

**MINUTES**  
Board of Trustees  
Bowling Green State University  
September 26, 2025

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 September 26, 2025: Amy Shore, Chair; Judy Budi, Willa Ebersole, Drew Forhan, Phil Greenberg, Paul Hooker, Russ Martin, Paula O'Reilly, Dr. Tom Shehab, Mizell Stewart III, Howard Traul II, and Kathryn Ware.

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.

Ms. Shore called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The Board Secretary called the roll and announced that a quorum was present (eight trustees).

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Rodney Rogers provided the Board with updates on fall enrollment, Weeks of Welcome, rankings, faculty research, and strategic initiatives. He outlined upcoming Homecoming activities including the celebration of Freddie's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and previewed topics that will be covered at the annual State of the University Address

**MINUTES**

No. 2-2026 Ms. Ebersole moved and Mr. Traul seconded that the minutes of June 26 and August 28, 2025 be approved as written.

All signified in affirmative. Motion carried.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Martin, Chair of the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, reported that the Committee had one item for Board consideration.

Approval of American Civic Literacy Course as Required by Ohio Revised Code 3345.382

No. 3-2026 Mr. Martin moved and Ms. Budi seconded that:

WHEREAS, Bowling Green State University's mission is to provide holistic and comprehensive educational experiences which prepare graduates for lifelong personal and career growth and for engaged citizenship and leadership in a global society.

WHEREAS, driven by the desire to create public good through student success, Bowling Green State University ensures programming opportunities meet the needs of our students as well as society.

WHEREAS, the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act requires each institution of higher education to develop a course in American civic literacy which shall include a study of the American economic system, capitalism, and certain historical documents outlined by Ohio Revised Code 3345.382(B)(1)-(7).

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly, through the passage of the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, has recognized the important role institutions of higher education have in fostering students' understanding of American history, government, and the economic system, in order to cultivate informed and engaged citizens.

WHEREAS, Bowling Green State University is well positioned to deliver this programming to advance our students' civil life, professional goals, and community leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees hereby adopts the attached plan to offer a three-credit hour American civic literacy course which shall include the study of the American economic system, capitalism, and the documents specified in Ohio Revised Code 3345.382(B)(1)-(7). This plan shall be submitted to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Education for review and approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the President or his designee to exempt students from the requirement to complete the American Civic literacy course, under Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.382(D)(3), should they complete the American Political Thought, POLS 3040 course. This authorization will end following the 2030-2031 academic year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President, the Provost, their designees, and appropriate academic offices are authorized to take all necessary and appropriate actions, through internal governance processes, to implement the plan.

All signified in affirmative. Motion carried.

Mr. Martin reported that the Committee heard an Academic Affairs Update from Provost Ravi Krovi; a Research Update from Dr. Laura Regassa, Vice President for Research; an Enrollment Management Update from Vice President Cecilia Castellano; and a student Engagement and Success Update from Dr. Glenn Davis, Vice President for Student Engagement and Success.

#### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Ms. Ebersole, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, reported that the only action item before the committee was the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.

Ms. Ebersole reported that Mr. Casey Wyman gave presentations on the following informational items: List of Tentative Capital Project Board Action Items for FY2026-2027; Status of Capital Projects Status Report – Over \$1,000,000; and the E&G Expenditure Report through June 30, 2025.

#### **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Audit and Risk Management Committee Chair, Mr. Traul, stated that the only action item before the committee was the approval of meeting minutes from the last meeting.

Discussion items included a Risk Management and Insurance Update from Dr. Stephanie Sickler; Fiscal Year 2026 Risk Assessment from Jim Lambert; a summary of fraud hotline statistics; a corrective action update; and a training topic – Deloitte's 2025 Higher Education Trends.

#### **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Development Committee Chair, Ms. Budi, stated that the only action item before the committee was the approval of minutes from the previous meeting. Discussion items included a University Advancement Report from Vice President Pam Conlin, a Foundation Board report, the non-endowed restricted gift fee and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BGSU One Day.

Chair Shore indicated there were two additional items for Board consideration.

Appointment of Tina Hennessey as Vice President for University Advancement and President/CEO of the BGSU Foundation, Inc.

