

Minutes
WEST LIBERTY STATE COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Friday, October 10, 2003

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Brad Blair, Al de Jaager, Jim Frum, John Gompers, Mary Kosar, Eric McCartney, and Will Turani.

Unable to Attend: Dan Joseph, Roseanna Keller, Larry Miller, and John Moore.

Administration/Faculty/Staff: Richard Owens, Bassam Deeb, Patrick Henry, John L. Davis, Genny McIntyre, and John McCullough.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Frum called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Full Board
09/13/03

Executive Committee
10/06/03

ACTION ITEM I:

A motion to approve the minutes of the full Board of September 13, 2003, along with the Executive Committee minutes of October 6, 2003, was made by Al de Jaager and seconded by Will Turani; motion passed unanimously.

3. **President's Report:** The four areas Dr. Owens would be addressing were 1) the unity agenda among colleges in the state, 2) a brief update on our strategic plan, 3) reemphasize the importance of the bond, and 4) what will come later in the technology plan for West Liberty State College.

Dr. Owens stated that the unity agenda is still intact. There is a commitment on the part of all public institutions of higher education presidents to remain a solid front to the legislature, and that the announced proposed cuts to higher education should be rescinded. One discussion was with regard to a letter from Delegate Kiss and Senator Plymale sent to House of Delegates, asking if we had lists of items to be requested from the Budget Digest. It was asked in this letter, if we had a unified position, what would it be. All institutions agreed that instead of asking for items in the Budget Digest, if monies were available, that those dollars be placed in a pool of dollars to offset cuts. There is still the issue of whether there are any dollars available in the Budget Digest to do anything substantial. There is also the question of the possibility of a new source of revenue so we do not receive the proposed cuts. There is always the possibility of tuition and fee increases.

The Strategic Planning session was held last Friday in the Boyle Conference Center with approximately 50-60 representatives from campus. Although the Strategic Plan is still a good and valid plan, since its production in the mid 1990's, the campus is very different now. Many good and worthwhile ideas are contained in the Strategic Plan, most all of which are accompanied by the statement – funding source to be determined. The expectation when this plan was put together was that there would be ongoing funding from the state, along with some capital money. One example is a goal to bring faculty salaries to the level of peer institutions, be fund driven, and there would always be enough state dollars to push on with this goal. When budgets are being reduced in this era, we need to rethink on a different scale of expectations and a different funding schedule. This plan was very clearly driven by a funding stream that was expected to be available. It was a good session, which reaffirmed the Strategic Plan; looking at new and different ways to get the job done. We will continue to take the plan to the next level and to be innovative.

The bond is a good example of funding that this Board helped to generate for this college. In the past, dollars would have been provided by the state to address preferred maintenance, etc. Today we need to find a different means of achieving those priorities.

Technology expansion is vital to the college. Dr. Owens stated that later in the meeting he would show the outcome of the work of many people over the last one and one-half years for a comprehensive technology plan. This plan is an excellent blueprint for the future. Much of it will be realized through our own efforts to find external funding such as private gifts and other contributions.

In these four areas, all which are related, the college continues to move forward. We believe in our mission, and we care about our students, and all of these things taken together will continue to advance West Liberty State College and continue the traditions of higher education here at the college.

Mary Kosar commented that the strategic planning meeting could have lasted longer, possibly a two-day period, for better input from the breakout sessions. Dr. McCullough stated at one time it did go longer, and it was decided to go to a one-day meeting after recommendations had come from a couple sectors, i.e., department chairs and deans. The best attempt was made to try to meet a middle ground with those who had previously attended these sessions and those who had not. Mary also suggested If you knew your breakout session topic before hand you could be more prepared since time is limited. All agreed this was a good suggestion.

