



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Investment Subcommittee

December 15, 2023

Minutes

President's Boardroom, Horace Mann Center

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing also took place on YouTube.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chair Paul Boudreau and Trustee Daniel Currier.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Vice Chair George Gilmerⁱ, and Trustee Chris Montemayor.

Also present and participating from Westfield State University were President Dr. Linda Thompson, Dr. Michael Freeman, Chief of Staff, Vice President for Administration and Finance Stephen Taksar, Associate Vice President for Finance, Lisa Freeman and Corient representatives Robert Quinn and Duke Laflamme.

Committee Chair Boudreau called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

MOTION made by Trustee Currier, seconded by Trustee Montemayor, to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2023, Investment Subcommittee meeting.

There being no discussion, **ROLL CALL VOTE** passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Montemayor, Currier, and Boudreauⁱⁱ

It was announced that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded, and all committee members and guests participating were announced as listed above.

Investment Policy (0430).

MOTION made by Trustee Currier, seconded by Trustee Montemayor, to accept the newly revised Investment Policy (0430), as presented.

Discussion: Two changes were made to the policy. The first was to increase the range of equities from a high of 70% to a high of 75%. The other change was to lower the target allocation of cash from 2% to 0%. Both changes will give the investment advisors more flexibility in investing the University's funds. Mr. Taksar noted that if the University shifts more of its short-term investments to a long-term strategy, the policy will have to be amended to update the spending policy. Mr. Laflamme noted that the University could open a new account in order to separate the two.

There being no further discussion, ROLL CALL VOTE passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Montemayor, Currier, and Boudreauⁱⁱⁱ

Index Fund Allocation and Money Market vs. Bond Investing. Corient representatives began their presentation by giving an update on the University's current portfolio.

- Started the calendar year with \$21.8 million and is now at \$24.9 million representing a \$3.1 million increase or 14.5%. The increase was driven by the asset allocation, specifically an increase in equity allocation from 59% in December, 2022 to 69% currently. The portfolio is 1.3% ahead of benchmark.
- Corient presented a plan to expand to a 100% passive investment strategy, allocating a higher percent of the equity portfolio each quarter through June 2024. The committee preferred to maintain some stocks in technology (Magnificent Seven group). Final determination on the percent of passive investments should occur at the next meeting.

New Motion-Reinvest Money Market Funds.

MOTION made by Trustee Currier, seconded by Trustee Gilmer, to authorize the administration to transfer \$10-\$15 million to a new account with Corient after evaluating the University's current cash and money market accounts.

There being no further discussion, ROLL CALL VOTE passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Gilmer, Montemayor, Currier, and Boudreau.

University Cash Summary. The committee was provided several cash related reports of the University's historical and current cash and investment balances.

There being no further business,

MOTION made by Trustee Currier, seconded by Trustee Gilmer, to adjourn. **ROLL CALL VOTE** passed motion unanimously with Trustees voting in the affirmative: Gilmer, Montemayor, Currier, and Boudreau.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.

Attachment(s):

- a. Draft Minutes of 10-20-23; Motion – Investment Policy; Investment Policy (Track Change); Investment Policy (Clean); Investment Policy (Memo); Index Fund Allocation; University Cash Summary (Graph); and University Cash Summary.

Secretary's Certificate

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Westfield State University Board of Trustees Investment Subcommittee of the Financial Affairs Committee meeting held on December 15, 2023.

Theresa Jasmin, Secretary

Date

ⁱ Trustee Gilmer joined the meeting at 3:27 PM

ⁱⁱ Trustee Gilmer had not yet joined the meeting

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