

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 18, 2007

President Simon called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 3:22 p.m. in the Board Room, DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, MI.

Trustees present: Joel I. Ferguson, Melanie Foster, Colleen M. McNamara, Donald W. Nugent, Faylene Owen, George Perles, and G. Scott Romney.

Trustees absent: Dorothy Gonzales

University officers present: President Simon, Provost Wilcox, Vice President Poston, Secretary Barber, Vice President and General Counsel Noto, Vice Presidents Denbow, Gray, Hudzik, and Webb, and Acting Executive Director Beekman. Faculty liaisons present: Michael Moch and Jim Potchen. Student liaisons present: Brad Love, Eric Hinojosa, and Roger Ludy.

All actions taken were by unanimous vote of the Trustees present, unless otherwise noted.

1. On a motion by Trustee Ferguson, supported by Trustee McNamara, the **BOARD VOTED to approve** the agenda.
2. Election of Officers
  - A. Board of Trustees Officers—Chairman

Trustee Romney said that he would like to nominate Trustee Ferguson to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Romney stated that Trustee Ferguson was not only the best person for the job but has a passion for MSU and is a great leader.

Trustee Romney **moved to approve** the recommendation, with support from Trustee Owen.

**THE BOARD VOTED to approve** the recommendation.

Trustee Ferguson said that he was honored to be nominated by Trustee Romney. He said that it was a great honor to be elected to the Board of Trustees but an even greater honor to be selected by his colleagues as Chairman.

B. Board of Trustees Officers—Vice Chairperson

Trustee McNamara said that she would like to nominate Trustee Foster as Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee McNamara **moved to approve** the recommendation, with support from Trustee Ferguson.

**THE BOARD VOTED to approve** the recommendation.

Trustee Ferguson stated that he was proud Trustee Foster was elected as Vice Chairperson. He said that she is extremely smart and has tremendous energy. She has a history of great performance and he looks forward to working with her.

3. President's Report

A. West Michigan Medical School

President Simon said that this is a special day for MSU in terms of history and the partnership with West Michigan. The land grant university is one that was founded for the state: a university without walls in terms of the campus and a commitment to help every section of the state achieve a higher level of economic development and quality of life. Within that commitment there are always special opportunities, partners and places. MSU has been actively engaged in medical education in West Michigan since the inception of the College of Human Medicine. The College of Osteopathic Medicine has had a long standing partnership with Metropolitan Hospital. MSU has been a part of this community in other fundamental ways.

President Simon stated that she has had the great honor to participate in the discussions that Grand Action started with the stakeholders group regarding medical education and a medical school to be located in West Michigan. President Simon noted that over the past two years she has made many trips to West Michigan and her respect for partners in the area has grown. The announcement today is very important as it represents the home, a physical symbol of the commitment for medical education in West Michigan.

President Simon acknowledged President Haas of Grand Valley State University because next week there will be an announcement of a Memorandum of Understanding with Grand Valley State

University. The timing of the Board of Trustees meeting did not permit the announcement to take place before this meeting but the announcement of the partnership is no less important for the MSU and the community.

President Simon asked Marsha Rappley, Dean of the College of Human Medicine, to comment on the medical school.

Dean Rappley thanked the students, faculty and staff of the College of Human Medicine, the Board of Trustees, President Simon, Provost Wilcox and the leadership of the Grand Rapids community for all sharing the vision of what could be accomplished by building in the thriving West Michigan medical community.

Dean Rappley said that the students and faculty are excited. She noted that there have been more student applicants than have ever been received and a huge interest in Grand Rapids. Dean Rappley said that she has been approached by people from across the country who are interested in opportunities as teachers and scientists and they are aggressively being recruited. Faculty that have been teaching students for more than 30 years in Grand Rapids are asking to have a bigger role and are excited about the opportunity as well.

4. There was no Public Participation on Issues Germane to the Agenda
5. Finance Committee
  - A. Authorization of Real Estate Purchase for Site of West Michigan Medical School Building

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees authorize the acquisition of the site of the West Michigan Medical School Building, specifically the acquisition of Unit 5, Michigan Street Project Condominium (Kent County Condominium Subdivision Plan Number 773), City of Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, for a price not to exceed \$15,750,000 and 100 to 360 parking spaces in the adjacent, lower level Unit 1 of the Michigan Street Project Condominium at a price not to exceed \$26,900 per space, in such a manner and upon terms and conditions as may be acceptable to the Vice President for Finance and Operations.

Trustee Nugent **moved to approve** the recommendation with support from Trustee Foster.

Trustee Nugent said that he believed this to be an excellent site, providing fantastic exposure for the Medical School.

Vice President Poston stated that this resolution would authorize the Administration to acquire the property and that the acquisition would be completed in the spring.

President Simon said that the square footage and the proximity to MSU's partners were carefully assessed and that she is excited about the opportunities that this site provides. With successful funding, the new building should be ready for occupancy by summer of 2010 but that is contingent upon fundraising.

**THE BOARD VOTED to approve** the recommendation.

6. Policy Committee

Trustee McNamara presented the Trustee Policy Committee Report and recommendations.

A. Facility Naming Proposal

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the proposal that the MSU West Michigan Medical School Building be named the Secchia Center.

Trustee McNamara **moved to approve** the proposal with support from Trustee Owen.

President Simon said that it was a bittersweet day due to the automobile accident that the Secchia's were involved in a week ago. Peter Secchia was involved from the beginning in discussions regarding MSU and the role it could have in building a strong foundation in West Michigan. He understood that this project would be special, not only because of the vision, but because of the people involved; people that understand and value research and cutting edge knowledge.

Trustee Ferguson said that Peter Secchia has been active at MSU for many years and he was sorry that Peter was not able to attend the meeting.

Trustee Perles said that Peter Secchia had helped him with recruiting when he was MSU's head football coach. Peter Secchia has been a proud supporter of MSU for many years and will no doubt continue that practice.

Trustee Nugent stated that the Secchia Center is a very fitting name for the new building.

Trustee Romney said that it was a wonderful honor to have Peter Secchia contribute to the project and to give him the recognition that is appropriate for the great efforts he has made for the community. It is a wonderful tribute to have the building named the Secchia Center.

**THE BOARD VOTED to approve** the proposal.

7. Trustee Comments

Trustee Foster said that she wanted to thank her peers for their support of her election to Vice Chairperson of the Board. She said that she and Trustee Ferguson will make a great team.

Trustee Nugent stated that the cooperation between the MSU Board of Trustees and the Trustees from Grand Valley State University will continue to grow. He congratulated President Simon and President Haas for their efforts.

8. There was no Public Participation on other Issues

9. Request to Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Romney, supported by Trustee Perles, **THE BOARD VOTED to adjourn** at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison E. Barber, Ph.D.  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees