



MINUTES

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

The second meeting in 2025 of the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University was held on the first floor, L. William Seidman Center, on the Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus of Grand Valley State University on Friday, April 25, 2025, and also livestreamed via Zoom Webinar.

The following members of the Board were present:

Mikyia S. Aaron, Vice Chair
Elizabeth C. Emmitt, Chair
Brandon J. Hofmeister
Susan M. Jandernoa
Jason R. Trice
Philomena V. Mantella, President, Ex Officio

The following members of the Board were absent:

Ronald E. Hall
Noreen K. Myers
Shelley E. Padnos

The following Board officers and Executive officers were present:

Laura Aikens, Vice President for University Development
Stacie R. Behler, Vice President and Chief Public Affairs and Communications Officer and
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Jennifer A. Drake, Acting Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
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
Kara Van Dam, Vice President, Chief Executive of GVSU Omni
Cori M. Kahler, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trustees
Craig J. Wieschhorster, Assistant Treasurer, Board of Trustees

The following Executive officers were absent:

Jesse M. Bernal, Vice President for Strategy and Chief of Staff to the President
Jenny Hall-Jones, Vice President for Student Affairs
Robert Shorty, Vice President for People, Equity, and Culture
B. Donta Truss, Vice President for Enrollment Development and Educational Outreach

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

I. SECRETARY'S REPORT

25-2-1 (1) Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting, held February 21, 2025, are approved as distributed.

25-2-2 (2) Motion to Adopt Agenda

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees agenda for the April 25, 2025, meeting is approved as distributed.

25-2-3 (3) Committee to Nominate Board Officers

The Board Chair has identified the following trustees to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Susan M. Jandernoa
Noreen K. Myers

The Board of Trustees will receive a report from the Nominating Committee and will elect officers at its July 11, 2025, meeting.

25-2-4 (4) Honorary Degree – Bliss

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the granting of an Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree to Rosalynn Bliss, to be awarded at the Winter 2025 Commencement Ceremony on April 25, 2025. Rosalynn Bliss made history as the first female mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, serving from January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2024. Prior to her mayoral tenure, she dedicated a decade to the Grand Rapids City Commission, representing the Second Ward. Bliss has had a significant relationship with Grand Valley State University, contributing both as an educator and a leader. Prior to her tenure as mayor, Bliss served as an adjunct professor at GVSU's School of Social Work. Bliss served as the Frederik Meijer Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Grand Valley State University's Frederik Meijer Honors College. In 2019, while serving as mayor, Bliss was appointed as the Frederik Meijer Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at GVSU's Frederik Meijer Honors College. She earned bachelor's degrees in psychology and criminal justice from the University of South Alabama and a master's degree in social work from Michigan State University.

I. SECRETARY'S REPORT cont'd.

25-2-5 (5) Personnel Actions

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

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

II. PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Mantella shared a reminder about the upcoming commencement ceremonies celebrating over 3,000 graduates, including 1,000+ first-generation students. She highlighted the recent Reach Higher Celebration which marked the conclusion of the Reach Higher 2025 strategic plan, highlighting GVSU's dedication to an empowered educational experience, a lifetime of learning, and educational equity. Lastly, she announced the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Drake as permanent provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs, recognizing her strong leadership and academic experience.

III. GENERAL REPORTS

A) Academic and Student Affairs Committee Reports

25-2-6 (6) New Program Proposals –
Climate Science, B.S.
Environmental Science, B.S.
Human Centered Computing, B.S.
Human Centered Computing M.S.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the change to Section 3.2.2., Undergraduate Degree Programs of the *Board of Trustees Policies*, to add the Climate Science, B.S., Environmental Science, B.S., and Human Centered Computing, B.S. programs, as well as the change to Section 3.2.3, Graduate Degree Programs of the *Board of Trustees Policies*, to add the Human Centered Computing, M.S. program as presented at this meeting.

25-2-7 (7) Higher Learning Commission Quality Initiative

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees endorses the Higher Learning Commission Quality Initiative proposal as discussed at this meeting.

III. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.

