

**Minutes**  
**The University of Toledo**  
**137th Meeting of the Board of Trustees Special Meeting**  
**Monday, June 15, 2020**  
**WebEx – 5:45 p.m.**

The one-hundred thirty seventh meeting of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 15, 2020, via WebEx. Chair Mary Ellen Pisanelli called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Secretary to the Board, Katie DeBenedictis, recorded the minutes.

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

The following Board of Trustees members were in attendance:

**ROLL CALL**

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

The following Board of Trustees members were absent:  
Christine Brennan, National Trustee

A quorum of the Board was constituted.

The following individuals were also in attendance:

Katie DeBenedictis, Sr. Dir. of Administrative Ops./Secretary to the Board  
Chrissy Billau, Media Relations Specialist  
Meghan Cunningham, Director of University Communications  
Adrienne King, AVP of Marketing and Communications  
Jeff Schmucker, Toledo Blade  
Shaun Hegarty, 13ABC  
Cam Norton, Associate Director for Social Media  
Pete Papadimos, VP for Legal Affairs  
Charles Jake, Associate Vice President for Legal Affairs  
Matt Schroeder, EVP for Finance and Administration and CFO  
Diane Miller, AVP for Government Relations and Chief of Staff to the President  
Sharon Gaber, President  
Michael O'Brien, VP for Intercollegiate Athletics  
William Pierce, Director of Alumni

Chair Pisanelli stated that the nominating committee met earlier in the day to make recommendations to the board for FY21 Board Officers. After consideration and discussion, the nominating committee recommends Trustee Alfred Baker, current Vice Chair of the Board, be named Chair. Trustee Stephen Ciucci be named Vice Chair. And Katie DeBenedictis continue in her role as Board Secretary. Ms. Pisanelli asked if there were any other nominations from the board members. There were none.

Chair Pisanelli requested a motion to close the nominations of the FY21 board officers. The motion was made by Trustee Kenny, seconded by Trustee Walinski and approved.

Chair Pisanelli requested a motion to approve the Board Officers for FY21. The motion was made by Trustee Walinski, seconded by Trustee Kenny and approved.

Dr. Gaber presented a slide deck with details about UToledo reopening plan. This plan is called Rocket Restart. Dr. Gaber said the plan will detail the return to campus due to the COVID pandemic. It was developed using a number of recommendations based on the most current public health information available. She followed with details:

#### **FALL SEMESTER**

- The University announced back on May 11 our intention to safely reopen campus in the fall and return to face-to-face instruction so that our students and families could plan ahead.
- Preparing our campuses has taken hours of planning by our dedicated pandemic planning teams as we work through issues such as:
  - Maintaining social distancing and contact tracing
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Robust cleaning and disinfecting
  - And many other considerations.
- One of the most important decisions to date has been making changes to our fall semester calendar.
- Based on the advice of experts and the possibility of a having a second wave of COVID-19 in late fall, we have moved up fall semester by one week.
  - Students will start classes Monday, Aug. 17.
  - Fall break, which was initially scheduled for Oct. 23 and 24, will be eliminated.
  - The last day of on-campus classes will be Tuesday, Nov. 24. Students will return home for Thanksgiving and finish the semester remotely.
  - Finals week, then, was also moved up one week to be the week after the holiday, Nov. 30 – Dec. 4.
  - Fall semester remains 15 weeks.

#### **RETURN TO CAMPUS**

- To be ready to welcome back students, our employees need to return to campus first.
- The majority of our staff has worked remotely since March 19. They will return to campus in phases:
  - **Phase One:** Beginning June 8, we resumed research on campus and in the field. Also, select employees from Academic Affairs, Finance and Administration, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Research and Sponsored Programs, Information Technology and Athletics returned to campus.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

## **APPROVAL OF OFFICERS**

## **ROCKET RESTART**

- **Phase Two:** On July 6, select employees from Diversity and Inclusion, Legal Affairs, and Marketing and Communications will return. Additional employees in the departments in the first phase will continue to transition.
- **Phase Three:** On Aug. 3, the remainder of UToledo employees will return to campus.

### PREVENTION PRINCIPLES

- We are asking all faculty, staff, students and visitors to do their part to promote a safe campus.
- Our Rocket Prevention Principles include:
  - **Monitoring for symptoms.** Before coming to campus each day, take your temperature to be sure it is less than 100.0 degrees and complete a self-assessment for symptoms of COVID-19, such as cough, chills, fatigue or shortness of breath.
  - **Requiring face coverings.** Each individual must wear cloth face coverings while on campus, except while alone in an enclosed space, eating or outside practicing social distancing.
  - **Practicing social distancing.** We should keep at least 6 feet from others. Teleconferences will continue to be encouraged for staff meetings.
  - **Keeping a clean workspace.** In addition to enhanced cleaning from Environmental Services, we all should regularly clean and sanitize our personal workspaces and practice good personal hygiene, including frequent handwashing.
  - **Limiting travel.** University-sponsored travel is only permitted for the most essential trips.

### TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

- Rapid COVID-19 testing available on both the Main Campus and Health Science Campus for all faculty, staff and students who are symptomatic.
- Test results will be available within 24-hours and will be shared with the patient and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, which will be handling contact tracing for the University.
- Thanks, in part, to the work of UToledo researchers, UTMC was the first medical facility in our region Ohio with testing capabilities. The hospital has the ability to run approximately 700-800 tests per day.
- It is that same expertise that has been used to develop practices and procedures that will make testing available this fall.

### CLASSROOM SPACES

- We continue to make changes to our fall course offerings to promote adequate social distancing.
- As always, courses will be available in a variety of modes, including face-to-face, online and blended delivery, to allow students flexibility.
- Most large classes of 50 or more students will be in an online format.
- Face-to-face classes may be delivered using a hybrid or rolling delivery model.
  - An example would be a class with 40 students that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays in a classroom with a social distancing capacity of 20 students would have 20 students come Tuesdays and the other 20 students come Thursdays. The half of the class not in the classroom participates in real time using Echo360 Lecture Capture, which is available in every classroom on campus.

## **RESIDENCE HALLS**

- Our residence halls will be open for fall semester with students benefiting from the experience of living on campus.
- We continue to work through details of providing safe housing and dining experiences.
- For example, one new option is a “super single,” in which a student lives alone in a room that is traditionally a double.
- We have determined that we will handle move in a little differently this year. Each student is being scheduled a specific day and time to move in.
- To do that, our move-in process will span more days, beginning as early as Aug. 2.
- We are working to schedule local students be the first to move in so they can move in their belongings and then return home until our Welcome Week activities begin.

Dr. Gaber ended the presentation by stating that by using prevention and risk mitigation practice, we will return to campus in the fall. We continue to finalize our Rocket Restart plans and expect to announce additional details in early July.

Chair Pisanelli thanked Dr. Gaber for the report.

Chair Pisanelli requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment and compensation of a public employee. The motion was received from Trustee Cole, with a second received from Trustee Kenney. Ms. DeBenedictis took a roll call vote: Ms. Awadalla, yes; Mr. Baker, yes; Mr. Cole, yes; Mr. Ciucci, yes; Mr. Guttman, yes; Mr. Kenney, yes; Mr. Lucas, yes; Ms. Pisanelli, yes; and Mr. Walinski, yes.

After the Board exited Executive Session, Chair Pisanelli stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Ms. Pisanelli stated that the next item on the agenda is “other business”. She said the board has one additional item to discuss this evening related to the search for an interim president. She mentioned that the board has worked hard to find the best candidate for the position. Ms. Pisanelli thanked all trustees for their dedication to this process and for the time they sacrificed to complete this search quickly. Candidates were interviewed last week and the board feels confident that we are ready to move forward. Ms. Pisanelli read Resolution 20-06-09: Approval to employ a Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Interim President.

Following the reading of the Resolution, Ms. Pisanelli asked for a motion to hire Dr. Gregory Postel as a Special Advisor to the Board of Trustee and Interim President. Trustee Cole made the motion and it was seconded by Trustee Kenney. All trustees were in favor. There were no oppositions and no abstentions.

Chair Pisanelli continued by making a few comments on Dr. Postel. Trustee Baker echoed her comments. She then asked Dr. Postel to make a few remarks.

Dr. Postel thanked the board for the opportunity and support. He said he was excited to get started and looks forward to learning all he can about the University of Toledo.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

**RESOLUTION  
20-06-09**

**ADJOURNMENT**

