

**MINUTES**  
Board of Trustees  
Bowling Green State University  
February 23, 2024

Notice having been given in accordance with the Board of Trustees Bylaws, the following members met the McMaster Room, 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union at the Bowling Green campus on February 23, 2024: Drew Forhan, Chair; Judy Budi, Willa Ebersole, Phillip Greenberg, Ava Harter, Russ Martin, Cole Nemeth, Dave O'Brien, Geoffrey Radbill, Dr. Richard Ross, Mikayla Russ, Dr. Thomas Shehab, Amy Shore, Mizell Stewart III, and Howard Traul II.

Also present: Dr. Rodney Rogers, President; Dr. Patrick Pauken, Secretary to the Board of Trustees; members of the President's Cabinet, constituent representatives, members of the media, and a number of observers.

Mr. Forhan called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. The Board Secretary called the roll and announced that a quorum was present (nine trustees).

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Rodney Rogers provided updates on several areas including persistence rates, rankings, a record setting Presidents Day open house, BGSU One Day on April 3-4, planning for the solar eclipse, and athletics.

**MINUTES**

No. 18-2024 Mr. O'Brien moved and Mr. Martin seconded that the minutes of December 7 and 8, 2023 be approved as written.

All signified in affirmative. Motion carried.

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Ebersole, Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee had two items for Board consideration.

Approval of Distinguished Teaching Professor - Dr. Matthew Partin

No. 19-2024 Ms. Ebersole moved and Ms. Budi seconded that:

WHEREAS, Dr. Matthew Partin earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1996, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Teaching in 1999, and a Doctor of Education in Leadership Studies in 2008, all from Bowling Green State University;

WHEREAS, Dr. Partin joined the BGSU faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences in 1998 as an Assistant Teaching Professor;

WHEREAS, Dr. Partin was promoted to Associate Teaching Professor in 2012 and to Teaching Professor in 2017;

WHEREAS, before joining the faculty at BGSU, Dr. Partin worked as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Manteo, North Carolina; and as a senior aquarist for the North Carolina State Aquarium in Manteo, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, Dr. Partin teaches several courses in Biological Sciences, including Life in the Sea, Aquarium Husbandry, Evolution and the Nature of Science, Introduction to Inland Marine Research, and Introduction to Biology Research;

WHEREAS, an accomplished advisor, Dr. Partin, regularly advises over 100 undergraduate students and has supervised several honors projects over the past two decades;

WHEREAS, specializing in Marine and Aquatic Science, Dr. Partin's innovative teaching and curriculum development are based upon best practices identified by multiple national organizations as well as data informed decision making;

WHEREAS, whether Dr. Partin is teaching a large lecture class on Life in the Sea with over 100 students or a smaller class on Aquarium Husbandry with 25 students, he facilitates a dynamic learning environment that integrates contemporary findings in biology education, neuroscience, educational psychology, and the learning sciences;

WHEREAS, Dr. Partin has developed a course curriculum for marine biology that integrates student research throughout the program, culminating in an outreach capstone experience where students share their research with K-16 students and the public;

WHEREAS, this curriculum has been peer-reviewed and recognized as an exemplary practice of Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) by CUREnet, a National Science Foundation program;

WHEREAS, utilizing the 5E instructional model – engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate – Dr. Partin serves as a facilitator to guide the students to work collaboratively through the learning process;

WHEREAS, such active learning experience is a likely contributor to 1000% growth (20 to over 200 students) in marine biology;

WHEREAS, as coordinator of the BGSU Marine Laboratory, Dr. Partin oversees 60 lab assistants each semester, mentoring students in their marine biology research;

WHEREAS, Dr. Partin and students host local K-12 school groups every Thursday morning, which also gives marine biology students the opportunity to present their research experiences and findings;

WHEREAS, he also serves as an instructor for the Dorn Fellowship Series that provides 5th and 6th grade students with additional learning opportunities to encourage careers in science. He truly places marine biology in the hands of K-16 students;

WHEREAS, Dr. Partin's teaching excellence was called upon when invited to facilitate ACUE Effective Teaching courses for BGSU faculty;

