

**West Liberty State College
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
April 30, 2008**

Attendance:

Beverly Burke, Jim Compston, Lynne Exley, Brian Joseph, Roseanna Keller, John Larch, John Moore, Mike Stolarczyk, Mike Turrentine

Unable to Attend:

Larry Miller, Bernie Twigg

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Robin Capehart, J. D. Carpenter, Jim Clark, Scott Cook, John Davis, Mary Ann Edwards, John Gompers, Pat Henry, Donna Lukich, John McCullough, Tammi Secrist, Shane Stack, Jim Watson, Ron Witt

1. **Call to Order:**

Chair Exley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Chair Exley welcomed John Gompers, general legal counsel to the Board of Governors, thanked Sodexo for the picnic style dinner, and thanked Mary Ann for her help in setting up the meeting.

A few weeks ago a reception was held to commemorate ten years of the relationship with The Washington Center and West Liberty State College. Beverly Burke is the Center liaison for WLSC and does an outstanding job. Joe Johnston of The Washington Center was also in attendance. Chair Exley congratulated Bev on her work with the Center. Dr. McCullough added that this is a great success story for the campus and wonderful for the students involved, all because of the efforts of Bev Burke. This program would not be possible if not for Bev, and it is a showcase program.

Chair Exley noted that spring commencement will be held May 10 and urged all Board members to attend if possible. It is beneficial, not only for the students but for the entire community, if they are in attendance on that morning. Members are welcome to stay for the reception and Scott cook will provide good parking. We would love for all members to be in attendance but know that people are busy with other commitments.

As we near the end of the fiscal year, Chair Exley stated that another goal would be for the Board to have 100% participation in contributing to the WLSC Foundation. To date, we have four members contributing. Please consider your responsibility as a Board member not only to attend meetings and functions, but also to support the College financially. Please think about contributing. Chair Exley thanked those who do contribute and stated that it does not make a difference what amount you decide to contribute, but would like to have 100% participation.

2. **Approval of Minutes*:**

Full Board
03/21/08

Executive Committee
01/30/08

A motion to approve the minutes of the full Board of March 21, 2008, and the minutes of the Executive Committee of January 30, 2008 was made by Brian Joseph seconded by John Larch; motion passed unanimously.

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda*:**

Chair Exley stated that everyone should have received a very concise group of reports via email. As you can see there has been a flurry of activity on campus. Reports were received from Scott Cook, Pat Henry, Donna Lukich, J. D. Carpenter, Jeff Knierim, and Jim Watson. One report from Mr. Cook is actually an action item. This item deals with Senate Bill 564. If you would like further explanation we will move Mr. Cook into the regular agenda. If the Board is okay with the report as it is explained, we will add it to the consent agenda and be done with this item. If there is any item on any report that you would like further described, it will be moved into the regular agenda and dealt with in another

way. Chair Exley asked if anyone would like to have anything moved into the regular agenda. With nothing requested to be moved Chair Exley asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

A motion to approve the consent agenda of the West Liberty State College Board of Governors was then made by Roseanna Keller and seconded by Mike Stolarczyk; motion passed unanimously.

4. **Chairman's Remarks:**

Chair Exley noted that with the consent agenda approved, the President's Council is not required to stay for the remainder of the meeting but they are more than welcome to do so.

5. **President's Report:**

Congressman Alan Mollohan will serve as commencement speaker on Saturday, May 10. There will be a reception at the president's home at 1:30 p.m.; all members of the Board of Governors and their spouses or guests are invited to attend.

President Capehart stated that Governor Manchin will be on campus tomorrow. President Capehart had a conversation with the Governor in Charleston about teaching a class. He will be teaching Dr. Erik Roots State and Local Government from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m., followed by a reception for anybody who would like to stop by.

Some of the items President Capehart is looking into is a review of current policies. In looking through some of WLSC's policies some of the wording and references are outdated. The Governance Committee will be asked to look at this project.

