

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Minutes**

**February 4, 2015**

Attendance:

Beverly Burke, Joe Carey, Richard Carter, Sandra Chapman, George Couch, Les DeFelice, Patrick Ford, Brian Joseph, Patrick Kelly, Evan Newman, Frank Noble, Ann Thomas

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Keely Camden, Robin Capehart, Scott Cook, Brian Crawford, John Davis, Mary Ann Edwards, John Gompers, Matt Harder, John McCullough, Sylvia Senften, Jim Stultz, Jack Wright

Visitors:

Allyson Ashworth, Jessica Ballard, Hayden Blazer, Leah Cyrus

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

At the Chair's request, Secretary Sandra Chapman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

John Gompers, Counsel for the West Liberty University Board of Governors, asked those attending by phone to announce themselves, those being Joe Carey, George Couch, and Patrick Kelly. Les DeFelice joined the meeting via Skype as the Board went into Executive Session. With no others on the phone Mr. Gompers stated to Chair George Couch, "It is my understanding that as Chair, being available only by phone, you do not intend to preside as Chair of the meeting," to which Mr. Couch replied, "No. I have asked Sandra to Chair due to my inability to attend in person." Mr. Gompers stated to Vice Chair Patrick Kelly, "Pat, it is my understanding you do not intend to preside as Chair, is that correct," to which Mr. Kelly replied "Correct."

**On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by Evan Newman, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors that Sandra Chapman preside as chairperson pro tem for the meeting held February 4, 2015.**

Chair Chapman asked if a roll call was necessary; it was not. A quorum was present and the meeting was convened. The mission statement was noted and read by the Chair.

**II. Introductions**

No introductions were necessary.

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes of the Full Board 12/10/14**

**On motion by Brian Joseph 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 10, 2014.**

**B. Minutes of the Executive Committee 01/28/15**

**On motion by George Couch and seconded by Ann Thomas, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of January 28, 2015.**

**V. Agenda Order (Board may move to change order of consideration)**

**On motion by George Couch and seconded by Frank Noble, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the agenda order as it stands.**

## **VI. Rules**

### **A. Policy 43 – Tuition Waivers and Discounts for Employees (revision)**

Previously, the Executive Committee, under Policy 23-Policy on Policies, considered revisions to Policy 43. Scott Cook drafted revisions, and Jim Stultz and John Davis reviewed and made some changes. The principal change allows full-time employees of the University to have a 50% discount for graduate-level courses taken. The draft was distributed with the Board packets. The Board was informed that bold print under VI with regard to 30-day comment does not apply since the changes were not substantive. These changes were presented to the Executive Committee, who voted unanimously to approve the revisions; accordingly, this is an information item with no action required.

**On motion by Brian Joseph and seconded by Richard Carter, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve and ratify the revisions to Policy 43 as provided.**

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. Chair of the Board of Governors (Couch)**

Mr. Couch thanked everyone who attended commencement. The Great Gala will be held April 25, 2015 and Board members were encouraged to attend and support the University.

#### **1. Committee Reports**

None

## **VIII. President's Report**

Since the previous meeting, there has been a return to work on the fiscal year 2016 budget and how to cut costs and efficiently increase revenue, while developing strategies for each of these. There will be a full report on the budget at the April meeting. President Capehart stated that he has been working closely with the legislators on issues facing higher education, spending a great deal of time in Charleston consulting on a number of issues related to tax reform.

At the President's request Dr. Crawford gave an update on academics. WLU is expecting HEPC approval any day on the Master of Science in Criminology with the next approval needed from the HLC. The proposal for the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene is still in progress. The MBA has been revised and will go to the Curriculum Committee on Tuesday, then to Faculty Senate, and brought back to the Board before going back to the HEPC. At least two graduate programs could potentially be active by the next academic year, perhaps January. A brief discussion followed regarding timelines.

Gordon Gee, President at WVU, was on campus yesterday with an interview on Channel 14, a brief tour of campus and the new Science building, followed by a small reception with all campus groups represented.

- Assistant Professor of Biology Zac Loughman is a finalist for Professor of the Year with a presentation to be held in Charleston.
- WLU was named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for service trips to the tornado-devastated region of West Liberty, KY.
- WLU was also named a finalist for the 2015 NCAA Division II Award of Excellence for an event that hosted local Miracle League athletes.
- Margaret Moninger, who received her teaching certification in 1928 from West Liberty State Teachers College, turned 107 today.

## **IX. Finance Report**

Mr. Wright reviewed the FY15 budget with the final numbers received from admissions last week. A brief discussion followed; the reserve is still positive.

## **X. Board Items**

### **A. Credit-Hour Charges Update**

President Capehart stated that WLU is considering a number of revenue options in an attempt to match costs we have as a University with the price, one of which was a per credit-hour charge. The credit-hour charge information was sent out for public comment and a number of comments were received and reviewed by the Planning Council. Dr. McCullough, who chaired the Planning Council meeting, stated there was great and extensive feedback from students, parents,

employees, and faculty members. The SGA crafted an alternative resolution for possible consideration in terms of how to address credit hours. It does not appear that we will be moving forward with the initial proposal. Mr. Carter would like to see the proposal the student body put together with regard to this issue. A discussion followed including whether a new proposal would be brought back to the Board for a final decision. Any new proposal would most likely be made a part of and approved in the FY16 budget in April.

**B. Academic Reorganization Update**

Dr. Crawford distributed and reviewed an overview of the process and proposals for the academic reorganization. A brief discussion followed on the disbursement of the information to the campus.

**XI. Possible Executive Session – State Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)**

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

**On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by Evan Newman, 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 4:52 p.m.**

The Board exited executive session at 7:22 p.m. and reconvened. Acting Chair Chapman then reported that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

**XII. Actions Emanating From Executive Session**

**On motion by Ann Thomas and seconded by Brian Joseph, with one opposed, it was adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors that they refer the personnel issue to the Executive Committee with legal counsel to review the personnel issue discussed this evening, report back to the full Board in no later than two weeks, with a special meeting set as necessary, emergency or otherwise as deemed appropriate.**

**XIII. Information Gathering (Members may ask questions or gather information to prepare for future agenda items without general discussion or action at this meeting.)**

None

**XIV. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

The next meeting date is schedule for April 15, although as stated in the prior motion a meeting scheduled before that time is anticipated.

**XV. Adjournment**

**On motion by Brian Joseph and seconded by Evan Newman, it was unanimously adopted that the meeting adjourn at 7:35 p.m.**

George Couch

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Chair

Sandra Chapman

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Secretary