

Minutes
The University of Toledo
142nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, December 14, 2020
WebEx
10:00a.m.

The one-hundred forty second meeting of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 14, 2020, via WebEx. Chair Alfred A. Baker called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. Secretary to the Board, Ms. Katie DeBenedictis, recorded the minutes.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

The following Board of Trustees members were in attendance:

Roy V. Armes, National Trustee
Eleanore Awadalla
Alfred A. Baker, Chair
Stephen P. Ciucci, Vice Chair
Rebekah K. Dangler, Student Trustee
Anthony Gennings, Student Trustee
Daniel Guttman
Birdel F. Jackson, III, National Trustee
Patrick J. Kenney
Will Lucas
Mary Ellen Pisanelli
Richard Walinski

ATTENDANCE

The following Board of Trustees members were absent:

Christine E. Brennan, National Trustee

A quorum of the Board was constituted.

The following individuals were also in attendance:

Jim Anderson, VP Enrollment Management
Jason Anthony, Senior Network Engineer
Karen Bjorkman, Provost/EVP Academic Affairs
Tim Brakel, Professor and President of Faculty Senate
Frank Calzonetti, Vice President for Research
Christopher Cooper, EVP Clinical Affairs/Dean COM&LS
Meghan Cunningham, Director University Communications
David Cutri, Director of Internal Audit
Katie DeBenedictis, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
John Elliott, Sr. Associate VP and CHRO
Troy Holmes, Chief Financial Officer of UTMC

Melissa Hurst, Executive Director of Talent Strategy and Development
Charles Jake, Deputy General Counsel
Adrienne King, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications
Linda Lewandowski, Dean, College of Nursing
Bill McCreary, VP and CIO
Diane Miller, AVP Government Relations/ Chief of Staff
Michael O'Brien, Vice President and Director of Athletics
Greg Postel, Interim President
Jeff Schmucker, Toledo Blade
Matthew Schroeder, EVP Finance and Administration/CFO
Rachel Stanford, Executive Assistant to the CFO
Rick Swaine, CFO of UTMC
Amy Thompson, Vice Provost Faculty Affairs
Don Wedding, Faculty/Faculty Relations
Ray Witte, Dean, Judith Herb College of Education
Cheryl Zwyer, Associate Vice President for Development

Board Chair Baker requested a motion to waive the reading of the September, October and November 2020 Board and Committee meeting minutes and approve them as written. A motion was received from Trustee Ciucci, seconded by Trustee Lucas, and approved by the Board.

**APPROVAL OF
MEETING
MINUTES**

Board Chair Baker requested a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda for this meeting. A motion was received from Trustee Kenney, seconded by Trustee Pisanelli, and approved by the Board.

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
AGENDA**

Dr. Postel read his President's Report:

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**

- Our six-year graduation rate is now over 53%, that's a record high.
- In addition, the fall-to-fall retention rate rose to 78.5%--another high
- You will also see that UToledo has continued its push to grow research, with submissions up as well.
 - I'd like to congratulate a few of our researchers on their recent awards:
 - Dr. Eli Visbal, assistant professor of astronomy in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and his research group have received a National Science Foundation award for \$227,367 to develop a new theoretical framework to predict when and where the first stars formed throughout the very early universe.
 - Dr. Zahoor Shah, a neurobiologist and stroke researcher in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, is leading critical research to improve hemorrhagic stroke recovery and

has been awarded a \$2 Million NIH grant to help develop drugs to treat stroke patients.

- The U.S. Department of Defense awarded UToledo and its partners a three-year, \$3 million grant to offer NURTURES, an innovative early childhood STEM education program, to military-connected families across the country.
 - Dr. Charlene Czerniak, professor emeritus of science education and research professor in the College of Engineering, is leading the project.

Leaders in the Community

- I am also proud of the many ways other ways this University provides leadership in our community:
 - I late September, UToledo and Dr. Celia Williamson hosted the 17th Annual International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference here.
 - Dr. Williamson, from the College of Health and Human Services, has been a leader in this area for two decades and has helped shine a light on this serious issue here, across our nation and even internationally.
- The 20th annual Great Lakes Water Conference "Water in the Courts" was held virtually on Nov. 6. This year they discussed the impact of the Enbridge oil pipeline, Lake Erie Bill of Rights, Clean Water Act, and challenges to the federal "Waters of the United States" rule.
 - Thank you to Kenneth Kilbert, Professor of Law and Director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes and Professor of Law, for all his work to make the institute and the conference a success.
- A group from Environmental Sciences, in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, led by Dr. Christine Mayer and supported by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, removed nearly 100 invasive Grass Carp from the Sandusky River between June-Nov.
- The University of Toledo Press has released four new books this fall. You can check those out on their website: utoledopress.com
- And the UToledo Police Department, in partnership with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, opened their joint safety building this month.

Tackling Challenges: 2020-22 Key Initiatives

- You heard me speak earlier to the several key initiatives that we are focusing on to increase efficiencies, address operational challenges and reinvest in innovative ideas to prepare UToledo for a successful future.

- Each of these goals will assist us in creating a solid foundation upon which to build future growth.
 - I want to thank all of the team leads and the team members for being so generous with their time, especially as this assignment is on top of their regular duties.
 - I also want to thank the campus and community for their interest in each of these initiatives.
 - We have set up a website, so for those that are interested in more information, regular updates, or want to share an idea with one of the groups...
 - utoledo.edu/offices/president/key-initiatives/

Closing

In closing, I want to congratulate University Trustee Birdel Jackson, who was named an American Society of Civil Engineers Fellow. The American Society of Civil Engineers is the nation’s oldest engineering society.

We are starting to be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel on the coronavirus pandemic... we are getting closer to being able to offer a vaccine, that could be authorized and available as early the end of this month. I am excited about the role that UTMC will play in distributing this vaccination and want to strongly encourage everyone to plan to protect yourselves and those around you by getting the vaccine.

I also want to wish you all Happy Holidays!

Chair Baker’s Report:

Good afternoon. Thank you all for joking us here virtually. I know this has been a long day, so I just want to do a few “shout outs” to our campus community...

Athletics

- Congratulations to the women’s cross country team, which finished in second place at the 2020 MAC Championships at Bowling Green on Nov. 21.
- Also to the Rockets Football team, for their defeat of Bowling Green, 38-3, on Nov. 4, the 10th time in the past 11 battles of I-75.

CHAIR’S REPORT

- I also want to applaud our student athletes...The University of Toledo received a Graduation Success Rate of 92 percent for its athletic department, in the latest figures released by the NCAA on Nov. 17. That figure ranks second among the 12 schools in the Mid-American Conference, trailing only Miami University.
- Specifically I want to commend the women's soccer program, that earned the Team Academic Award from the United Soccer Coaches for the 2019-20 academic year. The Rockets tied for 14th place among Division I programs with a 3.76 GPA.

Diversity

- The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has announced the Inclusive Wall of Honor to be installed on the third floor of University Hall, highlighting the contributions underrepresented minorities, individuals with disabilities and members of the LGBTQA+ community have made as faculty, staff, administrators and alumni of The University of Toledo.
 - They are planning an early Spring recognition ceremony.
- Toledo Excel, a scholarship incentive program at UToledo that helps to prepare underrepresented students for college success, received a grant from Fiat Chrysler's Foundation for activities and programs to benefit the development of Excel high school students.

Faculty and Staff

- Congratulations to Dr. Ana C. Alba-Rubio, assistant professor of Chemical Engineering, who was named to the 2020 Class of Influential Researchers by the editors of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research, a journal of the American Chemical Society.
 - She is one of 14 scientists and engineers from around the world recognized for being at the forefront of their field.

- In collaboration with WGTE, the Department of Theatre and Film's Dr. Matt Foss adapted the original radio script for *It's a Wonderful Life* to include elements of the beloved movie, resulting in an hour-long holiday special.
 - It will air on 91.3 FM on Dec. 22 & 24 at 8 pm.
- Dr. Laurie Dinnebeil was awarded the DEC Award for Mentoring from the Division for Early Childhood, Council for Exceptional Children.
- Dr. Ruthi Kucharewski was awarded the MAC Outstanding Faculty for Student Success Award for her work and dedication to NYSP - National Youth Sports Program at The University of Toledo.
- Dr. Joe Dake, chair of the School of Population Health, has been immensely helpful to the University and the Lucas County Health Department on a number of COVID-19 related items. We really appreciate all his hard work.
- Thank you also to our clinical faculty and staff for all you are doing to support UTMC and our community during this time.
 - I also want to highlight the *Open for You* campaign that is promoting UTMC, focusing on the hospital's commitment to providing excellent care to the community and featuring real UTMC patients, learners and caregivers.

Student Success

- The College of Graduate Studies in coordination with the Office of International Student Services has developed the International Graduate Student Access Program at the University of Toledo effective Fall Semester 2021.
 - The program provides intensive language and test preparation training to international graduate applicants and provides a pathway for those who have not met the UToledo graduate level language proficiency requirement and/or do not have an admission test score.
- Thanks to the IT Department, UToledo was able to procure an additional 200 laptops this fall to support our students by providing loaners laptops to

students who are not able to utilize the computer labs during the current pandemic.

Closing

Thank you all for your efforts this calendar year. It has been tough, but I am proud to say that the Rockets have really shown what they are made of...
Happy Holidays!

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chair Guttman did not have a report.

**ACADEMIC
AND STUDENT
AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**

Clinical Affairs Committee Chair Pisanelli did not have a report

**CLINICAL
AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**

Finance and Audit Committee Chair Kenney did not have a report.

**FINANCE
AND AUDIT
COMMITTEE**

Trusteeship and Governance Committee Chair Lucas did not have a report.

**TRUSTEESHIP
AND
GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE**

With no further business before the Board and no need for an executive session, Trustee Baker adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT