

**Minutes**  
**The University of Toledo**  
**138th Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**Monday, June 20, 2020**  
**WebEx**  
**12:30 p.m.**

The one-hundred thirty-eighth meeting of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 20, 2020, via WebEx. Chair Mary Ellen Pisanelli called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Vice Chair  
Kyle D. Bergen, Student Trustee  
Stephen P. Ciucci  
Jeffrey C. Cole  
Rebekah K. Dangler, Student Trustee  
Birdel F. Jackson, III, National Trustee  
Patrick J. Kenney  
Will Lucas  
Mary Ellen Pisanelli, Chair  
Richard Walinski

**ATTENDANCE**

The following Board of Trustees members were absent:

Christine E. Brennan, National Trustee  
Daniel Guttman

A quorum of the Board was constituted.

The following individuals were also in attendance:

Jim Anderson, VP Enrollment Management  
Justin Billau  
Karen Bjorkman, Interim 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  
Dominic D'Emilio, Network Administrator  
Sharon Gaber, President  
Randy Gardner, Chancellor, State of Ohio  
Shaun Hegarty, WTVG Channel 13

Mary Humphrys, Associate Professor of Business Technology  
Charles Jake, Deputy General Counsel  
Adrienne King, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications  
Linda Lewandowski, Dean, College of Nursing  
Tyrel Linkhorn, Media Relations Specialist  
Sandra MacNevin, Provost Communications  
Bill McCreary, VP and CIO  
Diane Miller, AVP Government Relations/ Chief of Staff  
Peter Papadimos, VP and General Counsel  
Greg Postel, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees  
Jeff Schmucker, Toledo Blade  
Matthew Schroeder, EVP Finance and Administration/CFO  
Rick Swaine, CFO of UTMC  
Amy Thompson, Vice Provost Faculty Affairs  
Don Wedding, Faculty/Faculty Relations

Board Chair Pisanelli requested a motion to waive the reading of the April 13 2020, May 2020 and June 2020 Board and Committee meeting minutes and approve them as written. A motion was received from Trustee Cole, seconded by Trustee Awadalla, and approved by the Board.

**APPROVAL OF  
MEETING  
MINUTES**

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

**APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT  
AGENDA**

President Gaber's Report:

**PRESIDENT'S  
REPORT**

### **Dashboard Report**

- In your packet, you will find a dashboard report for key indicators over the last 5 years.
- Our six-year graduation rate has never been higher, reaching a projected record of more than 53% following spring 2020 commencement ceremonies.
  - That's up nearly 12% since 2015.
  - I am proud to say that we met our strategic plan goal 3 years ahead of schedule!
  - And in Dr. McKether's presentation you heard that the African American six year graduation rate increased by 6% and Hispanic six year graduation rate increased by 2%.
- In addition to our record six-year graduation rate, the first-to-second year retention rate for undergraduate students rose to 76.4%, the highest rate on record in the last two decades.

- Up from 70% in 2015!
- And we have increased African American 1st to 2nd year retention by 8% and Hispanic 1st to 2nd year retention by 5.4%.
- You'll also see that UToledo's strong research profile continues to grow. Our research dollars to date are more than \$53.5 million, over 15% higher than for all of fiscal 2019 and 40% higher than it was in fiscal 2016, when we were awarded \$38.2 million.
  - And we still have three months to report our final fiscal 2020 dollars.
  - I'd like to congratulate a few of our researchers on their recent awards:
    - Dr. Travis Taylor, assistant professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, who has received a 5yr, R01 grant worth \$1.92M from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the NIH;
    - Dr. Yue Zou, professor in the Department of Cancer Biology, who was awarded a 3yr, \$1M+ grant from the National Cancer Institute;
    - And UToledo recent graduate Raghad Buqaileh who received an NIH award of over \$34,000. She will be continuing her studies in our PhD program in experimental therapeutics in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.
- At \$19.1 million, our total giving for the fiscal year is projected to exceed results in 2017 and 2018 (controlling for the Welltower gift), and would have well exceeded FY19 if we had 12 full months to raise funds.
  - We expect to continue this positive momentum toward a strong campaign effort.
- We have currently raised \$119,793,124 for the campaign, which is about 48% of our \$250M goal.
- Our COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund has received \$131,085 from 791 donors and has already awarded \$102,405 to 211 students.
  - This ends on June 30, so if you have not given, please consider helping our students that have been impacted by the pandemic.
  - Additionally, in April and May, UToledo's Food Pantry provided 4500 meals to 500 students.

### **Rocket Restart and COVID-19**

- I'd like to recognize and thank our faculty, staff, students and families for ensuring that our academic mission wasn't derailed by this pandemic.

- And now, we've turned our focus to a responsible return to campus on August 17.
- Everyone's safety is our priority – and we're following a set of prevention principles to keep campus safe that include self-monitoring for symptoms, face coverings, social distancing and clean workspaces.
- We are proud that the University of Toledo Medical Center was the first laboratory in northwest Ohio to facilitate testing for COVID-19.
  - This service helped to reduce waiting periods and prioritize testing for high-risk patients, first responders and healthcare providers.
- I especially want to call out two of our team members in the hospital's pathology department, who collaborated to develop the method needed to do this testing. Thank you to molecular specialist Dr. Ji-Youn Yeo (Jee-Yoon Yow) and lead technologist Heather Kvale (Ko-wall-ee).
- I also want to note that our experts have also been positioned as trusted resources for the public throughout this pandemic.
  - Many prominent media outlets have showcased UToledo scholars in not only infectious disease, but business, mental health and other disciplines as well.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

- We recently passed the halfway point of our Strategic Plan for 2022. Throughout these last few years, together, we have elevated UToledo's national reputation in many ways.
- We now have 20 academic programs — including undergraduate, graduate, online and professional programs — that are nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report.
  - With this number, we have doubled our Strategic Plan goal and quadrupled our nationally ranked programs since 2016.
- We also have been ranked among the top 100 public universities in the latest Wall Street Journal / Times Higher Education Rankings.
- And the Princeton Review recently ranked our College of Law fifth on its national list of the top law schools with the "Greatest Resources for Women," and again included UToledo in its "Best Law Schools 2020" ranking.
  - Just last week, the College of Law was ranked nationally in preLaw magazine's "Best Law Schools for Public Service" in the area of public interest law.
- Our students are more successful than ever.
  - This year's virtual Match Day honored 167 members of the UToledo 2020 class — the number of students matching with our

own College of Medicine and Life Sciences residency programs increased 30% over 2019, and the total number of students staying in northwest Ohio increased nearly 50%.

- These numbers show that we are providing our region with well-trained, well-qualified physicians. The results wouldn't be possible without our Academic Affiliation with ProMedica — together, we are fulfilling our mission to educate medical students and advance life-saving knowledge through research.
- Collectively, UToledo student-athletes earned a grade point average of 3.527 in spring semester 2020, besting the previous record set in spring 2019. This also marks the first time in school history that seven teams held a semester GPA above a 3.7.
- Retention, career progression and leadership programs among our faculty and staff have helped ensure UToledo's culture of excellence.
  - Our latest staff retention rate was 96.5%, well above our 2022 target of 83%.
  - We've stepped up our promotions of associate professors to full professors. For the last two years, our average promotions have risen to 24 from 16 for the years prior.

#### Chair Pisanelli's Report:

- I'd like to start by congratulating our newest class of graduates. Following last month's virtual commencement ceremonies, we now have more than 159,000 living alumni worldwide.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

#### **COVID-19 response**

- On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd also like to echo Dr. Gaber's gratitude to the entire UToledo community as we've responded together to this pandemic.
- So many people have gone above and beyond their typical responsibilities. We can't mention them all, but to our essential workers and healthcare providers on both campuses, please know that your efforts are appreciated.
- As Dr. Gaber said, we've addressed this together.
- In addition to the Rocket to Rocket funds that Dr. Gaber mentioned and the \$6.7 million in federal funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act used to assist students experiencing

financial hardships, our generous student organizations also donated \$187,000 in unused funds that had been planned for spring events and activities.

- Since the transition to remote learning and working, our Division of Technology has provided more than 1,500 loaner computers to faculty and students, enabling them to complete coursework in the spring and summer semesters.

### **Athletics**

- While we haven't been able to cheer on our student-athletes this spring, we do have some good news to celebrate.
- Again, I want to congratulate Senior distance runner Petronela Simiuc (Sim-YOOK) was named an All-American on May 26 by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

### **UTMC/Budget Update**

- We also heard today challenges that the uncertainty of the global COVID-19 pandemic has created on University operations. In addition to the unknown impact to fall enrollment, housing and dining operations, state share of instruction and athletic operations, it is evident that the pandemic has exasperated the fiscal challenges at UTMC.
- We have a responsibility to the University, our community and the state to explore all options for the future of UTMC. The Board has been working for years exploring possible solutions for the hospital.
- As part of this process, we engaged Kauffman Hall to explore all possibilities for the future of the hospital. Today we received an update on part of the RFP process.
- We are doing our due diligence and remain committed to addressing this issue recognizing that the hospital's current state is placing an unsustainable financial strain of the University enterprise. We know that there are difficult decisions ahead, but I want to reassure the campus and community that we remain focused on our academic mission and student success. The University of Toledo will continue our longstanding successful record of preparing the next generation of leaders.

### **Closing**

- In closing, given that this is my final meeting as chair of the Board of

Trustees, I want to say what an honor it's been to serve the University in this way during the last two years.

- It's been a privilege, and I look forward to our continued work together.
- Vice Chair Al Baker, welcome to your role as chair -- we all look forward to your contributions.
- The Board would also like to thank Pete Papadimos for his many years of service to UToledo and congratulate him on his retirement.
  - Pete is our Vice President and General Counsel, a role he was appointed to in 2007. He first joined the University as Associate General Counsel in 1995.
  - He is a proud graduate of UToledo as well – he earned his J.D. here and grew up in Toledo.
  - We know Pete enjoys spending time in Greece, where his niece is planning to be married next year. So hopefully travel restrictions are lifted soon so that can happen!
  - Pete, thank you for all the support and guidance that you have provide to UToledo and the Board for so many years. Thank you!
- I also want to thank President Gaber for her many contributions to the present and future of this great institution during her tenure.
  - Thanks to her leadership, students are succeeding in their studies at record levels;
  - UToledo's national reputation and research profile continue to fuel new discoveries for the world's biggest challenges;
  - And the University is continuing to serve as an important economic engine for all of Northwest Ohio.
  - President Gaber, thank you! We wish you nothing but the best at UNC Charlotte.
- We are pleased to welcome Dr. Postel to the team. We look forward to him helping us to continue the positive momentum from President Gaber's leadership.
- Again, thank you to all of the Board members for your support during my term as chair and for your dedication to this great institution. You all give so much of your time and yourselves...Thank you!

Trustee Baker thanked Trustee Pisanelli for her kind words and also thanked her on behalf of the entire board for her service as chair.

Trustee Pisanelli read Proclamation No. 20-06-16: Kyle D. Bergen and Proclamation No. 20-06-17: Jeffrey C. Cole in their entirety. She thanked both

**PROCLMATIONS  
20-06-16 and**

Trustees Bergen and Cole for their service as Board members and wished them well as they continue to support the University of Toledo as former trustees.

**20-06-17**

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Vice Chair Jeff Cole did not have a report.

**ACADEMIC  
AND STUDENT  
AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE**

Clinical Affairs Committee Chair Stephen Ciucci did not have a report

**CLINICAL  
AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE**

Finance and Audit Committee Chair Will Lucas did not have a report.

**FINANCE  
AND AUDIT  
COMMITTEE**

Trusteeship and Governance Committee Chair Patrick Kenney did not have a report.

**TRUSTEESHIP  
AND  
GOVERNANCE  
COMMITTEE**

With no further business before the Board, Trustee Pisanelli adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**