



**MINUTES  
FOR REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**

The first meeting in 2021 of the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University was held remotely via Zoom Webinar on Friday, February 26, 2021.

The following members of the Board were present:

Victor M. Cardenas  
Elizabeth C. Emmitt  
Susan M. Jandernoa, Vice Chair  
Megan S. Rydecki, Chair  
Kate Pew Wolters  
Philomena V. Mantella, President, Ex Officio

The following member of the Board was absent:

Randall S. Damstra

The following Board officers and Executive officers were present:

Jesse M. Bernal, Vice President for Inclusion and Equity &  
Executive Associate for Presidential Initiatives  
Thomas A. Butcher, Vice President and General Counsel  
Maria C. Cimitile, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs  
Karen M. Loth, Vice President for University Development  
Matthew E. McLogan, Vice President for University Relations and  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Gregory J. Sanial, Vice President for Finance and Administration and  
Treasurer, Board of Trustees  
Miloš Topić, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Digital Officer  
B. Donta Truss, Vice President for Enrollment Development and Educational Outreach  
Craig J. Wieschhorster, Assistant Treasurer, Board of Trustees

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

I. SECRETARY'S REPORT

21-1-1 (1) Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Emmitt, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting, held November 6, 2020, are approved as distributed.

21-1-2 (2) Motion to Adopt Agenda

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Jandernoa, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees agenda for the February 26, 2021, meeting is approved as distributed.

21-1-3 (3) Recognition of Former Trustee – Mary L. Kramer

On motion by Trustee Wolters and second by Trustee Cardenas, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

The Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees today, February 26, 2021, honors Mary L. Kramer for her eight years of exemplary service as a member of the Board of Trustees at Grand Valley State University.

WHEREAS, Mary L. Kramer has concluded eight years of service as a Trustee of Grand Valley State University; and

WHEREAS, Kramer, Grand Valley State College Class of 1979, executed her responsibilities with diligence and energy; and,

WHEREAS, Kramer became only the second alumna to be elected chair of the Board of Trustees; and,

WHEREAS, her knowledge of the university and her commitment to an inclusive process served the university especially well as it conducted a presidential search for the first time in thirteen years; and,

WHEREAS, the presidential search and its outcome were applauded by the campus community; and

WHEREAS, Kramer gave extra time and attention to ensure a smooth transition from the Haas to the Mantella administrations; and,

WHEREAS, she continues to share her treasure and support for her alma mater; and,

I. SECRETARY'S REPORT, cont'd.

WHEREAS, the Board has sought and received her involvement as a citizen member of the Charter School Advisory Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees unanimously commends Mary L. Kramer for her outstanding service to Grand Valley State University; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mary L. Kramer as evidence of the esteem in which she is held by the Board and university community.

21-1-4 (4) Recognition of Former Trustee – John G. Russell

On motion by Trustee Wolters and second by Trustee Cardenas, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

The Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees today, February 26, 2021, honors John G. Russell for his eight years of exemplary service as a member of the Board of Trustees at Grand Valley State University.

WHEREAS, John G. Russell has concluded eight years of service as a Trustee of Grand Valley State University; and,

WHEREAS, Russell's experience in business operations came at a propitious time as the university faced the headwinds of a weakened state economy; and,

WHEREAS, Russell's wise counsel and insistence on full transparency guided the Board and the university in the execution of its financial and endowment activities; and,

WHEREAS, his leadership as chair of the Finance and Audit committee produced consistent Trustee support for budget and tuition recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, his direct involvement in the search for the university's new president helped ensure its smooth success; and,

WHEREAS, Russell's commitment to leadership excellence at Consumers Energy led to the establishment of the company's leadership training center bearing his name on the university's Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees unanimously commends John G. Russell for his outstanding service to Grand Valley State University; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to John G. Russell as evidence of the esteem in which he is held by the Board and the university community.

I. SECRETARY'S REPORT, cont'd.

21-1-5 (5) Personnel Actions

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Jandernoa, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the personnel actions as reported at this meeting.

