

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Minutes  
August 12, 2015**

Attendance:

Allyson Ashworth, Joe Carey, Richard Carter, Sandra Chapman, George Couch, Les DeFelice, Patrick Ford, Jim Haizlett, Patrick Kelly, Ann Thomas, Rhonda Tysk

Unable to Attend:

Brian Joseph

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Keely Camden, Scott Cook, Brian Crawford, Mary Ann Edwards, John Gompers, Matt Harder, Aaron Huffman, Jason Koegler, Robert Kreisberg, John McCullough, Ron Witt, Jack Wright

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Quorum and Mission Statement**

Chair Couch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

None.

**III. Public Comments**

None.

**IV. Swearing in of New Board Members**

Chair Couch issued the Oath of Office to Allyson Ashworth, Student Government President, Rhonda Tysk, Admissions Counselor and Classified Staff Council representative, and Jim Haizlett, Associate Professor of Graphic and Digital Media Design, Faculty representative to the Board.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes of the Full Board 06/10/15**

**On motion by Sandra Chapman and seconded by Richard Carter, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the full Board of June 10, 2015.**

**B. Minutes of the Executive Committee 07/29/15**

**On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by Patrick Ford, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of July 29, 2015.**

**VI. Agenda Order**

**On motion by Patrick Ford and second by Ann Thomas, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the agenda order as listed.**

**VII. Rules**

None.

**VIII. Reports**

**A. Chair of the Board of Governors**

Chair Couch thanked those who attend the HEPC Summit; Allyson Ashworth, Les DeFelice, Jim Haizlett, Patrick Ford, and Rhonda Tysk. A brief discussion followed on information taken from the Summit.

**B. Music and Arts Facilities (Harder)**

Dr. Harder presented information for a facility on campus incorporating a concert hall and music and art facilities that would replace the current facilities in the west wing of the Fine Arts building. A history was given on College Hall and a discussion followed on the project. Since this project

would fit within the Master Plan, Dr. Harder will put together financial impact information for what would be a longer-term project.

**C. 2015-16 Enrollment Update (Cook)**

Mr. Cook gave an enrollment update and various headcount numbers. There are still three weeks to add or enroll in classes. A discussion followed with regard to enrollment trends and concerns. Admissions recruiters will be back on the road in a few weeks and enrollment trends show that numbers should begin to pick up in 2017. With Degree Works and the Customer Relations Management (CRM) systems coming on-line, the campus needs to get on board to work towards enrollment. Our greatest ambassadors are our students, faculty, staff, and BOG.

**D. Provost Report (Crawford)**

Dr. Crawford noted this time last year there were 144 faculty members; today there are 128. With changes in senate bill requirements, the six deans were moved back to non-classified status. A discussion followed with regard to changes to the general studies curriculum, changes to Policy 210 to limit overloads, programs and majors, and retirements. With regard to the MBA, the program is 100% online, with an accreditation level at IACBE.

**E. Athletic Department Update (Huffman)**

Dr. Huffman, at six weeks into his position as Interim Athletic Director is currently assessing all areas of athletics. A new wrestling coach and lacrosse country coach have been hired, both recruiting students in the weeks since they were hired. Dr. Huffman gave a run down on his background and the capacities he has served in at WLU.

**F. 2015-16 Alumni Relations Work Plan (Witt)**

Mr. Witt thanked the group for the opportunity to speak and to return as the Alumni Director. After 14 years in building the Alumni Association it is good to be back and focus on the positives ahead, along with his role in community engagement and the management of the alumni house bed and breakfast. Assessments are being made on the work plan and it is still a work in progress.

**G. Gary E. West Center Update (Witt)**

Mr. Witt stated that a Steering Committee was formed a few weeks ago to discuss the use and purpose of the West Event Center gifted to WLU by Mr. West. Mr. West was under the impression West Liberty would be actively using the facility to generate revenue. The space is being evaluated for meetings and community events to generate revenue. Because of state restrictions, there are things we cannot do, such as dispensing alcohol. A discussion followed with regard to the facility, including the possibility of gifting it to the Foundation.

**H. Development Plan FY 2016 (Koegler)**

Mr. Koegler distributed a copy of the Development plan and stressed the importance of raising money for scholarships and the example set by Board members giving to the Foundation. The plan has been approved by all internally.

**IX. President's Report**

Dr. McCullough noted that by no means does this report represent all of the activities going on here on campus, and gave a comprehensive overview of the campus activities.

**X. Finance Report**

Mr. Wright discussed the operations budget and FY15 capital projects information contained in the Board packet. There will be no change in the appropriation this year, but there is federal pressure on environmental issues and the gas leasing. Mr. Wright announced that he will be retiring December 31, 2015. Stephanie Hooper will assume responsibilities of the CFO on October 1<sup>st</sup> and the balance of responsibilities on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**XI. Board Items**

**A. Highlands Lease Modification\***

Mr. Wright stated that the lease modification has been contingent on the Ohio County Development Authority concluding their transaction, which finally took place in the second quarter of this year. The modification will save WLU \$52,000 a year and take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by Ann Thomas, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to permit Interim President McCullough to execute a first amendment, effective July 1, 2015, to the lease agreement with the Ohio County Development Authority at The Highlands Center that would relinquish the 4,100 square feet of existing space now leased, and that it receives a commensurate reduction in rent for relinquishing that 4,100 square feet.**

**B. Mission Statement & Vision Statement Revision\***

Dr. Crawford noted a modest change to WLU's strategic platform. Representatives of the WV HEPC have stated that these modifications will suffice.

**On motion by Les DeFelice and seconded by Allyson Ashworth, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the revisions to the Mission and Vision Statements contained in the Institutional Master Plan.**

**XII. Information Gathering**

None.

**XIII. Possible Executive Session**

**A. Presidential Search Update**

Chair Couch asked for a motion to move to executive session.

**On motion by Sandra Chapman and seconded by Allyson Ashworth, pursuant to WV Code §6-9A-4, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to move to executive session at 6:30 p.m.**

The Board exited executive session at 7:47 p.m. and reconvened. Chair Couch then reported that no action was taken during Executive Session.

**XIV. Actions Emanating From Executive Session**

**On motion by Sandra Chapman and seconded by Ann Thomas, it was adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to proceed with the recommendations of the Search Committee in regard to conducting interviews for the presidential finalists and the interview process to be conducted on campus.**

**XV. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, October 14, 2015**

**XVI. Adjournment**

**On motion by Sandra Chapman and seconded by Ann Thomas, it was unanimously adopted that the meeting adjourn at 7:55 p.m.**

George Couch \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Patrick Ford \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary