Chair Kelly Burris. The Action Item passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Vice Chair Kelly Burris, with a second by Trustee Kara Wood. The BOT unanimously approved the following Consent Items as exhibited: One-time Liquor License: College of Aviation; Utility Easement from Consumers Energy: Valley Oaks; Scholarship or Endowment Amendment – Bernadine P. Carlson; Curriculum Proposals; Personnel Report; Annuity and Life Income Funds Performance Report; Operating Cash Investment Report.

There were no **General Public Comments**.

The BOT meeting ended at 1:25PM following **a motion to adjourn** made by Trustee Kara Wood with a second by Trustee Shelly Edgerton, and unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Thinnnes

Stacy Thinnnes
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Western Michigan University

ATTACHMENT A

WMU Board of Trustees

Chair Turfe's Remarks April 16, 2026

Today, we will hear updates from our shared governance partners, Presidents Nagle, Kritzman, and Binford.

After that, Dr. Schuemann, interim vice president for university advancement and executive director of the WMU Foundation, will lead a presentation titled, *Investing in WMU's Future: Collaborating with University Advancement*.

Also, today we have special guests joining us, President Kavalhuna will introduce the recipients of the *WMU/AAUP Scholarship for First Generation Students*. We will hear directly from these talented students, and we will take a moment to congratulate them on receiving this prestigious scholarship to further their studies.

In action items, general counsel Keith Hahn will lead us through recommended changes for our non-discrimination and sexual misconduct policy.

Finally, we have special consent items under consideration on today's agenda, including approval of a single use liquor license for the College of Aviation, utility easement from Consumer's Energy at the new Valley Oaks Residence Hall, an amendment to the Bernadine P. Carlson Graduate Professional Writing Award Endowment, as well as consideration of curriculum proposals, the personnel report, annuity and life income funds performance report, and the operating cash and investment report.

We also look forward to hearing public comments twice during the meeting, once regarding action items and at the end of the meeting, general public comments.

But first, we will hear from the President of the University, Russ Kavalhuna, who will share remarks and updates from WMU, no doubt including a ceremony close to his heart, commencement, happening in a few weeks. President Kavalhuna, the floor is yours.

ATTACHMENT B

WMU Board of Trustees

President Kavalhuna's Remarks April 16, 2026

Good afternoon, trustees, colleagues, students, and staff. As we approach commencement, I want to begin with a few acknowledgments.

First, I would like to recognize Dr. Schuemann, who has served this board and university with exceptional dedication as Secretary of the Board for many years. His leadership, commitment, and care for Western Michigan University have been invaluable. While he has transitioned into his new role as Interim Vice President for University Advancement, we remain grateful for his service and look forward to the exciting work he will continue to lead. Please join me in thanking Dr. Schuemann for his contributions.

I am also pleased to welcome Stacy Thinnes to her first in-person Board of Trustees meeting as Secretary of the Board. After four decades of service to WMU, she brings tremendous experience and institutional knowledge to this role. We are grateful for her willingness to serve and confident she will continue the tradition of outstanding support for this board.

Mr. Chairman, commencement remains one of my favorite days of the year. On May 2, we will celebrate our 346th commencement ceremony at Miller Auditorium, awarding approximately 2,300 degrees to students representing 51 countries, including roughly 1,700 bachelor degrees, 500 masters degrees, and 70 doctoral degrees.

I want to thank Faculty Senate President Dr. Naugle, who will once again serve as our commencement emcee. Her leadership and partnership have been invaluable throughout my first year as president. This is also her final Board meeting in her role as Faculty Senate President, and I want to express my sincere appreciation for her friendship, guidance, and support.

We have several exciting accomplishments to celebrate. The Haworth College of Business recently received the largest gift in its history, a \$17 million commitment that will have a lasting impact on our students and programs.

We also recently broke ground on a new facility for the Michigan Geological Survey, reinforcing WMU's unique role as the steward of Michigan's Geological Repository Research and Education.

Across the country, we have continued our Bronco Ride alumni tours, connecting with alumni in Florida, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, Detroit, and Washington, D.C. These events have been excellent opportunities to engage our alumni and share the momentum happening at Western.

Athletically, our dance team secured its second consecutive national championship in Division I Large Jazz, while our hockey team advanced to the national quarterfinals before falling to the eventual national champion.

Finally, I want to highlight the recent Cultivate269 entrepreneurial competition held here on campus in partnership with Kalamazoo Forward Ventures. Nine WMU students pitched innovative business ideas, with the winner receiving \$100,000 to launch their venture. The winning proposal, presented by student Sam Marcel, focused on language translation technology designed to improve communication in critical healthcare settings. It was an inspiring demonstration of the creativity, innovation, and impact of our students.

These successes reflect what makes Western Michigan University special. Students, faculty, alumni, community partners, and supporters coming together to create opportunities to make a meaningful difference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions from the board.