4. **Bond Update:** Patrick Henry stated we have up to three years to spend the bond money but we should not take this long. To date we have made one small payment. We are currently working through bids on upcoming projects and working on existing projects. Brad Blair stated that all bond paperwork is complete. At this point it is up to the Finance Committee to monitor campus projects and bond funding. It was also stated that there was no need to continue with the Bond Committee because the Finance Committee will track any bond issues. A possible meeting date for the Finance Committee will be the last week of October.
5. **Capital Improvements Schedule and Update:** Bassam Deeb gave an update on capital improvements as they impact the student residents. Working as a committee, chaired by Pat Henry, along with John McCullough, John Davis, Bassam Deeb, Jeff Turner, and Jennifer Adams, the group has been meeting every week on Friday at 9:00 a.m. to review the status of projects. Some issues being dealt with are the Internet wiring project and capital fee reimbursement that has been returned as disbursement by the state. This group has been working with the priority list of projects approved by Board of Governors. Projects that have been addressed to date are the awarding of the roofing project for Krise and Bonar Halls. One thing we are attempting to do is maximize windows of opportunity to perform projects. At this time project estimates are running very close to contractor bids. Best Access out of Pittsburgh is being looked at for rekeying dorm rooms. They have a one-of-a-kind patented product whereas keys can only be duplicated by them, which has become an issue here on campus. Bids are in process for projects involving Curtis Hall and the Student Union. These were reviewed this morning and we are pursuing McKinley and Greco with the intent of splitting the projects. Every attempt is being made to streamline the work from an architectural standpoint. Pat will monitor to make sure contractors stay within numbers.

All of the wiring in Rogers Hall has been installed and testing will take place later next week. Boyd Hall is in the process of being wired with floors two, three and four completed, and the basement and first floor to be completed next. The next meeting with Verizon is to discuss cable for the next building and where the work will take place. Hughes Hall is a possibility but this building has major structural issues to deal with. Since safety and security are part of the bond monies, additional projects include locations for emergency phones and to expand the blue emergency boxes on campus.

Spot paving will be ongoing in the next week with additional paving to be done before the open house on November 8th. A report will be given at each board meeting on bond projects.

6. **House Bill 2224 Institutional Employment Policies:** At the September 13, 2003 meeting, the Board of Governors tabled discussion of Policy No. 100-A, "Part-Time and Temporary Classified Staff Employees" to the Executive Committee. The Board of Governors is asked to approve this policy as attached.

ACTION ITEM II:

Resolved, That the West Liberty State College Board of Governors approves WLSC Policy No. 100-A, "Part-Time and Temporary Classified Staff Employees". A motion to approve the policy was made by John Gompers and seconded by Brad Blair; motion passed unanimously.

7. **Technology Master Plan: The WLSC Cybernetic Campus:** Dr. Owens gave a detailed presentation of the Technology Master Plan. At its conclusion, Eric McCartney asked if tuition will be raised to cover these costs, to which Dr. Owens responded that these dollars would already be provided for in the budget to cover the cost of computers, software, training, and operating dollars. No increases are proposed to achieve any new funding. These funds will come from external sources. A small amount of bond money will be a part of project. Much discussion followed with regard to funding and various money sources, i.e., the Mollohan, Byrd monies. The entire project requires us to be flexible and to take advantage of other opportunities and changes that may come along.

Al de Jaager stated that Dr. Owens is the power behind the Cybernetic Campus. A discussion followed with regard to dealing with spaces, bringing areas into ADA compliance, and renovating spaces. We will continue to revise and update the Technology Master Plan.

ACTION ITEM III:

Resolved, That the West Liberty State College Board of Governors endorses the proposal and recommendations of the Technology Master Plan for the Cybernetic Campus and directs the WLSC administration to implement this Plan as funding becomes available as part of the WLSC Master Plan. A motion to approve the Plan was made by Al de Jaager and seconded by John Gompers; motion passed unanimously.

8. **Honorary Degree:** Per WLSC Policy 238, "Guidelines for Honorary Degrees and Recognition," the Honorary Degrees and Recognition Committee met to review the nomination of Andre Raphael Smith, to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L.) from West Liberty State College. Mr. Smith has been invited to be the featured speaker at the December 2003, commencement. The Board is asked to approve this nomination.

Until details are confirmed with this speaker, consideration of this request will be postponed until the next Board meeting.

9. **Possible Executive Session:** None.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Jim Frum _____
Chair

John Moore _____
Secretary