

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Minutes**

**May 22, 2013**

Attendance:

Beverly Burke, Richard Carter, George Couch, Brian Joseph, Patrick Kelly, Ann Thomas, Carrie White, LeeAnne Yeater

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Robin Capehart, Brian Crawford, Mary Ann Edwards, John Gompers, Jack Wright

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**2. Action Item\*:**

**Approval of New Undergraduate Degree Program-Bachelor of Arts in Community Education**

Chair Carter stated that we do not have any minutes or any other reports to be given today. We have one agenda item which is important and we need to have it resolved today; that is the reason for the special Board meeting. The program is associated with the Bachelor of Arts in the College of Education with a specialization associated with Community Service. Chair Carter asked Provost Crawford if he would tell the Board about the Program, what it entails, and what the next step would be for the Board.

Dr. Crawford thanked the Chair and stated that this is a Bachelor of Arts in Community Education, housed in the College of Education, and involves five different majors built around one core; Community Arts, Museum Education, Outdoor Education, Sports Recreation and Wellness, and Youth Ministry. It's designed as an accelerated program to be completed in three years; four years if so desired. This is a program we believe will meet the needs of a number of different organizations and entities in the surrounding region. Support for the program comes from the Children's Museum, The Andy Warhol Museum, and a number of other outlets. All of these institutions periodically have needs and find it difficult to find people to employ with these skills. This program would address those needs. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated there should be about a 19% increase in demands for positions in these particular fields in the next ten years. In this region there are no other institutions who offer a similar program. The only program which resembles this in West Virginia is a major in Sports and Recreation and Wellness offered by several other institutions. No one has a single degree program that does anything like what we are proposing. The program will have a core of 36 hours which will prepare students to work in public education in general, and each of the specific majors has a collection of courses from all Colleges. Each College is somewhat involved; the Gary West College of Business, Arts and Communication, Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Education, all having some level of participation in preparing students to have the content knowledge and ability to educate in a public setting. That is the program in a nutshell.

Chair Carter asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Thomas asked what has changed that in the next ten years there will be a need for people with the kind of degree we want to propose. Dr. Crawford stated that he couldn't specifically address why the need is increasing, but believes there are more entities like the Children's Museum, Gateway to the Arts, the Schrader Center; those sorts of activities are increasing and serve large populations.

President Capehart stated that a lot of non-profit organizations or city recreation leagues, areas such as these which will be targeted. Oglebay for an example, they have a person start out as a drama teacher and over the years this person retires. Another person moves up through the organization and is now a director, and their training was in a substantive field, providing an individual who can do drama but not fundraising. This program allows people from the start to fill in a lot of those positions where there were people not necessarily trained to provide leadership roles in those areas.

Mr. Kelly asked if a lot of these would be non-traditional students. Dr. Crawford stated possibly, but it remains to be seen what students will attend in the individual categories. Mr. Kelly then asked how the students finish in three years. Dr. Crawford stated that summer courses allow us to compress the program in three years if a student so wishes. Each major includes an internship program to be completed in the summer. Chair Carter stated that the three years to finish is a two-edged sword for students. To complete the degree in three years is to forgo some of the earning opportunities that they might otherwise have in the summer. This is the better way to go, but it's also a matter of preference. It's good to have an option.

Chair Carter also noted, as stated before, that WLU is able to provide this program with existing faculty. Some adjuncts may be required, but they are not necessarily additional. It appears we are able to do this under umbrellas that already exist without additional cost. This is a very good program, providing opportunities and different career paths, and doing it without expending additional costs. Dr. Crawford stated that projected enrollments anticipated by the end of year four are to be at about 50 students in the program.

Chair Carter asked if there were any further questions.

**A motion that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the creation of a new undergraduate degree program, the Bachelor of Arts in Community Education, within the College of Education, was then made by George Couch and seconded by Beverly Burke; motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Richard Carter

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Chair

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Secretary