

Minutes
West Liberty State College Institutional Board of Advisors
R. Emmett Boyle Conference Center
Wednesday, 17 January 2001

Present: Mr. Brad Blair, Ms. Debbie Boger, Mr. Derek Ennis, Mr. Jim Frum, Mr. John Gompers, Dr. Lawrence Jones, Dr. Dan Joseph, Ms. Roseanna Keller, Ms. Barbara Neuman and Mr. Will Turani. Members unable to attend were: Mr. John Cole and Mr. John Moore. Also in attendance were: Dr. Ronald Zaccari, Mr. Nelson Cain, Dr. Marsha Krotseng, Dr. John McCullough, and Mr. Mike Turbanic. West Liberty State College Staff/Faculty/Student Representatives in attendance were: Mr. Keith Kaczor, Ms. Jody Seabright, and Ms. Angela Zamana.

- 1. Call to Order:** Mr. John Gompers called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. First order of business was the approval of the minutes for the 18 October 2000 meeting.

ACTION ITEM I:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. James Frum and seconded by Mr. Brad Blair; motion passed unanimously.

- 2. President's Report:** Dr. Zaccari stated that through the diligent efforts of our campus safety office, the student responsible for setting off the dormitory fire alarms has been apprehended and permanently expelled from campus.

Dr. Zaccari gave a brief update on the progress of the new Technology Building. Expressions of interest to solicit bids from qualified architectural/engineering firms will be issued in the near future. Only the most qualified architectural firm with the most "high-tech" experience will be selected.

Dr. Zaccari presented Mr. Gompers with a copy of the President's Performance Evaluation as well as his response to the Interim Governing Board to be entered into the formal records of the WLSC Board. Dr. Zaccari complimented the evaluation team and was very appreciative of the excellent response from board members. However, he stated that this evaluation was actually an evaluation of the campus and the positive changes in the spirit of the WLSC community contributed to a successful outcome. Mr. Gompers, who served on the State College System Board of Directors and participated in numerous other presidential evaluations, stated that we are very fortunate to have someone of Dr. Zaccari's caliber at West Liberty State College.

Dr. Zaccari distributed a list of our peer institutions. Despite concerns expressed to the Higher Education Policy Commission, the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown will remain as a peer institution. However, Dr. Zaccari felt that our focus should be on developing strategies to obtain the 25% necessary for peer equity.

On January 8, Dr. Zaccari addressed a legislative subcommittee on Higher Education Finance concerning West Liberty's involvement in the first collaborative Master's Program in the state of West Virginia. Dr. Zaccari distributed to board members a letter from the legislature, and a handout entitled: *Advantages of the Collaborative Approach to Offering Graduate Degrees*. This collaborative program with WVU is nationally accredited, has been approved on all state levels, and provides an excellent opportunity for WLSC. In addition, teachers in the Northern Panhandle will be able to pursue a Master's Degree without driving back and forth to Morgantown.

Dr. Zaccari asked Student Government President, Derek Ennis to elaborate on the students' perspective of the new Rogers Hall dining facility, "The Marketplace." Mr. Ennis felt the overall student reaction was very positive and that the Marketplace was an enhancement to student life on campus. Mr. Ennis mentioned such improvements as: better quality food, a wide variety of selections and dining options, and continuous dining hours.

4. **Campus Master Plan:** The Executive Summary for the Master Plan was distributed to all Board Members at the meeting. Dr. Zaccari described some of the improvements that have already occurred on campus as a direct result of having a Master Plan. The most visible improvements include the new Academic, Sports, and Recreation Complex; Mumley Park; additional parking adjacent to the tennis courts; and increased lighting around Beta Hall. Dr. Zaccari stressed the importance of having a Master Plan in place when raising funds for the College. For example, Congressman Mollohan specifically asked to see our Master Plan before granting any funds for the new Technology Center. Completed construction on the new Technology Center is expected by 2005.

Funding for Master Plan initiatives was discussed. Deferred maintenance needs are critical (i.e., every dormitory needs a new roof) and funds would most likely have to be obtained through capital bonding. Currently, the Academic, Sports, and Recreation Complex and the College Union are the only bonded facilities on campus. Fortunately, the College Union has only two years left on its bond.

5. **Collaborative Master's Degree Program:** Initiated as a direct result of Senate Bill 653, and as discussed earlier, the Collaborative Master's Degree Program with WVU is the first of its kind in West Virginia. The Master's Degree is specifically designed for teachers already in the system, who would like to further their careers with a degree in educational leadership designed for future school administrators. Dr. Jones stated that within the next five years there will be a large number of administrators retiring in the Northern Panhandle. Consequently, the need for new administrators will be dramatic. Dr. Jones and the Superintendents' Consortium unanimously endorsed this project and have been instrumental in providing important planning information.

