



World Affairs Council
of Western Michigan

World Affairs Council of West Michigan

Annual Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2019

University Club, downtown Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Board Members Present: Craig Meurlin (chair), Scott Balfour, Scott Fiser, Dick Gauthier, Diana Lawson, Ping Liang, Mark Mensonides, Ingrid Nelson, Aaron Van Soest, Kurt Yost

Staff Present: Erica Kubik, Michael Van Denend

WAC Members Present: Paul Chamblin, Scott De Meester, Meghan Harsevoort, Tim Liang, Paul Quinn, Adnoris “Bo” Torres, Loni Van Denend

Board President Craig Meurlin opened the meeting at 5:40pm. He then acknowledged current Board Members and staff and welcomed all guests.

The minutes of the past annual meeting (June 5, 2018) were provided to the attendees. **M/S/P.**

Scott Fiser, Board Secretary, and chair of the Nominating Committee reported on the incoming nominees and noted that they are a strong pool of candidates who will contribute a lot to the Council.

The following individuals have been contacted and are willing to be nominated for the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council to serve as Directors for an initial three-year term expiring in 2022:

Scott De Meester, Bank of America

Cary Justice, Amway

Paul Quinn, JP Morgan Chase

Adnoris “Bo” Torres, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan

Additionally, the following individuals have been contacted and are willing to be nominated for a second term.

Kevin Patterson, BDO

Craig Stevens, Price Walgren

Therese Thill, The Right Place

Kurt Yost, Varnum

This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meurlin and Van Denend gave recognition to retiring Board Members and thanked them for their service: **Scott Balfour, Scott Fiser and Ross Meehan.**

Meurlin reviewed success and challenges from the 2018-19 year:

- Successful transition between Executive Directors.
- Solid programming year, with many highlights including the dialogue between the Chinese and U.S. ambassadors.

- Expanded use of new electronic delivery systems
- Progress on board engagement and involvement
- Work begun on the “value proposition”
- Budget corrections toward a break-even year (thanks to the Meijer Foundation gift)
- Work remains to be done on value proposition, sustainability and structural budget deficit
- Overall, a successful and strong year—with clear objectives on the horizon

Executive Director Michael Van Denend summarized the 2018-19 program year, giving highlights such as visits from seven ambassadors, a strong Great Decisions series and success with increased livestream access.

The meeting then headed into “Member Comments,” with no comments from members.

Meurlin adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Fiser
Board Secretary