Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Special Formal Session
May 4, 2017

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

A Recommendation

1. Division and Department: Board of Trustees

2. <u>Introduction:</u>

On September 29, 2016, Oakland University Board of Trustees Chairman, Richard L. DeVore, announced the Board's plan for seeking a new president for Oakland University following George W. Hynd's successful three-year term as president.

On October 24, 2016, the Oakland University Board of Trustees (Board) appointed an Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee (Committee). The Committee was charged to work in close coordination with the presidential search firm to be retained by the Board to represent the interests of the Board and the campus community to the presidential candidates. The eight voting members of the Committee were:

Richard DeVore, Chair of the Board;

Ronald Robinson, Trustee:

Mark Schlussel, Trustee;

Melissa Stolicker, Trustee:

Kevin Corcoran, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences:

Linda Gillam, Associate Dean for Academic & Faculty Affairs,

School of Medicine:

Karen Markel, Associate Professor for Management/Chair Management & Marketing, School of Business Administration:

Glenn McIntosh, Vice President for Student Affairs

In addition, Student Liaisons Sean Foe and Cassandra Hock were added to the Committee in a non-voting capacity to provide student input.

On December 5, 2016, Academic Search, Inc. was retained to assist the Committee in fulfilling its charge to recommend to the Board an unranked selection of up to three (3) highly qualified, thoroughly vetted, presidential candidates from whom the Board could select Oakland University's seventh president.

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On January 10, 2017 and January 11, 2017, representatives from Academic Search facilitated five open forums seeking campus insights into the academic condition and future needs of Oakland University, and to obtain views of the kind of leadership they should be seeking for Oakland University's next president.

Focused sessions were also held on both days. A full leadership profile was then developed by the Committee and advertisements were placed in specialized and diverse publications targeted to higher education leaders.

Academic Search supplemented the advertising by reaching out to thousands of professionals via email and phone calls, seeking applications, nominations or expressions of interest. More than 60 highly qualified candidates were recruited for consideration by the Committee. The applicant pool included very diverse individuals with experience in public and private higher education and represented a wide variety of positions and backgrounds, including both traditional and less traditional pathways to a university presidency. The high level of interest in this position is a testament to the quality and reputation of Oakland University and its growth and future opportunities.

The Committee successfully performed its duties and recommended the names of highly qualified individuals to the Board. The full Board considered those recommendations and invited two candidates to campus for public forums and further interviews on April 17, 2017 and April 20, 2017 in order to facilitate greater student and faculty participation. The name and curricula vitae of each candidate invited to campus were published in advance of each visit, and in connection with each visit there was an electronic survey mechanism for further input from the campus community that the Board considered.

The Committee reviewed more than 60 candidates and found that there were many applicants with distinguished careers who would inspire the respect of the academic community and other stakeholders at Oakland University. The applicant pool included very diverse individuals in public and private higher education and from a variety of positions and backgrounds, and were from across the country with many having ties to the greater Detroit area or Michigan.

Having concluded its national search, Oakland University's seventh president has the ability to foster and guide the university toward a broad vision of what Oakland University can be in five years. Based on the candidate's performance throughout the entire interview process and the open forum with the campus community, Oakland University's seventh president emerged as the right leader at the right time who can continue the development of academic excellence at Oakland University as well as lead the garnering of additional fiscal resources.

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- **Previous Board Action:** On October 24, 2016, the Board approved the formation of the Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee. On December 5, 2016, the Board approved the appointment of Academic Search, Inc. to assist the Committee with the presidential search process.
- **4.** <u>Budget Implications:</u> Costs associated with the presidential search process have been and will be covered by the General Fund.
- **5.** <u>Educational Implications:</u> The appointment of a president as principal executive officer and ex-officio member of the Board, is necessary to the successful attainment of the strategic goals and vision of the University.
- **Personnel Implications:** None.
- 7. <u>University Reviews/Approvals:</u> This recommendation was formulated by the Chair of the Board. The employment agreement for the presidential appointee was reviewed and approved by the Board Chair (Employment Agreement).
- 8. Recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Oakland University Board of Trustees is hereby authorized to execute the Employment Agreement with the presidential appointee on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Recommended on <u>5/3</u>, 2017 to the Board of Trustees for Approval by

Richard L. DeVore

Chair, Oakland University Board of Trustees