

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTH
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Columbus, Ohio, April 10, 2020

The Board of Trustees met virtually on Friday, April 10, 2020, via teleconference, pursuant to adjournment.

**

**

**

Chairman Gary R. Heminger called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order on Friday, April 10, 2020 at 3:00pm.

Members Present: Gary R. Heminger, Timothy P. Smucker, Abigail S. Wexner, Alex Shumate, Cheryl L. Krueger, Brent R. Porteus, Erin P. Hoeflinger, Alexander R. Fischer, Hiroyuki Fujita, Alan A. Stockmeister, John W. Zeiger, Elizabeth P. Kessler, Lewis Von Thaeer, Jeff M.S. Kaplan, Michael Kiggin, Janice M. Bonsu and Anand Shah

Mr. Heminger:

Good afternoon, everyone. This is Gary Heminger and I would like to convene this meeting of the Board of Trustees. Before we proceed, will the secretary please call the roll to confirm we have a quorum?

Ms. Eveland:

A quorum is present.

Mr. Heminger:

Thank you, Jessie. And thank you to everyone for joining us by phone today. I know this is unusual, but we are trying to be respectful of the CDC's current recommendations — and Governor DeWine's orders — related to limiting in-person gatherings.

We are also following the guidance outlined by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and authorized by House Bill 197, that allows for virtual public meetings during this time of emergency.

A few quick ground rules for this meeting:

- First, please ensure you are on mute, unless you are speaking, so we can avoid unnecessary background noise.
- If you would like to speak during this meeting, please identify yourself first for the record.
- To simplify things, I will call on certain individuals to request that they offer seconds to any motions.
- And, finally, please note that this call is being recorded.

I will call for a single vote on both items at the conclusion of our discussion. Dr. McPheron?

Dr. Bruce McPheron:

Thank you, Chairman Heminger. Academic health centers are distinct from other healthcare settings in that they both provide exceptional treatment for patients and also train the next generation of caregivers. These students learn both in traditional educational classes at the College of Medicine and in clinical settings at the Wexner Medical Center. Today, 54 of these exceptional students have completed all of the requirements to earn their medical degrees and have indicated they are eager to join the fight against the

coronavirus. As health systems across the country prepare for the continuing surge of cases, the demand for well-trained medical professionals has never been higher.

We are therefore asking for approval to award their degrees early, so that they can enter the workforce at the Wexner Medical Center, in healthcare systems across the country, and at other sites where they can begin work. Students need their degrees in hand to complete the licensing process, but this step will allow them to begin that process and to bring their education to bear on addressing this crisis.

We are therefore asking for approval of the recommendation to confer their degrees on April 12, 2020, rather than waiting until our upcoming virtual commencement on May 3, 2020.

**APPROVAL OF THE EARLY AWARDING OF DEGREES FOR
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE CANDIDATES**

Resolution No. 2020-101

Synopsis: Approval of the early awarding of degrees for Doctor of Medicine (MD) candidates for spring semester 2020, is proposed.

WHEREAS with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic there is an urgent need for physicians; and

WHEREAS MD candidates graduating from the College of Medicine cannot move forward with the licensing process without having been certified as graduated; and

WHEREAS there is a significant number of fourth-year students in the College of Medicine who are scheduled to graduate during spring semester 2020, and who will have fully completed all of their requirements to graduate as of April 10, 2020, and who are electing to make the commitment to be engaged in the current health crisis as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Rule 3335-1-06 (E) of the Administrative Code, the Board of Trustees has authority for the issuance of degrees; and

WHEREAS the faculty of the College of Medicine shall transmit, in accordance with Rule 3335-9-29 of the Administrative Code, for approval by the Board of Trustees, the names of persons who have completed degree requirements:

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby approves the early awarding of Doctor of Medicine degrees to students who, as of April 10, 2020, have met all of their academic requirements to graduate and have elected to make this commitment to be engaged in the current health crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these degrees will be conferred on April 12, 2020, rather than on May 3, 2020.

(See Appendix LVII for background information, page 1142)

Dr. Bruce McPheron:

The second item involves temporary changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty*. Mr. Chairman, the university has taken unprecedented actions this spring to protect the health and wellbeing of the university community. As you know, we suspended in-person education, sent students home from the residence halls, closed the campus to anyone but essential personnel, and have implemented virtual modes of teaching, learning and working. Our faculty and staff have taken extraordinary steps to minimize the impact on our students and I'm proud of the results to date. To cite one telling statistic, in the first two weeks of virtual education, our students, faculty and staff held more than 90,000 sessions on Zoom, a key tool in our virtual education.

While we've ramped up our virtual outreach to students, the university has also been working to reduce barriers and acknowledge the impact that COVID has had on all of us. Our students are learning in new ways, using sometimes unfamiliar technology, all the while supporting their families. Given these challenges, the University Senate approved two rule changes to provide students with additional flexibility. The first allows pass/no pass grading in undergraduate general education and elective courses. I'll note that most colleges have followed suit to provide similar flexibility for required courses for majors and minors, and the Graduate School has done the same for graduate courses. Students may opt for a traditional letter grade or request the pass/no pass option through their advisor. We have insisted that students talk to their advisors so that they fully understand the rules for using pass/no pass and any possible implications if they are applying for an academic program, using a scholarship that requires grades, or in any other various circumstances.

The second resolution allows students up to 10 weeks to complete courses if they have been granted an incomplete. Taken together, these two actions give our students additional time or flexibility to focus on mastery of their coursework versus a particular grade during this disruptive semester.

With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

**APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY CHANGES
TO THE RULES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY**

Resolution No. 2020-102

Synopsis: To mitigate the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on students, approval of the following temporary changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty* for spring semester 2020, is proposed.

WHEREAS The Ohio State University always prioritizes the health and well-being of our community, and the university has taken significant action in spring semester 2020 to follow public health guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the university transitioned to virtual modes of teaching and learning for the remainder of the spring semester and closed our campuses to any non-essential activity; and

WHEREAS the University Senate, pursuant to Rule 3335-1-09 of the Administrative Code, is authorized to recommend through the president to the Board of Trustees the adoption of amendments to the *Rules of the University Faculty* as approved by the University Senate; and

WHEREAS On March 26, 2020, the University Senate approved temporary adjustments to Rule 3335-8-21 (G) and Rule 3335-8-21 (K) to provide students with additional academic flexibility in light of the extraordinary circumstances affecting this semester:

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby approves that the temporary changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty* be adopted as recommended by the University Senate for spring semester 2020.

(See Appendix LVIII for background information, page 1143)

Mr. Heminger:

Any questions for Dr. McPherson? Thank you, Dr. McPherson. If there are no further questions, we will proceed with a single voice vote for both of these items.

I will make a motion to approve the "Early Awarding of Degrees for Doctor of Medicine Candidates" and the "Temporary Changes to the Rules of the University Faculty." Mr. Shumate, as chair of the Academic Affairs, Student Life and Research Committee, would you please offer a second?

Mr. Shumate:

I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

Upon the motion of Mr. Heminger, seconded by Mr. Shumate, the Board of Trustees adopted the foregoing motion by unanimous voice vote, cast by trustees Mr. Heminger, Mr. Smucker, Mrs. Wexner, Mr. Shumate, Ms. Krueger, Mr. Porteus, Mrs. Hoeflinger, Mr. Fischer, Dr. Fujita, Mr. Stockmeister, Mr. Zeiger, Ms. Kessler, Mr. Von Thae, Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Kiggin, Ms. Bonsu and Mr. Shah.

Mr. Heminger:

This has been passed by a voice vote. Before we move into executive session, would anyone like to make additional comments?

At this time, I move that the committee recess into executive session to discuss pending or imminent court action and personnel matters regarding the appointment and employment of public employees or officials and matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes. Vice Chairman Smucker, may I have a second?

Mr. Smucker:

I second that, Mr. Chairman.

Upon the motion of Mr. Heminger, seconded by Mr. Smucker, the Board of Trustees adopted the foregoing motion by unanimous roll-call vote, cast by trustees Mr. Heminger, Mr. Smucker, Mrs. Wexner, Mr. Shumate, Ms. Krueger, Mr. Porteus, Mrs. Hoeflinger, Mr. Fischer, Dr. Fujita, Mr. Stockmeister, Mr. Zeiger, Ms. Kessler, Mr. Von Thae, Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Kiggin, Ms. Bonsu and Mr. Shah.

Ms. Eveland:

Motion carries.

Mr. Heminger:

Thank you. We are recessed. At this time, I ask that our executive session attendees please hang up and dial into our next call so we can continue. For everyone else, we will leave this line open and return to it upon the conclusion of executive session to adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

The meeting recessed at 3:10 p.m. and returned to public session at 4:34 p.m.

Mr. Heminger:

Thank you. We have now reconvened in public session and this call is being recorded. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Wednesday, June 3 and Thursday, June 4, however, in the coming weeks we will keep everyone updated on likely changes to that schedule. Is there any further business to come before the board?

