

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Minutes**

**December 11, 2013**

Attendance:

Beverly Burke, Joe Carey, Richard Carter, Sandra Chapman, George Couch, Dennis Gooch, Brian Joseph, Frank Noble, Ann Thomas

Unable to Attend:

Patrick Kelly

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Robin Capehart, Lou Costanzo, Brian Crawford, John Davis, Mary Ann Edwards, John Gompers, Stephanie Hooper, John McCullough, Brian Trischler, Jack Wright

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**2. Chairperson Comments:**

Chair Carter stated that WLU is finishing its first semester this week, which is exam week, and we have a new Board member who can attest to that. The semester has gone well and commencement will be held on Saturday.

**3. Swearing in of New Board Member:**

Chair Carter stated that Dennis Gooch will be representing the student body on the Board as the President of the Student Government Association, followed by Mr. Gooch taking the oath of office.

**4. Consent Agenda\*:**

Chair Carter stated that the consent agenda consists of the minutes of the full Board of October 10, 2013, the Executive Committee minutes of November 27, 2013, and the honorary degree. With no additions, corrections, or disagreement with the awarding of the honorary degree he asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

**A motion that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the Consent Agenda items was then made by Beverly Burke and seconded by Ann Thomas; motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Informational Items:**

**a. Audit Report**

Chair Carter introduced Lou Costanzo and Brian Trischler of Costanzo & Associates who continued with presenting the audit report. Mr. Costanzo thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the University by providing certified audits and reports. At the conclusion of the report they will be glad to answer any questions or would be glad to come back to answer any questions.

Mr. Trischler reviewed the three reports that were issued along with the actual financial statement and two other separate letters with the Board. At the conclusion of the audit report Mr. Trischler asked if there were any questions and thanked the Board for their time.

**A motion that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the Report on Audit of Financial Statements for the Years Ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 was then made by George Couch and seconded by Brian Joseph; motion passed unanimously.**

**b. President's Report**

President Capehart stated that with the upcoming legislative session he's been working with other colleges and universities to try to impress upon the Legislature the damage done to higher education by further cuts. He was not overly confident we would get any major relief but we may get some. If nothing else they've managed to raise awareness. The Governor has met with

legislative leaders for the last few days. The first part of the legislative agenda put together as a group by the President's Council was to eliminate or to reduce the proposed budget cuts in higher education. There is a lot of support in the Legislature for higher education. A discussion followed with regard to proposed cuts and their impact.

With regard to SB 330, there hasn't been much discussion among the legislators. The implementation process is becoming very costly. There are items in the bill that don't require money and they continue to move forward. The classified staff scale continues to move forward and the focus will probably turn toward an ease of burden package for more flexibility.

Scott Cook presented information on retention and graduation rates for the previous academic year. Brian Joseph asked what the Board can do to help with retention and declining enrollment. Mr. Cook stated that anything the Board can do publicly would be great; talk to students, don't forget WLU and its safe environment. More personal correspondence has been going to students and parents. They are also working to get more of a presence on Channel 14.

Mr. Wright gave an update on Campbell Hall. The Fire Marshal is scheduled to start his final go through next Wednesday in order to get his approval by January 8<sup>th</sup>. Dental Hygiene equipment is installed and furniture for offices, classes, labs for Nursing and Physician Assistant all start next week. The main thing needed to be complete is the life support systems, fire, and security. Chemistry labs will remain in Arnett until possibly spring break. There will be no media event until there is approval from the Fire Marshal, but even then will most likely not be dedicated until April.

Commencement will be held Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> with 148 graduates.

With regard to upcoming events at Gary E. West Event Center (former Roadworthy property), a Christmas party will be held Friday from 4:00-9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. A roundtable with local legislators, parents, faculty, and staff was held to discuss local issues and the impact of budget cuts. This was a good opportunity to air issues and was appreciated by local legislators.

**6. Adjournment:**

Chair Carter asked if any further business was required. There being none the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

**A motion that the West Liberty University Board of Governors adjourn the December 11, 2013 meeting was then made by Brian Joseph and seconded by Beverly Burke; motion passed unanimously.**

Richard Carter

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Chair

Ann Thomas

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Secretary