WHEREAS, he publishes an educational blog titled The Journal of Inland Marine Biology, in which he and other marine biologists provide educational resources for the teaching of marine biology;

WHEREAS, Dr. Partin has fulfilled significant roles in several state and nationally funded science education grants, totaling over \$8 million;

WHEREAS, in 2023, he was honored with the College of Arts and Sciences' Distinguished Teaching Award;

WHEREAS, fall, Dr. Partin collaborated with Biological Sciences faculty colleagues to put together a two-day event celebrating the Cynthia Collin Stong Marine Lab's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during homecoming week;

WHEREAS, his knowledge and passion for marine biology, commitment to innovative curriculum and teaching, and his ability to connect to and mentor students have created a learning environment for student enthusiasm, growth, and exploration;

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Eileen Underwood, associate professor emerita, "One of the things that sets Dr. Partin apart from others is his ability to tailor his teaching approach to meet the diverse needs of every student in his classroom. He understands that not all students learn in the same way, and he is constantly striving to find new and innovative ways to engage and motivate his students, regardless of their learning style or ability;"

WHEREAS, in the words of Dr. Ronald G. Oldfield, senior instructor in biology at Case Western Reserve University, BGSU alumnus, and former student of Dr. Partin: "The Marine Lab at BGSU is something special. It provides students with a powerful learning experience. However, it's not the room full of aquariums that makes it special. It's special because of how Matt *uses* the room and its aquariums as a *tool* to facilitate the growth of students. In this way, Matt's teaching is more like a craft than it is like a job;" and

WHEREAS, the nomination of Dr. Matthew Partin as a Distinguished Teaching Professor has been supported and endorsed by his department awards committee; his dean, Dr. Ellen Schendel; the Distinguished Teaching Professor Committee; the Council of Deans; and Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Joe B. Whitehead.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees approves the naming of Dr. Matthew Partin as a Distinguished Teaching Professor.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting “yes” – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O’Brien, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with nine affirmative votes.

Appointment of Dr. Laura Regassa as Vice President for Research, and as a Professor with Tenure in the Department of Biological Sciences

No. 20-2024 Ms. Ebersole moved and Dr. Ross seconded that:

the Board of Trustees ratify the appointment of Dr. Laura Regassa as Vice President for Research and approve the appointment of Dr. Regassa as a professor with tenure in the Department of Biological Sciences.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting “yes” – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O’Brien, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with nine affirmative votes.

Ms. Ebersole reported that the Committee heard updates from Provost Joe Whitehead, Vice President Cecilia Castellano, Dr. Ali Askandarian, and Vice President Glenn Davis.

**FINANCIAL AFFAIRS/FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Mr. Martin, Chair of the Financial Affairs/Facilities Committee, reported that the Committee had seven items for Board consideration.

Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Residence Hall Room Rates

No. 21-2024 Mr. Martin moved and Mr. O’Brien seconded that:

WHEREAS, boards of trustees at public colleges and universities in Ohio are responsible for establishing the fees to be charged for room rates and related ancillary services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees hereby approves an average room rate increase of 3.0 percent as shown on Schedule 2 and the parlor fees as listed on Schedule 5 to be effective for the fall semester of Fiscal Year 2024 unless Ohio law indicates a lesser allowable increase in which case BGSU’s proposed room rates will only increase to the extent permitted by Ohio law.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting “yes” – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O’Brien, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with nine affirmative votes.

Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Meal Plan Rates

No. 22-2024 Mr. Martin moved and Ms. Budi seconded that:

WHEREAS, boards of trustees at public colleges and universities in Ohio are responsible for establishing the fees to be charged for meal plans;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees hereby approves a meal plan rate increase of 3.5 percent for the Bronze Meal Plan and increases for all other

plans as shown on Schedule 1 to be effective for the fall semester of Fiscal Year 2025 unless Ohio law indicates a lesser allowable increase in which case BGSU's proposed meal plan rates will only increase to the extent permitted by Ohio law.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting "yes" – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O'Brien, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with nine affirmative votes.

Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Academic Course Fee Revisions

No. 23-2024 Mr. Martin moved and Ms. Shore seconded that:

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the University's Academic Programs provide students with a worthwhile educational experience; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the impact inflation has had on the cost of providing these enhanced instructional experiences and ensure that certain programmatic needs continue to be adequately funded;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees approves the special fees as listed on Schedule A effective for the fall semester of Fiscal Year 2025 (or as otherwise noted) to the extent permitted by Ohio law.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting "yes" – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O'Brien, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with nine affirmative votes.

Approval of Kohl Hall Renovation Design Services

No. 24-2024 Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Traul seconded that:

WHEREAS, Residence Life renewal and replacement reserve funds in the amount of \$1,249,049 have been identified to fund the design services necessary for the planned renovations for the existing Kohl Hall; and

WHEREAS, the current Kohl Hall was completed in 1938 with an addition in 1962 and has experienced limited improvements to the interior and exterior; and

WHEREAS, Kohl Hall, as an important part of residence life, will remain in active use for the foreseeable future and this renovation is essential to the current and long-term viability of residence life; and

WHEREAS, the previously approved Kohl air conditioning project will require the building to be shutdown during the FY2025 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project scope includes an update (modernize) to the building's interior aesthetics, adding 40 additional residence rooms to the lower level, modernize the student restroom experience throughout the building including carpeting and paint, providing pod-style restrooms throughout the building, creating a single reception desk, eliminating two unneeded classrooms and several offices on the lower level, and relocating the shared kitchenette and large lounge to the lower level; and

WHEREAS, Board approval for the project construction will be sought at a future meeting; and

WHEREAS, the selection of design consultants will follow all applicable state laws and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees approves the Kohl Hall Renovation – Design Services as more fully described in the background to the resolution.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting "yes" – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O'Brien, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with nine affirmative votes.

Approval of Technology Engineering Innovation Center – Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) Services

No. 25-2024 Mr. Martin moved and Ms. Ebersole seconded that:

WHEREAS, donor funds in the amount of \$1,700,000 have been identified to fund the construction manager at risk services necessary for the project planning and estimating for the Technology Engineering Innovation Center; and

WHEREAS, the current Technology Building was completed in 1971 with minor modifications to the interior, and no improvements have been made to its exterior; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated project scope will include selective demolition of the existing building, an expanded footprint to the south and limited renovation of the existing east wing; a complete upgrade to the STEM Corridor infrastructure feeding into the building systems, including incorporating energy conservation measures, heat plant controls, central chilled water manufacturing, centralized emergency power generation, electrical emergency service upgrades, and building security related upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the work of the construction manager at risk will enable a fully estimated project to be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration at a future meeting – likely in September of 2024; and

WHEREAS, the selection of construction manager at risk services consultants will follow all applicable state laws and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees approves the Technology Engineering Innovation Center – Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) Services as more fully described in the background to the resolution.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting “yes” – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O’Brien, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with nine affirmative votes.

Approval of Participation in the Local Administration Competency Certification Program of Capital Facilities Projects

No. 26-2024 Mr. Martin moved and Mr. O’Brien seconded that:

WHEREAS, the 126<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly enacted HB 16 establishing a Local Administration Competency Certification Program (the “Program”) for the benefit of certain state-assisted institutions of higher education, including state universities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3345.51 of the Ohio Revised Code (“R.C.”), the Program authorizes such institutions to administer state-funded construction, reconstruction, improvement, renovation, enlargement, or alteration of a public improvement under its jurisdiction without the supervision, control, or approval of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.C. 123.17 the Ohio State Architect’s Office (the “SAO Program”) may award local administration competency certifications to institutions of higher education and such certifications are required for participation in the Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the University to administer its own capital facilities projects in accordance with the requirements of both R.C. 3345.51 and R.C. 123.17 (the Program and the SAO Program hereinafter may be collectively or individually referred to as the “Local Administration Program”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the University has adequate controls and sufficient personnel with the knowledge, skills, training, and professional certifications to satisfactorily participate in and manage the Local Administration Program in accordance with the requirements of the law;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that among other authorities, the President or the Vice President for Finance and Administration is hereby delegated the authority to provide written notice to the Ohio Board of Regents, pursuant to R.C. 3345.51 (A)(2), to convey the Board’s request to administer one or more specific capital