Hearing none, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you everyone for being with us virtually today and please stay safe and healthy. Thank you.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Attest:

Gary R. Heminger
Chairman

Jessica A. Eveland
Secretary

Voluntary Early Graduation for Students in the MD Program

Background

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in significant stress to the healthcare environment. Many medical students have requested to be allowed to graduate early in order to enter the healthcare workforce. Some of our senior students have been contacted by the health system where they have matched for residency (i.e., New York, Ohio, Texas, California, Minnesota), asking if they can graduate and start earlier. Several medical schools are offering an early graduation option similar to what we are proposing, including schools in Massachusetts (i.e., Harvard, Boston University, Tufts, University of Massachusetts), New York (New York University) and California (UCLA). Many others are also talking about providing this option.

Our proposal of an optional early graduation date is in line with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education guidelines for early graduation.

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Students who have met all graduation requirements by April 3, 2020
- Students who declare their intent to enter the workforce early

Numbers of Students Impacted by this Request

- 175 of 184 MD students have met all graduation requirements as of April 3, 2020
- 52 students have declared their intent to join the healthcare workforce upon graduation and requested the early graduation date

Example of Opportunities for Early Graduates

- The Wexner Medical Center has a plan for hiring early graduates in the event that a COVID-19 surge requires an increase in the workforce at the medical center.
- Opportunities exist for graduates to work in health systems across the country to work as unlicensed professionals.
- There are possible employment opportunities at sites across the country with Battelle for decontamination of Personal Protective Equipment.

Temporary Changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty*

Background

On March 12, 2020, President Michael V. Drake announced that The Ohio State University would be transitioning to virtual modes of teaching and learning for the remainder of spring semester 2020, in light of the public health risks posed by coronavirus (COVID-19). In addition, the university required all undergraduate students living in university housing to leave campus by the end of March 22, unless they were granted exceptions due to extenuating circumstances.

The university has responded quickly to support students through this transition, but Ohio State recognizes that these disruptions may affect students' academic performance this semester. Given those potential impacts, the University Senate has recommended the following temporary changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty*, which would apply only to spring semester 2020:

- 1. Extend timeframe to resolve Incomplete (I) Grades - Faculty Rule 3335-8-21 (G)**
 - As outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-8-21 (G), a student who has satisfactorily completed a substantial portion of the work in a course may request additional time to complete.
 - If approved by the relevant faculty member, the student is temporarily granted an Incomplete (I) grade and allotted six weeks from the start of the next term to complete the course.
 - The recommended temporary change for the Spring 2020 academic term would extend the allowable duration of an Incomplete from six weeks to 10 weeks from the start of the next term.
- 2. Extend opportunities for Pass/No Pass (PA/NP) grading - Faculty Rule 3335-8-21 (K)**
 - As outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-8-21 (K), the university currently allows undergraduate students to take elective courses under a Pass/No Pass (PA/NP) grading system — instead of receiving a letter grade.
 - Courses graded PA/NP do not count towards the cumulative or term GPA, but the credits count towards graduation.
 - Existing criteria for taking courses PA/NP include:
 - a. This option may be used only for elective courses.
 - b. Each student may use PA/NP grading for up to 20 credit hours per undergraduate degree.
 - c. Students may use this option only if they have achieved a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or higher.

- This temporary adjustment to 3335-8-21 (K) for the Spring 2020 academic term would extend a student's ability to take courses with Pass/No Pass grading such that:
 - a. the number of courses taken PA/NP in Spring 2020 be exempted from the stated cap of 20 credits,
 - b. the students be allowed to take elective and General Education courses PA/NP,
 - c. the deadline for declaring the intention to take a course PA/NP be extended to April 17, 2020,
 - d. all students earning a D or better under the course grading scheme should be marked as Passing,
 - e. the option of requesting PA/NP be available to all students, regardless of GPA, and
 - f. each college be allowed to extend this policy, as deemed appropriate, to include courses taken to fulfill requirements of the major or minor.

After evaluating their circumstances, most colleges and the Graduate School have decided to extend this policy to required courses for undergraduate majors and minors, and to graduate and professional programs as appropriate.

Pass/No Pass is not permitted and/or recommended in all circumstances, including for reasons having to do with accreditation standards, professional certifications, financial aid requirements and other issues.

In all cases, students must work with their academic advisor in submitting any request for Pass/No Pass grading.

Information about grading policy changes for spring semester 2020 are posted at <https://oaa.osu.edu/grading-policy-changes-spring-2020>, and each college has communicated expectations directly to its students.