Many of you may have seen the articles in the paper for retirees of West Liberty getting together at Generations. Jason Koepler has approached this group to get them involved in a beautification project on campus, possibly the entrance to the College and in front of Colonial Heights. We need to create connections with groups like this who have an interest, passion, and love for the College.

A group will be going to Florida May 16-18 for the Sarasota, Florida Alumni Chapter meeting. Jim Watson, Jeff Knierim, Ron Witt, Chuck Jeswilkowski, and President Capehart will be attending the meeting. This group is very supportive of the College, especially financially. This is an annual event.

Later in the month will be a press conference regarding the floor plan for The Highlands Center. Jeff Knierim and Larry Williams have been conducting surveys of employers and employees at The Highlands to gauge academic interest. The response has been very positive, and a number of employees are interested. Employers are very excited because of the ability to attract people through the Center.

The Master Plan Task Force, within the next two weeks, will present their recommendations regarding proposed improvements to the College's physical presence. This information will be utilized to develop the statutory facilities master plan required to be offered for acceptance by the WV Higher Education Policy Commission. This information is to be updated every six years. We are behind schedule and need to get this reformed.

The process for the masters program continues to move on and is under consideration by the HLC. We expect a determination mid to late summer so we are ready to move forward and offer our first graduate program. Timing is important since the HEPC meets the first of August, and we would like to be in position to make application at that time. However, this will all depend upon the action taken by the HLC and the timing of that action.

Applications are up 9% for the fall semester. Historically this is a pretty reliable predictor for the fall. Current student registration has also outpaced last year's numbers.

The search for the Dean of Liberal Arts has been narrowed down to four candidates. The first interview is complete with another one tomorrow and two next week. A decision will be made later in the month.

In the fall semester we hope to offer a limited ROTC program. The military is putting up a lot of money to increase their numbers with the strain of deployment on their numbers. Dr. McCullough

met with the local area representative to discuss entering into a working relationship. Depending on the size of the program, an on-campus professor will be provided. We are in the preliminary phase, and the local representative, who was very receptive to WLSC, wants to enter into a relationship. The ROTC provides many scholarship opportunities, and the students are contracted to make a four-year commitment to the military. Mike Stolarczyk asked what we can anticipate in the way of scholarships, to which Dr. McCullough replied that they always have scholarship money available, but students do have to contract with the Army. The number of scholarships is virtually limitless. For WLSC to have the ROTC presence with a professor, the program needs 25-30 students, which may take some time. Getting information out regarding the ROTC opportunities can take place now. Students would need to travel to Robert Morris University for the ROTC classes until the program is large enough to sustain an on-campus professor. Brian Joseph asked, with the Army National Guard at the Ohio County Airport, is there a way to leverage the two together? We would need to look into this possibility.

Student life is working on two sorority houses to open in the fall. West Liberty's willingness to establish these houses has sparked new interest in Greek life. We are fortunate to have these nationals and their rules, which means no liquor allowed and limits the presence of the opposite sex. These are rules WLSC already has in place, but we do not have to be the ones to impose them on the houses. This is also a nice first step as part of the review by the Master Plan Task Force. J. D. Carpenter stated that based on campus interest, his area has been working with a sorority to reestablish their presence in the fall, and the Chi Omegas had set forth some parameters that they wanted this chapter to meet by the end of the spring semester. We are right on track with where they need to be. These discussions have been a long time coming.

A pep rally was held a couple weeks ago. The rally was very successful, and the student turn out far exceeded expectations. Jim Watson hosted the event here in the ASRC on the arena floor. A car was given away, not a new car, but the young lady who won nearly passed out. She lives in a rural area of Washington County and had been saving for a car to travel back and forth to school and was looking for a four wheel drive. We have a video of her calling her father saying she had won. As Dr. McCullough said, it was an "Oprah story." This was a great event, and we hope to make this an annual event.