No. 4-2026

Mr. Martin moved and Ms. Budi seconded that:

the Board of Trustees ratify the appointment of Tina Hennessey as Vice President for University Advancement and President/CDO of the BGSU Foundation, Inc. effective October 31, 2025.

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

#### **PRESIDENTIAL EVALUATION AND COMPENSATION**

Mr. Martin, Compensation Committee Chair, introduced the following action item, reading the resolution.

No. 5-2026

Mr. Martin moved and Ms. Budi seconded that:

WHEREAS, the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees wishes to acknowledge President Rodney K. Rogers' significant contributions to advancing Bowling Green State University's strategic plan, Forward, focusing on its mission to create public good during the academic year 2024-2025 by:

1. Achieving record-breaking enrollments and student success rates for the second consecutive year as BGSU welcomes its largest and highest achieving freshman class in history. With growth in advanced healthcare and engineering programs, over 4,000 students started the academic year with a cumulative 3.74 grade point average and an average ACT score of 25, increasing headcount by 4% over Fall 2024, by 14% over Fall 2023 and by 36% compared to Fall 2021.
2. Providing access Life Design in AY24 to all undergraduate students through courses, coaching, programming, and partnerships across the University; establishing career design coaching for all on-campus student employees through a partnership with Work+Collective; and expanding industry-engaged learning through a multi-year grant through Arizona State University and J.P. Morgan,
3. Achieving fundraising success by securing more than \$33.9 million in total commitments in FY25. Successfully recruiting and placing a new provost and senior vice president to lead the efforts to elevate our academic enterprise, better positioning our academic portfolio and supporting the student experience as a 21st-century public university.
4. Successfully recruiting and placing a new vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer to lead the efforts to elevate our business, financial and capital portfolios, supporting the institution's mission and its aspirations to excel in the student experience as a 21st-century public university.
5. Implementing university-wide systems to evaluate productivity and academic programs resulting in increased faculty instructional productivity and suspension of admission into low-enrolled programs. Reducing the number of hours to complete a degree to 120 credit hours where possible, in support of 4-year graduation goals and student affordability.
6. Leading higher education across Ohio and the region as the chair of the Council of Presidents of Inter-University Council of Ohio, chair of the Mid-American Conference visioning committee on athletics, the Northwest Ohio Academic Research Innovation Initiative and numerous high-profile speaking engagements.
7. Continuing the implementation and enabling phases of Master Plan 2024, including completing the renovation of Kohl Hall, undertaking the renovation of the Technology, Engineering and Innovation Center and initiating the design process for Kreischer Quadrangle, scheduled to launch in early 2026.

WHEREAS, all administrative staff at the University received a 2 percent annual salary increase effective September 1, 2025, the Board of Trustees proposes an equivalent 2 percent annual increase (\$10,848) to President Rogers' Base Salary, effective September 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, President Rogers' base compensation is below the median when compared to his peers in public universities in Ohio;

WHEREAS, President Rogers' exemplary performance in leading Bowling Green State University during 2024-2025 academic year, inspires the Board of Trustees to award a discretionary bonus of 20 percent (\$108,480) of President Rogers' Base Salary currently in effect; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees also recognizes the philanthropic generosity of President Rogers and Dr. Sandra Earle, with their lifetime support of the BGSU Foundation, placing them in the Jerome Society of the Presidents Club.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees acknowledge President Rogers' significant contributions during academic year 2024-2025 and thus approves an annual salary increase of 2 percent of President Rogers' Base Salary, effective September 1, 2025 and a discretionary bonus payment of 20 percent of President Rogers' Base Salary.

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

### **CONSTITUENT GROUP REPORTS**

The following representatives updated the Board on recent activities of their constituent groups: Zach Schmidt, Administrative Staff Council; Valerie Norell, Classified Staff Council; Michelle Heckman, Faculty Senate; Ariel Esposito, Graduate Student Senate; and Tiago Gaboardi, Undergraduate Student Government. Each representative reviewed activities and accomplishments for the spring semester and highlighted plans for the coming year.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Shore provided a few brief announcements and noted that the next meeting will be held on December 5, 2025, on the Bowling Green campus.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:28 p.m., Mr. Traul moved and Mr. Forhan seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.