A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Purdue University Global (PG) convened at 8:38 a.m. on Friday, December 4, 2020, in Room 214 of Stewart Center on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The following trustees were present: Michael Berghoff, chairman; Paul Bott, JoAnn Brouillette, Malcolm DeKryger and Mike Klipsch. Also in attendance were President Mitch Daniels, Treasurer Chris Ruhl, Chancellor Frank Dooley and Secretary Nancy Decker (virtually).

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Berghoff asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on August 6, 2020, and the regular meeting held on August 7, 2020. Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August meetings.

II. CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

Chancellor Dooley began his remarks by reminding the Board of the topical approach taken at each meeting. Today would focus on “Policy and Graduation,” with February, June and August dedicated to “Growth,” “Plan” and “Results,” respectively.

Dr. Dooley welcomed Theresa Carter to the Board and also noted that the new provost, Dr. Jon Harbor, was in attendance.

Chancellor Dooley reported on graduation rates for 2019-2020. He said the rates were calculated by year of matriculation. He indicated that, while they may appear to be poor when compared to West Lafayette, they are good when compared against our peers.

Dr. Dooley informed the Board that the 2019-2020 first year retention rates for graduate students was 64% and 41% for undergraduate students. The credentials awarded were 1,900 for an Associate’s degree, 4,700 for a Bachelor’s degree, and 2,700 for a Master’s degree. Total credentials awarded was 10,000 when including the Certificate/Diploma and Professional Doctorate. Chancellor Dooley highlighted the end of program student survey results which, he said, revealed that Purdue Global students are happy and engaged.

Chancellor Dooley concluded his report by commenting on the strategic focus for 2021-2024, which includes innovation, growth and results. The measurements to be used include census and operating income, persistence and graduation. He gave a brief recap since May which included a change in leadership; moving from Chicago and Indianapolis to West Lafayette; a new program
approval process; policy review and recommended changes of conditional admissions and semesters; and an assessment of departmental transitions from Kaplan to Purdue under TOSA (HR, PR, legal).

III. APPROVAL OF REPEAL OF CONDITIONAL ADMISSIONS POLICY

Chancellor Dooley informed the Board that Purdue Global is responsible for establishing its admission standards, including standards for the selection and admission of students, and for overseeing the student admission process and enrollment services. He noted that this responsibility included the ultimate authority to review application criteria and make admissions determinations. He then shared a proposal to repeal and discontinue the practice of “conditional admission.” He further stated that, after due consideration of Kaplan University’s historical reasons for this practice, as well as the rationale for the proposed change and the benefits of transparency, certainty and student retention that were expected to result from its elimination, it was his recommendation that the Board move to repeal and discontinue the “conditional admissions” policy. Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the repeal of the conditional admissions policy, effective for the February 2021 catalog.

IV. APPROVAL OF TRANSITION TO SEMESTERS

Chancellor Dooley reported that the semester is by far the most prevalent calendar/credit model in U.S. higher education, especially among four-year public institutions, and Purdue University itself employs a 15-week semester. Dr. Dooley recommended that the Board approve moving to a semester calendar model and authorize the academic leadership team to take measures to further explore and work out the details for its implementation. Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transition from a quarter hour calendar to a semester calendar.

V. OVERVIEW OF NEW PROCESS FOR CREATING NEW PROGRAMS

Chancellor Dooley presented an overview of a new process for creating new programs. He explained that in the new process, submissions are accepted from deans, faculty, marketing or PG/KNA staff. An evaluation of growth potential, labor market and a high-level competitive review result in a “go/no go” decision by the deans. At that time, a full feasibility study, including an analysis of BLS and Emsi data, historical trends, and a deeper competitive review was conducted. Upon receiving final approvals by the dean and Program Steering Committee, operational preparation commences, curriculum development begins and, once final approvals by the Policy Program Review Committee, Faculty Curriculum Committee and Administrative Council are received, the proposal is submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval and then to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Dr. Dooley informed the Board that this new process shifted control of the analysis processes to PG with final approval by the deans and the Program Steering Committee. He went on to say that the speed and efficiency of this process resulted in 90 days from an idea to Board of Trustees approval.
VI. APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS

Chancellor Dooley recommended approval of three new programs: MS in Data Analytics, BS in Organizational Management, and BS in Public Health Education & Promotion. He explained the background for each program and outlined the demand and supply landscape for each program. Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the new programs.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.