B) Finance and Audit Committee Reports

25-2-8 (8) 2025-2026 Housing & Dining Budget and Room & Board Rates

On motion by Trustee Hofmeister and second by Trustee Aaron, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the 2025-2026 Housing & Dining Budget as presented at this meeting; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the 2025-2026 Room and Board Rates as presented at this meeting.

25-2-9 (9) 2025-2026 Auxiliary Operating Budgets

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the 2025-2026 Auxiliary Operating Budgets as presented at this meeting.

25-2-10 (10) 2025-2026 Tuition and Fee Schedule

On motion by Trustee Hofmeister and second by Trustee Trice, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the 2025-2026 Tuition and Fee Schedule as presented at this meeting; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the Administration's request to revise the 2025-2026 Tuition and Fee Schedule to reflect any changes resulting from the approved State budget, if necessary.

C) Other Reports

25-2-11 (11) Charter Schools Report

Reauthorization of 6a Charter Contract – Arbor Academy, Battle Creek (3 years)

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University, at its meeting on February 20, 1998, initially authorized the issuance of a contract to charter Arbor Academy (the "Academy"), and authorized the reissuance of a

III. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.

contract to charter the Academy at its meetings on February 29, 2008, and February 11, 2011, and April 27, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the University's Charter Schools Office has completed its evaluation and assessment of the operation and performance of the Academy; and

WHEREAS, the University President's designee has recommended the reissuance of a contract to charter as a public school academy to the Academy for a three (3) year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Board of Trustees approves and reauthorizes the execution of a contract to charter a public school academy to the Academy and authorizes the University President or designee to execute the contract to charter a public school academy and related documents to the Academy for a three (3) year term, provided that, before the execution of the contract, the University President or designee affirms that all terms of the contract have been agreed upon and the Academy is able to comply with all terms and conditions of the contract and applicable law. This resolution shall be incorporated in and made part of the contract as Schedule 1.

Reauthorization of 6a Charter Contract – Crossroads Charter Academy, Big Rapids (3 years)

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University, at its meeting on February 20, 1998, initially authorized the issuance of a contract to charter Crossroads Charter Academy (the "Academy"), and authorized the reissuance of a contract to charter the Academy at its meetings on February 29, 2008, and April 24, 2015, and April 29, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the University's Charter Schools Office has completed its evaluation and assessment of the operation and performance of the Academy; and

WHEREAS, the University President's designee has recommended the reissuance of a contract to charter as a public school academy to the Academy for a three (3) year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Board of Trustees approves and reauthorizes the execution of a contract to charter a public school academy to the Academy and authorizes the University President or designee to execute the contract to charter a public school academy and related documents to the Academy for a three (3) year term, provided that,

III. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.

before the execution of the contract, the University President or designee affirms that all terms of the contract have been agreed upon and the Academy is able to comply with all terms and conditions of the contract and applicable law. This resolution shall be incorporated in and made part of the contract as Schedule 1.

Reauthorization of 6a Charter Contract – Saginaw Covenant Academy, Saginaw (3 years)

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University, at its meeting on February 2, 2016, initially authorized the issuance of a contract to charter Saginaw Covenant Academy (the “Academy”), and authorized the extended start date of the contract to charter the Academy on July 13, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the University’s Charter Schools Office has completed its evaluation and assessment of the operation and performance of the Academy; and

WHEREAS, the University President’s designee has recommended the reissuance of a contract to charter as a public school academy to the Academy for a three (3) year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Board of Trustees approves and reauthorizes the execution of a contract to charter a public school academy to the Academy and authorizes the University President or designee to execute the contract to charter a public school academy and related documents to the Academy for a three (3) year term, provided that, before the execution of the contract, the University President or designee affirms that all terms of the contract have been agreed upon and the Academy is able to comply with all terms and conditions of the contract and applicable law. This resolution shall be incorporated in and made part of the contract as Schedule 1.

Reauthorization of 6a Charter Contract – Covenant High School Grand Rapids (formerly Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids), Grand Rapids (5 years)

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University, at its meeting on April 29, 2013, initially authorized the issuance of a contract to charter Covenant High School Grand Rapids (the “Academy”), and authorized the reissuance of a contract to charter the Academy on April 24, 2020; and

III. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.

