



***SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY***

***BOARD OF CONTROL  
SPECIAL FORMAL SESSION***

***AUGUST 9, 2022***

**SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF CONTROL  
Minutes of the Special Formal Session  
August 9, 2022**

A special formal session of the Board of Control was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, in Wickes Hall, Room 350, at 11:00 a.m.

**Trustees present included:**

JoAnn Crary  
Lindsay Eggers  
Vanessa Guerra (via teleconference)  
Bhushan Kulkarni, Secretary (via teleconference)  
Vicki Rupp, Chair  
Raj Wiener, Vice Chair  
Carl Williams  
Donald Bachand, Ex Officio

**Trustees absent included:**

John D. Cherry, Jr.

**Others Present:**

Andy Bethune, Executive Director of the SVSU Foundation  
J.J. Boehm, Interim Executive Director of Communications & External Affairs  
Ellen Crane, Associate VP & General Counsel  
Susan Crane, Associate VP for Administration and Business Affairs/ Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Brandon Haskett, Faculty Association President  
Dr. Deborah Huntley, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs  
John Kaczynski, Director of Governmental Affairs  
Mary Kowaleski, Executive Assistant to the President/Secretary to the Board of Control  
Dr. Mamie Thorns, Associate VP and Chief Diversity Officer

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF CONTROL MINUTES  
AUGUST 9, 2022  
SPECIAL FORMAL SESSION  
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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rupp called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Chair Rupp asked the Board Secretary to take a roll call to ensure a quorum. Secretary Kowaleski conducted a roll call of the Trustees and noted that a quorum was met.

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

Chair Rupp stated that today's Special Formal Session was convened to exercise the duty of the Board to appoint the fifth president of Saginaw Valley State University.

1. Resolution to Appoint the Fifth Saginaw Valley State University President

RES-2459     **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

**WHEREAS, the Michigan Constitution requires the duly gubernatorial appointed Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University to elect a president for the institution;**

**WHEREAS, in fulfillment of that obligation and responsibility, the Board of Control appointed a Presidential Search Advisory Committee made up of representatives of the University faculty, staff, students, alumni, key community stakeholders, and two Board of Control members to assist the Board in its search for outstanding candidates;**

**WHEREAS, the Board commends the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for its excellent work in searching for and recommending a highly-qualified and diverse pool of candidates for the Board of Control's consideration;**

**WHEREAS, the Board expresses its gratitude to the greater campus community and key stakeholders who provided input for developing SVSU's Leadership Profile at listening sessions, in virtual meetings, and online;**

**WHEREAS, the search has successfully concluded, and the Board of Control is prepared to make a decision on electing the new President of the University;**

**WHEREAS, Dr. George Grant, Jr. is hereby nominated for election; and**

**WHEREAS, the Board of Control received the proposed Employment Agreement between Saginaw Valley State University and Dr. George Grant, Jr. on August 7, 2022, that contains the usual and customary benefits associated with the office and has had sufficient opportunity to review its terms and conditions.**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Dr. George Grant, Jr. is appointed as the Fifth President of Saginaw Valley State University, effective December 1, 2022,**

**for a term of five (5) years to assume all the duties and responsibilities of the presidency; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Employment Agreement submitted to the Board of Control on August 7, 2022, is hereby approved and shall be executed by its Board Chair.**

Trustee Wiener made a formal motion in favor of the proposed resolution. Trustee Wiener commented, “As a Board, we have reached a successful conclusion to a comprehensive, nationwide search. We can enter the next chapter for Saginaw Valley State University with confidence and optimism that there will be continued excellence in the leadership of our institution. And so, with enthusiasm, I move that the Board exercise its duty to appoint the person who will carry out the policies of this Board by naming the fifth president of Saginaw Valley State University. I make a motion that this resolution be moved forward and be adopted.”

Trustee Williams supported the motion.

Chair Rupp noted that Trustee Cherry could not be present due to a prior commitment. She indicated that Trustee Cherry prepared a letter supporting Dr. George Grant, Jr.’s nomination and asked the Board Secretary to read his letter. (Appendix A)

Chair Rupp opened the meeting up for further discussion.

Trustee Eggers commented, “I am honored to have been part of this process — it was a very rewarding experience.” She stated that the candidates recommended by the Presidential Search Advisory Committee were outstanding.

Trustee Williams commented, “I have not witnessed a process this detailed — it is a testimony to everyone involved. I look forward to working with the new president just like I always looked forward to working with Dr. Bachand.”

Trustee Crary stated, “I want to thank Chair Rupp and Vice Chair Wiener for their leadership; it was tremendous and unmatched by any committee or board I have ever served on.” She also extended thanks to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and everyone who participated in the search process.

Trustee Kulkarni commented, “The Presidential Search Advisory Committee did an outstanding job. The whole process was not only thorough and elaborate, but the quality of the finalists were outstanding.” He stated, “I am excited about the future of the University and for the foundation laid by President Bachand and his leadership team — I am confident Dr. Grant will take it to the next level.”

Chair Rupp asked the Board Secretary to take a formal vote on the resolution before the Board.

Secretary Kowaleski conducted a formal vote and noted that the motion was APPROVED unanimously.

### III. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Rupp commented, "I am glad Chancellor Grant has agreed to join SVSU and serve as our next president. He is a caring, committed and innovative leader with an outstanding record of success in academic program development, fundraising and community outreach, among many accomplishments."

Chair Rupp extended appreciation to the faculty, staff, students and community members who served on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for their thorough and exemplary work in providing the Board with strong candidates. She also extended thanks to the greater campus community and key stakeholders in the community who provided input for developing SVSU's Leadership Profile at listening sessions, in virtual meetings, and online.

Chair Rupp extended thanks to President and Mrs. Bachand for all their loyal and steadfast service to Saginaw Valley State University throughout the years. Chair Rupp noted that a thorough plan is underway to ensure a smooth transition for Dr. Bachand and Dr. Grant as we enter the next phase of the presidential search process.

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

#### 8. Motion to Adjourn

BM-1250     **It was moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned.**

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Vicki L. Rupp*

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Vicki L. Rupp, Chair

*Bhushan Kulkarni*

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Bhushan Kulkarni, Secretary

*Mary Kowaleski*

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Mary Kowaleski  
Recording Secretary

## Appendix A

Lt. Governor John Cherry  
PO Box 520  
Clio, Michigan 48420

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Vicki L. Rupp, Chair  
Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control

Madam Chair,

I apologize for not being able to join you at this meeting of the Board of Control. I am out of town and unable to be present. However, I want to commend you and Vice Chair Raj Wiener for successfully guiding the Board of the Control to this momentous selection of a new President for Saginaw Valley State University. You and Raj's work has been phenomenal. I know you have devoted countless hours to developing and shepherding a selection process that was characterized by its inclusive, diverse, and comprehensive approach. I know that is impossible without both of you devoting countless hours and thoughtful leadership. Thank you.

I also express my appreciation for the conscientious and meticulous manner in which my fellow Board members reviewed the candidates recommended by the Advisory Committee. Questions put forward were intended to assess the candidates' strengths with an eye toward the future growth and well-being of Saginaw Valley State University. In today's day and age, the collegiality and respect that my colleagues exhibited are not often seen in public bodies. In fact, the opposite is often the case. The students, faculty, and community should be comforted knowing that the Board conducted this selection process responsibly.

However, what excites me the most is the next President of Saginaw Valley State University you are selecting today. Dr. George Grant is a devoted and experienced educator. He will guide SVSU in a manner that will prepare and equip SVSU to meet the future challenges of higher education while maintaining a community culture that we have all come to love and cherish. His career has been characterized by its commitment to collaboration, inclusion, and diversity. He has a broad vision of institutional and community relationships. Saginaw Valley has been blessed with a great tradition of Presidential leadership. Dr. George Grant will add to that tradition, and our University will benefit from his tenure. I am excited to join you in supporting Dr. Grant's selection as the next President of Saginaw Valley State University.

Thank you again, Madam Chair, for your leadership.

Sincerely,

John D. Cherry, Jr.  
Michigan Lt. Governor, Retired