At the previous Board of Governors meeting we asked for the authority to borrow an additional \$400,000 to complete the football field turf project. After talking with the benefactor and seeing how complicated it is to do this, the benefactor decided to give us the entire \$900,000 as a gift. Chair Exley stated that we need to do a thank you letter from the Board and the President's Council as well, thanking him for his generosity. Jim Watson stated that he is planning a field dedication at the opening game on August 30. Gary West will be in town at that time so we can recognize him.

A ceremony was held last week for the unveiling of the sculpture on the steps of the Elbin Library for Gary and Flip West. Gary was able to attend and really enjoyed the event.

Mike Stolarczyk asked about naming rights for the facility at The Highlands. President Capehart stated that Chick O'Data, the consultant working with Development, and Jeff Knierim are working to come up with a list of naming opportunities, since the existing list is outdated.

Mike Turrentine stated that bids are currently being looked at for the campus cleaning contract by Pat Henry and John Davis, and would like an update on the status of this project. John Davis stated that throughout the month of April we received and solicited from more than 20 individuals on campus, information concerning the current cleaning vendor and the four bids we received on a cleaning contract we put out for bid in February. The deadline for the bid was Friday, April 25. Mr. Davis met with President Capehart this morning and discussed the next steps. Pat Henry, Ed Stewart, and Davis will each review the bids, which they have all looked at already, and review the input. The three will write recommendations and give these to the president the Monday after graduation, May 12. The RFP indicated to vendors that the award would be made in May. Mr. Turrentine thanked Mr. Davis for the update.

President Capehart stated that last year we had a situation here on campus where we found students staying on campus, athletes and others, with no place to eat since the Marketplace is closed in June and July and it gets expensive to eat in the Student Union. These students were living on bologna sandwiches, and it was not a good situation. Through the kindness of Herb Minch and the house

used by the softball team, we will offer a summer house project. Jason Koebler has been soliciting organizations to come in and serve a meal a day from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will also be sandwiches, apples, muffins, etc. to take with them for the next day. Many of these students work on campus. Sodexo has agreed to provide meals one day a week. Debra Dague is contacting area church groups, and a calendar will be kept of who is in charge of each day. These meals will be available to any student, and for that matter any faculty member, who wants to come. The set up is similar to what we do for Speakeasy each week. J. D. Carpenter stated that at last count the number was approximately 30 students who will be participating. We will also have 12 research students on campus this summer who will likely take part. He also stated that there are some student situations that are just not good, and this will give them a chance to socialize and get a bite to eat. John Davis added that with respect to the food service, there is traditionally a blank spot between commencement and the third week of June. With the Marketplace closed and no groups on campus, this program will cover this blank spot and operate as the summer goes along. Dr. McCullough stated that this set up does not violate any rules, guidelines, protocol, or undue assistance to anyone. This is generosity on the part of friends of the college and not special treatment for any individual student or group of students. It is open to any student on campus and they are more than welcome to participate.

Chair Exley received an e-mail from Mike Turrentine and thought it worthy of bringing to the Board's attention. With the concern with WVU's academic integrity, Chair Exley asked Dr. McCullough to say a few words on how this type of situation cannot happen here at West Liberty. No matter what college you serve, this should be a concern of any board. Dr. McCullough stated that he has known Jerry Lang a long time, and worked with him on state-wide committees. Jerry Lang has been an excellent Provost, but, something went awry. The principals involved in a situation such as this at WLSC primarily are going to be the Provost, Donna Lukich, Executive Director of Enrollment Services, Scott Cook, Dr. McCullough, Dean Betsy Robinson, and Chair Mike Turrentine. It's a simple statement to make that we are all human beings, but as such I think it is that sense of integrity, an ethical barometer, and certainly a yard stick that all of us try to do the right, proper, and appropriate thing on this campus. That's why it would not happen at WLSC. Beyond the procedures and protocols already in place, as Scott Cook could read with his eyes closed, if those things weren't in place it could happen. But apparently unlike WVU, we do have those procedures are in place. No one in this room thinks for one second that anybody 50% short of completing a degree is going to be awarded a degree with a retro fit; it wouldn't matter who is involved, whose child. Scott knows better than anyone else there are some rare exceptions where a student may be one hour short of the 128 hour program, but in all instances Scott could tell you the number of people who sign off to approve validating a one hour waiver and that process is in place. WVU is a fine institution with many good people, but these procedures are in place at WLSC and we have confidence in them. To the best of our knowledge this has never happened and would never happen here at WLSC. What was so interesting as you read through how things can be tilted, was the point that WVU couldn't substantiate and couldn't, in effect, deny. It is not their role to substantiate every allegation made by a student; the college is not an advocate for the student in such situations. It is up to the student to prove or substantiate verbal statements and accusations, not the college.

