MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF PURDUE NEWU
AUGUST 4, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Purdue NewU convened at 8:36 a.m. on Friday, August 4, 2017, in Room 326 of Stewart Center on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The following trustees were present for the meeting: Michael Berghoff, chairman; Paul Bott (by phone), JoAnn Brouillette, Malcolm DeKryger, and Mike Klipsch. Don Thompson was not in attendance. Betty Vandenbosch, Chancellor of NewU, was also in attendance.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its last meeting held on June 16, 2017.

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Daniels reported that NewU is making all necessary submissions to the various regulatory agencies, including the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Department of Education and the Higher Learning Commission. He stated that a series of faculty meetings organized and conducted by Frank Dooley, who facilitated the meetings, was generating positive feedback. As an example, connections were being made, relationships were being established, areas of commonality had been recognized, and possible opportunities for cooperation had been identified. President Daniels reported that there had been much discussion and research will continue in terms of a recommended name for NewU. He conveyed that, externally, the acquisition had generated great interest and positive attention, most recently from the Gates Foundation, which claimed to be very intrigued and excited about what the acquisition might mean in terms of extending higher education to adult learners who either had not attended college or had some credit but no degree. He closed by saying a lot of progress had been made and everything was on schedule.

III. APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSES, LONG-RANGE PLAN, AND ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE MANUAL

Chancellor Betty Vandenbosch began her presentation by reviewing the Mission Statement and Purposes. She highlighted that NewU, like its predecessor Kaplan University, would be an institution of higher learning dedicated to providing innovative undergraduate, graduate, and continuing professional education. Its programs foster student learning with opportunities to launch, enhance, or change careers in a diverse global society. NewU will be committed to general education, a student-centered service and support approach, and applied scholarship in a practical environment. To accomplish its mission, NewU would provide academic programs for adult
learners; provide intensive and comprehensive instruction; instill in its students the value of lifelong learning; assist students in developing professional attitudes, values, skills, and strategies that foster success in their careers and in life; and prepare students to advance their employment goals and opportunities. The philosophy of NewU will recognize the worth and dignity of all people and will be sensitive to the diversity of cultural and ethnic backgrounds represented in its student population. The University will be committed to serving the public good by engaging in continuous efforts to increase college attainment of high-risk populations and help students achieve economic independence through higher education and employment.

Chancellor Vandenbosch outlined the governance structure and noted that it was described in detail in the Academic Governance Manual. Chairman Mike Berghoff pointed out that, by design, five of the six members of the NewU board also serve on the Purdue University Board of Trustees. This is one of the means by which Purdue University exercises control of NewU, as required by state law. The sixth member of the NewU Board, Dr. Bott, has served as an independent trustee on Kaplan University’s board and thus brings institutional memory as well as expertise in the higher education online learning environment.

Dr. Vandenbosch reviewed the Long-Range Plan. With a focus on optimizing learning time, the student experience, and speed to degree, the University believes it is in a position to improve graduation, reputation and growth. She outlined several strategic initiatives to accomplish this objective.

Following her presentation, Chancellor Vandenbosch requested approval of the Mission Statement and Purposes, Long-Range Plan, and Academic Governance Manual. Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve these documents.

IV. APPROVAL OF NEWU BENEFIT PLAN

Mr. Denny Darrow, vice president for human resources, reported that there had been excellent collaboration with partners at Kaplan throughout the process of trying to understand the benefits offered to current Kaplan employees and building a benefit plan structure for employees of NewU. The proposed plan includes a medical and prescription drug plan, dental benefits, vision benefits, a retirement plan, life/AD&D, and long term disability benefits. He stated that the proposed benefit plan was comparable to what employees at Kaplan University were currently receiving. Mr. Darrow said that next steps included a Town Hall meeting and preparation of communication materials to educate NewU employees on the plan. He requested approval of the proposed benefit plan. Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the proposed NewU benefit plan.

V. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.