ACTION ITEM II:

A motion for the Institutional Board of Advisors to endorse the concept of the collaborative Master's Degree Program in Educational Leadership to be offered by WLSC and WVU was made by Mr. James Frum and seconded by Ms. Roseanna Keller; motion passed unanimously.

6. **Institutional Compact for West Liberty State College:** In early January, board members served on four subcommittees to discuss the various components of the Institutional Compact and present their recommendations. The committees and their recommendations are outlined below.

A. Access to Higher Education: Mr. Cole, Mr. Frum, and Dr. Jones.

Mr. Frum summarized the concerns of his subcommittee related to the educational needs of young people especially in the discipline of mathematics. Due to a national trend away from mathematics, Mr. Frum and his committee felt that colleges, high schools, and county superintendents all need to work together to improve student abilities and interest in mathematics. Specifically, the high school curriculum might require more mathematics courses, and require seniors to take upper level math courses.

B. Academic Outcomes: Mr. Ennis, Mr. Gompers, and Dr. Joseph.

Mr. Ennis spoke for his subcommittee on continued goals for increasing retention rates, continuing the Freshman Experience course, and increased use of instructional technology. The Academic Outcomes Subcommittee endorsed this segment of the Compact. However, it was

suggested that more opportunities for student internships should be made available at West Liberty. Mr. Will Turani expressed an interest in assisting with internship opportunities through his office. There was some discussion at this point concerning the need for college students to be able to participate in real-life employment situations prior to graduation.

C. Coordinated Higher Education Delivery System: Ms. Keller, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Neuman.

Ms. Keller served as spokesperson for her subcommittee. The SMART-Center received praise for reaching students in grades K-6, but the subcommittee felt that we should be finding effective ways for reaching older students. Other programs that were mentioned for on-going support for the enhancement of student learning were: the Professional Development School at Madison, RESA-6, and the development of entrepreneurial skills. Finally, Ms. Keller stated that one area for improvement could be multicultural diversity.

D. Contributions to the Economic Development of WV: Mr. Blair, Ms. Boger, and Mr. Turani.

In Ms. Boger's summary, she suggested that the development of programs which meet the current and future workforce needs of the state be considered. This topic brought about a great deal of discussion concerning whether or not West Liberty State College is currently supplying graduates who are ready to take their place in the current and emerging workforce. It was also suggested that a reason that West Liberty might be losing students to other colleges is that our policy on transfer credits is too rigid. Mr. Cain assured board members that West Liberty has a very flexible policy on transferability.

ACTION ITEM III:

A motion for the Institutional Board of Advisors to approve the Institutional Compact for submission to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission was made by Dr. Dan Joseph and seconded by Ms. Roseanna Keller; motion passed unanimously as amended to change the Praxis pass rate to a range of 90-100%.

7. **Financial Audit:** Mr. Turbanic discussed the financial audit and a financial statement was distributed to each board member. The current goal is to increase the College's fund balance. Mr. Gompers asked that the financial audit be included with the minutes.
8. **Tuition and Fees:** The College must submit a proposal on tuition and fees to the Higher Education Policy Commission in April. It is expected that all other state institutions will be increasing fees as a result of the defined peer institutions. The board will work in cooperation with WLSC Student Government President and Vice President to develop fair recommendations.

ACTION ITEM IV:

A motion for the Institutional Board of Advisors Chair, Mr. John Gompers, to appoint board members based on their background and expertise to serve on a tuition/fee subcommittee, was made by Ms. Roseanna Keller, and seconded by Dr. Dan Joseph; motion passed unanimously.

9. **Review of Higher Education Policy Commission Actions:** Dr. Krotseng summarized some of the major actions undertaken by the new Higher Education Policy Commission since July 1, 2000. These include the search for a new Chancellor, approval of interim guidelines for capital projects, approval of the format for Institutional Compacts, approval of the Performance Indicator Rule, and a draft of a new Higher Education Finance Policy. In addition, enhancement legislation is being prepared to address certain issues in SB 653.

10. **Other:**

- Next meeting: Wednesday, 11 April, 5:30 p.m.
- Mr. James Frum asked about the possibility of a crisis plan in the event of some type of an emergency. There is a plan for governing transition once the board becomes the official governing body.
- Mr. James Frum also suggested the possibility of a “Parent’s Consortium” designed to provide board members with another perspective to the decision-making process.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:30 p.m.

John E. Gompers _____
Chair

Roseanna Keller _____
Secretary

pjt