II. GENERAL REPORTS

A) Academic and Student Affairs Committee Reports

21-1-6 (6) Revisions to *Board of Trustees Policies*: 4.3.3 – Non-Tenure Track Faculty Benefits – Affiliate Faculty

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Emmitt, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the change to *Board of Trustees Policies* 4.3.3, Non-Tenure Track Faculty Benefits – Affiliate Faculty, as presented at this meeting.

21-1-7 (7) New Program Proposal: Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences, B.S.

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Jandernoa, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the change to *Board of Trustees Policies* 3.2.2, Undergraduate Degree Programs, to add the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, B.S. program, as presented at this meeting.

21-1-8 (8) New Program Proposal: Wildlife Biology, B.S.

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Wolters, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the change to *Board of Trustees Policies* 3.2.2, Undergraduate Degree Programs, to add the Wildlife Biology, B.S. program, as presented at this meeting.

II. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.

21-1-9 (9) New Program Proposal: Water Resource Policy, M.S.

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Jandernoa, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the change to *Board of Trustees Policies 3.2.3, Graduate Degree Programs*, to add the Water Resource Policy, M.S. program, as presented at this meeting.

21-1-10 (10) New Program Proposal: Recreational Therapy, M.S.

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Emmitt, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the change to *Board of Trustees Policies 3.2.3, Graduate Degree Programs*, to add the Recreational Therapy, M.S. program, as presented at this meeting.

21-1-11 (11) Charter Schools Report

Grade Addition – Michigan Preparatory Virtual School (K-6th Grade)

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Jandernoa, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has issued a contract to Michigan Preparatory Virtual School (“Academy”) and has authorized the Academy to operate grades Seventh through Twelfth (7-12); and

WHEREAS, the Academy requests the Board of Trustees approve the addition of grades Kindergarten through Sixth (K-6) for the Academy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, in accordance with Article IX of the Terms and Conditions incorporated into the Academy’s Contract, dated July 1, 2020, the Board of Trustees hereby approves the addition of Kindergarten through Sixth grade (K-6) for the Academy.

Appointment of Charter School Board of Directors

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Jandernoa, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees appoints the Charter School Board of Directors as presented at this meeting.

## II. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.

### B) Finance and Audit Committee Reports

#### 21-1-12 (12) Mount Vernon Pedestrian Mall

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Wolters, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees:

1. approves the selection of Fishbeck as the Architect and Engineer,
2. approves the selection of Dykema Excavators as the General Contractor,
3. approves the budget of \$3,900,000 established for this project; the source of funds to be the Strategic Capital Reserve,
4. approves the schedule established for the project,
5. approves the site plan as presented,
6. and authorizes the University administration to award additional contracts, as necessary, to complete the project.

### C) Other Reports

#### 21-1-13 (13) Development Division Report

On motion by Trustee Cardenas and second by Trustee Jandernoa, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees gratefully accepts cash gifts of \$26,303,812.40 to the University presented at this meeting for October 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.

#### 21-1-14 (14) President's Report

President Mantella's report focused on a culture of empowerment and highlighted the work of the K-12 Connect team that came together through one of Grand Valley's volunteer networks of support to address the desperate need of learning gaps exacerbated by the pandemic and the closure of face to face instruction. The team presented their work from the past year which included more than 1,800 K-12 students impacted, by more than 7,500 sessions, and 597 tutors/mentors. Following the presentation, President Mantella announced the creation of the NextED Accelerator which will accelerate the growth of innovative ideas, like K-12 connect, that move public education forward by using novel ways to engage vulnerable students and enable a new equity in education.

II. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.21-1-15 (15) Motion to Adjourn

RESOLVED, on motion by Trustee Rydecki and second by Trustee Cardenas, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

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Megan S. Rydecki, Chair  
Board of Trustees

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Matthew E. McLogan, Secretary  
Board of Trustees