WHEREAS, the University's Charter Schools Office has completed its evaluation and assessment of the operation and performance of the Academy; and

WHEREAS, the University President's designee has recommended the reissuance of a contract to charter as a public school academy to the Academy for a five (5) year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Board of Trustees approves and reauthorizes the execution of a contract to charter a public school academy to the Academy and authorizes the University President or designee to execute the contract to charter a public school academy and related documents to the Academy for a five (5) year term, provided that, before the execution of the contract, the University President or designee affirms that all terms of the contract have been agreed upon and the Academy is able to comply with all terms and conditions of the contract and applicable law. This resolution shall be incorporated in and made part of the contract as Schedule 1.

Reauthorization of 6a Charter Contract – Covenant Schools Detroit (formerly Covenant House Academy Detroit), Detroit (5 years)

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University, at its meeting on April 29, 2013, initially authorized the issuance of a contract to charter Covenant Schools Detroit (the "Academy"), and authorized the reissuance of a contract to charter the Academy on April 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the University's Charter Schools Office has completed its evaluation and assessment of the operation and performance of the Academy; and

WHEREAS, the University President's designee has recommended the reissuance of a contract to charter as a public school academy to the Academy for a five (5) year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Board of Trustees approves and reauthorizes the execution of a contract to charter a public school academy to the Academy and authorizes the University President or designee to execute the contract to charter a public school academy and related documents to the Academy for a five (5) year term, provided that, before the execution of the contract, the University President or designee affirms that all terms of the contract have been agreed upon and the Academy is able to comply with all terms and conditions of the contract and applicable law. This resolution shall be incorporated in and made part of the contract as Schedule 1.

III. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.

Reauthorization of 6a Charter Contract – Vanderbilt Charter Academy, Holland (7 years)

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University, at its meeting on June 21, 2002, authorized the issuance of a charter contract to Vanderbilt Charter Academy, and authorized the reissuance of a contract to charter the Academy at its meeting on May 5, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University, at its meeting on February 11, 2011, authorized the conversion of the Academy from a 6a public school academy to a 6e School of Excellence and authorized the reissuance of a 6e contract to charter the Academy at its meeting on April 27, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the University's Charter Schools Office has completed its evaluation and assessment of the operation and performance of the Academy; and

WHEREAS, the present Board of Directors of the Academy has requested the reissuance of a 6a contract to charter as a public school academy; and

WHEREAS, the University President's designee has recommended the reissuance of a contract to charter as a public school academy to the Academy for a seven (7) year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2032;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Board of Trustees approves and reauthorizes the execution of a contract to charter a public school academy to the Academy and authorizes the University President or designee to execute the contract to charter a public school academy and related documents to the Academy for a seven (7) year term, provided that, before the execution of the contract, the University President or designee affirms that all terms of the contract have been agreed upon and the Academy is able to comply with all terms and conditions of the contract and applicable law. This resolution shall be incorporated in and made part of the contract as Schedule 1.

Appointment of Charter School Board of Directors

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

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

III. GENERAL REPORTS cont'd.

25-2-12 (12) Development Division Report

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees gratefully accepts cash gifts of \$3,196,136.25 to the University presented at this meeting for January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, and \$1,933,304.28 in support of WGVU received from October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

25-2-13 (13) University Academic Senate Report

25-2-14 (14) Student Senate Report

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

25-2-15 (15) President's Report

President Mantella's report focused on relevance. She shared how Grand Valley is navigating a complex moment, balancing the end-of-year celebrations with external challenges that test the resilience of higher education. The university remains steadfast in its mission to empower diverse student populations and adapt to community needs, as shown by strong fall enrollment indicators, new degree programs, and support for student well-being. Amid demographic and institutional shifts, GVSU continues to prioritize affordability, outcomes, and its transformative impact—demonstrated through student success and community engagement.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

25-2-16 (16) Public Comment

VI. ADJOURNMENT

25-2-17 (17) Motion to Adjourn

RESOLVED, on motion by Trustee Hofmeister and second by Trustee Jandernoa, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Elizabeth C. Emmitt, Chair
Board of Trustees

Stacie R. Behler, Secretary
Board of Trustees