

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
February 10, 2016**

Attendance:

Allyson Ashworth, Joe Carey, Richard Carter, Sandra Chapman, George Couch, Les DeFelice, Patrick Ford, Jim Haizlett, Brian Joseph, Rhonda Tysk

Unable to Attend:

Ann Thomas

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Scott Cook, Brian Crawford, Mary Ann Edwards, John Gompers, Steve Greiner, Diana Harto, Stephanie Hooper, Tammy McClain, John McCullough, Auditors Mike Johns and Lori Finegan

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

Chair Couch called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and a quorum was established.

II. Introductions

Chair Couch welcomed Dr. Greiner to his first meeting of the WLU Board of Governors, and is pleased to hear he's been meeting with students, faculty, staff, and the community.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of the Full Board of December 9, 2015

B. Minutes of the Executive Committee January 27, 2016

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 December 9, 2015, and the Executive Committee of January 27, 2016.

V. Agenda Order

No changes to the agenda order.

VI. Rules

A. Proposed BOG Policy 55: Freedom of Information Act Requests*

The Board of Governors is asked to authorize a 30-day period during which campus constituencies (faculty, staff, and students) may review and comment on a new Board policy entitled "Freedom of Information Act Requests." A policy is needed to establish a process regarding requests made for public records pursuant to Chapter 29B of the West Virginia Code (the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act ("WVFOIA")).

On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by Brian Joseph, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the dissemination of the new Policy on Freedom of Information Act Requests to constituent groups for review and comment.

VII. Reports

A. Chair of the Board of Governors (Couch)

With no new updates, Chair Couch welcomed Dr. Greiner and his wife Nancy. Their presence on campus has been well received by the University and the community, and we are glad to have them on campus.

B. Provost Report (Crawford)

Dr. Crawford noted the successful visit by the Council on Accreditation for the Athletic Training Program on January 25-27. Although we will not have final results for several months, there should be no reason WLU would not receive full accreditation.

The proposed MA/MS in Biology was approved by the Curriculum Committee; the proposal will come before the Board at the April meeting.

The Curriculum Committee has approved a motion to close the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics. This will not impact those in the program currently, which there are very few, and will not impact support in terms of math for general studies. Very few students have majored in math for several decades and WLU does not meet HEPC standards, straining resources for so few students. This item will be on the April BOG agenda for approval. A brief discussion followed with regard to program closures.

Policy 202 – Selection of Academic Deans, Department Chairs and Program Directors, has been updated and enables WLU to do an internal-only search for deans, and adds a procedure for the selection of program directors. This couldn't be done previously and an internal search will begin for three deans next week. Five other policies are out for comment, including the faculty teaching loads, which allows for reduced expectation in service and professional activities when required to teach more classes.

VIII. President's Report

Dr. Greiner stated that he is pleased to be here and was impressed with the interview process and the way it was conducted. It's important to get out and hear from people, so he's been out and about at meetings on campus and in the community.

We are excited about the announcement of the new Zoo Science Program, and it didn't take long for the phone calls to start coming into the office. A prospective student interested in the Zoo Science Program already stopped by the office this afternoon.

All perspective students and parents are invited to meet with the president, and the Ambassadors and Admissions have been sending them to the office. He's been meeting with SGA and has sent an email to all students to come talk with him.

A discussion followed with regard to legislation pending in reference to the HEPC. WV Code §18B-1B-4 has language pending stating that the local governing board shall approve programs at the regional institution that will fast-track them to the HEPC. This moves these programs past the unofficial veto power of WVU and Marshall, giving more authority for new programs on WLU's campus. The other state college and university presidents are supportive of this, and it would enable WLU to develop programs and fast-track them instead of taking years for approval. Pushback may come from WVU and Marshall, but we do have someone working the legislators.

IX. Finance Report

Ms. Hooper gave a brief update on FY16 and FY17 budgets before turning the meeting over to the auditors for their presentation of the FY15 audit.

X. Board Items

A. Audit Presentation

Mike Johns and Lori Finegan with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, who handle audits for all state institutions of higher education, per contract and mandate of the Higher Education Policy Commission, presented a positive report for FY 2015.

A motion that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the independent audit of the Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Statement as is, was then made by Richard Carter and seconded by Jim Haizlett; motion passed unanimously.

XI. Information Gathering

Chair Couch asked if there was discussion on any general issues. A discussion followed with regard to a proposal presented dealing with a change to the Bylaws of the Board, specifically the Executive Committee, which had been tabled previously pending comment from Board Counsel.

Mr. Gompers researched the legislative intent through several statutes where constituents should be included in discussions. Because the Executive Committee meetings are noticed in the same manner as the regular Board meeting, the Open Meeting Law permits any Board member, or for that matter anyone, to attend. The same rules would apply with regard to participation and executive session. Chair Couch will have participants register to speak at the meeting and conduct business as usual. If someone feels aggrieved by this process, a change can be made, but such does not appear necessary at this point.

Ms. Tysk asked if a “meet and greet” of the Classified Staff Council could be held prior to a Board meeting. It is a requirement of the Board to meet with the Council annually, and this will be set up prior to an upcoming meeting.

XII. Possible Executive Session

None.

XIII. Actions Emanating From Executive Session

None.

XIV. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 13, 2016

XV. Adjournment

On motion made by Les DeFelice, seconded by Jim Haizlett, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

George Couch _____
Chair

Patrick Ford _____
Secretary