facilities projects (as the President or Vice President for Finance and Administration may deem appropriate) within sixty days after the effective date of the section of an Act initially making an appropriation for the relevant project; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to the requirement set forth in R.C. 3345.51(A)(3), the University hereby states its intention to comply with R.C. 153.13 and the guidelines established pursuant to R.C. 153.16 and all laws that govern the selection of consultants, preparation and approval of contract documents, receipt of bids, and award of contracts with respect to each project subject to the requirements of the Local Administration Program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to the requirement set forth in R.C. 123.17 (D)(6), and to the extent permitted by the Ohio State Constitution, the University agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services for any claim of injury, loss, or damage that results from the University's administration of a capital facilities project subject to the requirements of the Local Administration Program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to the requirement set forth in R.C. 123.17 (D)(5), the University represents to the Ohio State Architect's Office that the University will conduct biennial audits of the University's administration of capital facilities projects in accordance with R.C. 3345.51(C), for such period of time as the University may be participating in the Local Administration Program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to the requirement set forth in R.C. 123.17 (D)(2), the Board hereby provides its assurance to the Ohio State Architect's Office that the University will select new employees to participate in the Local Administration Program as necessary to compensate for employee turnover; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes and directs the President or the Vice President for Finance and Administration to take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to secure the University's certification for and successful participation in the Local Administration Program.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting "yes" – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O'Brien, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with nine affirmative votes.

Sale of a 3.85-acre tract to the Wood County Educational Service Center

No. 27-2024 Mr. Martin moved and Mr. O'Brien seconded that:

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio owns a 39.99-acre parcel at North Research Drive and Dunbridge Road that is held for the benefit of Bowling Green State University; and

WHEREAS, a vacant 3.85-acre portion of that parcel is situated between property owned by the Wood County Educational Service Center and Dunbridge Road; and

WHEREAS, the Wood County Educational Service Center, a governmental entity established under Chapter 3312 of the Ohio Revised Code, has offered to pay \$172,500 to purchase the 3.85-acre tract to expand its facilities; and

WHEREAS, the 3.85-acre tract of vacant land that is not presently or foreseeably needed for current or future University uses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the President and the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or either of them, to exercise such authority as may be necessary to execute and deliver documents required to effectuate this sale to the Wood County Educational Service Center; to take all actions necessary to carry out the transaction contemplated therein; and to have performed on behalf of the University all of the University's obligations under such any sale agreement after it has been reviewed and approved by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and the appropriate University departments, including the Office of Planning, Construction and Campus Operations and the Office of General Counsel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or either of them, are hereby authorized and empowered to take any additional actions that, in their discretion, are deemed necessary or advisable to carry out the purposes and intents of this resolution.

The Board Secretary conducted a roll call vote with the following results: Voting “yes” – Ms. Budi, Ms. Ebersole, Mr. Forhan, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Martin, Mr. O’Brien, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Traul. The motion was approved with eight affirmative votes.

Mr. Martin reported that Ms. Sheri Stoll gave presentations on the following informational items: Comparative Senate Bill 6 Ratios for Year Ended June 30, 2023; University Investment Schedule through December 31, 2023; Capital Projects Status Report through December 31, 2023; and the E&G Expenditure Report through December 31, 2023.

#### **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Joint Development Committee Chair, Mr. Radbill, stated that the only action item before the committee was the approval of meeting minutes from December 7, 2023. Discussion items included a University Advancement Report from Vice President Pam Conlin, a Foundation Board report, BGSU One Day, and priority scholarship opportunities.

#### **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

Ms. Shore, Chair of the Joint Investment Committee, stated that the only action item before the committee was approval of meeting minutes from the December meeting. The Committee also discussed cash withdrawals and rebalancing, a review of Market Performance and December 31, 2023 Investment Schedule, and a special topic discussion on private debt.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Forhan provided a few brief announcements and noted that the next meeting will be held on May 3, 2024, on the Bowling Green Campus.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:09 p.m., Mr. O’Brien moved and Ms. Budi seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.