Donna Lukich added that each and everyone around this table knows what it takes to earn a college degree at each level. We all believe people need to go through that process as part of a right of passage and to fulfill completely their obligations. We would never be tempted or coerced into providing a credential that was not earned and she supports what Dr. McCullough stated previously.

John Moore stated that he could not see how it could happen, especially if you have ever gone through the process of applying for credit for life experience. If you have ever gone through this process you know it's not just one paragraph. It is a detailed undertaking, read and approved by faculty members and administrators before they sign off on it. As a former student and counselor here, nobody would give away these credits at WLSC. Corollary to that, faculty are always willing to help students with their efforts to meet their requirements.

Scott Cook stated that students can be quite assertive about a degree they have received. It is not out of the ordinary to have a degree earned verified every several months, which we can give out under the privacy act. Recently there was a situation with a former student claiming to have graduated in 1974. Their name did not appear in the commencement program, and our records indicated they had attended only three semesters. Former Registrar Nelson Cain came up to campus one weekend to go through files since it was during his tenure, and two current staff members in the

Registrar's office searched files for two days. At this point we told the student to provide us with documentation of their attendance. They did not, and their response is that WLSC lost their records, which we did not. There are too many mechanisms in place to not have record of their graduating.

Mike Turrentine asked with regard to the review of policies mentioned by President Capehart earlier; should the Governance Committee develop some type of an ethics statement that reflects the Board's position, and carry this position throughout the College. Chair Exley stated this would be something to develop this summer. President Capehart will look at this issue.

John Gompers asked to comment on the issue at WVU. This is an incredible lesson for administrators in colleges throughout the country. There is no doubt those two individuals were top individuals, along with top contributors, the governor was possibly a presence, or a presence coming from somewhere who wanted this done or thought this person should get this degree. These are "at will" employees caught in this situation at the mercy of possibly these people. For them to do what they did, you can see that they would have paid a price either way they went. They took the worst route, and you can see the damage because of what they did rather than taking the high road. You can see the pressure those individuals were under, which I wouldn't wish on anybody. It should be interesting to see how this plays out. This is a great lesson for top administrators and the pressure to move someone's career up.

Chair Exley stated she appreciates everyone's comments on this subject. It was appropriate for Mike to bring to the Board's attention and the need for reassurance and a good discussion to know all is in place at WLSC. It is a shame and never should have happened.

Mike Turrentine added that he did an internet search on the Association of Governing Boards. He will do some research on them and report back to the group. President Capehart stated he is very familiar with this group and had suggested to Lynne to bring someone in from that group for a retreat to talk about the Board's duties and responsibilities. They have people that will do this. Chair Exley asked if all of the Board members receive newsletters from the Association of Governing Boards, which they do not. She did feel that they should all receive this newsletter.

6. **Executive Session – Legal Matter:**

Pursuant to WV Code § 6-9A-4, a motion was made by Brian Joseph and seconded by John Larch to retire to executive session. John Gompers and John McCullough were invited to join the session.

Following discussion in executive session, a motion was made to rise from executive session.

7. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Lynne Exley _____
Chair

Secretary