

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Minutes  
November 28, 2018**

Attendance:

Cindy Fluharty, Patrick Ford, Jim Haizlett, Rich Lucas, Zachary Rhodes, Rhonda Tysk, Kris Williams

Unable to Attend:

Jack Adams, Joe Carey, Teresa Toriseva

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Kelly Baker, Scott Cook, Darrin Cox, Mary Ann Edwards, Lori Finegan, Steve Greiner, Nancy Gunza, Diana Harto, Jason Koegler, Roberta Linger, John McCullough, Tom Miller, Alexis Montes, Gerard NeCastro, Sara Sweeney, Dawn Swiger, Ron Witt, Angie Zambito

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

Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and a quorum was established.

**II. Introduction**

Dr. Greiner introduced Nancy Gunza and Lori Finegan, of CliftonLarsonAllen, who presented the audit results with an unmodified opinion for October 15, 2018, which is the best opinion to be issued. An unmodified opinion means that statements were prepared and presented fairly and with respect to accounting policies. With regard to internal control systems, no material weaknesses were identified and had very positive results. They were given full cooperation by management throughout the process with no issues or disagreements. They met with the Finance Committee previously today and gave a full report of the process and results. Ms. Gunza asked if there were any questions with regard to the audit results.

**III. Public Comment**

Kelly Baker and Dawn Swiger signed up to speak; Ms. Baker distributed information to the Board.

**IV. Agenda Order**

Chair Ford asked for a motion to strike item "D" under section VI - Board Items for Approval, and move the Faculty Senate Update to fall before the President's Update.

**On motion by Cindy Fluharty and seconded by Jim Haizlett, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the change of order to the agenda.**

**V. Approval of Minutes\***

**A. Minutes of the Full Board October 3, 2018\***

**On motion by Kris Williams and seconded by Cindy Fluharty, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the full Board of October 3, 2018.**

**B. Minutes of the Executive Committee September 19, 2018 and November 14, 2018\***

**On motion by Kris Williams and seconded by Rich Lucas, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of September 19, 2018 and November 14, 2018.**

**VI. Board Items for Approval\***

**A. Audit\***

The West Liberty University Board of Governors is asked to approve the Fiscal-Year 2018 audit report. The Finance Committee has met with the auditors and approves the audit findings.

**On motion by Cindy Fluharty and seconded by Rich Lucas, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the submission of the Fiscal-Year 2018 audit report.**

**B. Honorary Degree\***

Dr. Greiner presented the recommendation of the Honorary Degrees and Recognition Committee for the conferral of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (DHL) degree to Todd F. Clossin, President and CEO of WesBanco at the December 2018 commencement.

**On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Jim Haizlett, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to authorize the conferral of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (DHL) degree from West Liberty University at the December 2018 commencement to Todd F. Clossin.**

**C. Property Acquisition – 597 Van Meter Way\***

Dr. Greiner noted that WLU recently acquired approximately 6 acres of land, beginning one house over from the Federated Church to the corner near Girtys Point Road. One additional house could possibly become available, completing the entire block for WLU. This home has been appraised for \$55,000 and approved for purchase at the Finance Committee meeting. We are looking for an additional recommendation, even if they are not able to sell at this time. If we would purchase the property, there may also be an arrangement made for the individual to live in the home until they are able to move. A brief discussion followed.

**On motion by Jim Haizlett and seconded by Rhonda Tysk, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to initiate all actions and execute all documents and instruments to carry into effect and finalize the property acquisition and possible extended living arrangements.**

**Faculty Senate Update (Haizlett)**

Mr. Haizlett introduced Dr. Darrin Cox, Professor of History and Faculty Senate Chair. Dr. Cox noted that he took the position of Chair as of July 1, 2018 and gave a brief background. He noted that an issue was raised in the last Faculty Senate meeting with regard to BOG Policies 10 and 11, Travel and Employment Hiring. A discussion followed with regard to restrictions related to these policies and the University's ability to attract and hire qualified candidates. Mr. Haizlett affirmed what Dr. Cox stated and concurred that the University needs to look at these policies.

**VII. President's Report**

Dr. Greiner stated that WLU is one of three universities in West Virginia with an enrollment increase. Enrollment is not a single office process, but an entire campus process. Black and Gold Day with parents is what really seals the deal. With ever decreasing high school graduation rates, we need to keep up with this trend. Chair Ford stated that a number of parents and students have texted him after a campus visit. The common theme is the availability and accessibility of offices on campus and the way they were made to feel comfortable. Mr. Cook stated that the one-on-one treatment is notable.

Commencement is only 17 days away, and the Board is invited to attend. Ceremonies will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 15, 2018, with approximately 140 graduates.

Dr. Greiner asked Ms. Zambito-Hill to give an update on Giving Tuesday. Ms. Zambito-Hill stated they are working to build a culture of philanthropy at WLU, with initiatives to create visibility, private giving, raise awareness, and gain new donors. \$38,000 was raised, with 161 donors. Dr. McCullough matched the first \$5,000 raised, and Dr. Greiner matched another \$5,000 at 150 donors.

Dr. Greiner asked Ms. Tysk to give an update on the GEAR UP Program WLU participated in at the Clay Center in Charleston, WV. Ms. Tysk stated that she and Brenda King, Director of Admissions, went to the Student Leadership Academy in Charleston and presented nine \$1,000 scholarships to students. Eleventh grade students from ten different counties were represented at the Academy, with approximately 1,400 students attending. Ms. King spoke to the students about WLU and presented the scholarships. Ms. Tysk served as Topper the Bear for the day, assisting in the presentation of the giant \$1,000 check. Students were bused in from the various

counties to hear a motivational speaker to help them transition from high school to college. WLU was the highlighted University for the 2018 presentations.

Dr. Greiner recalled that the Texas property had an offer from the gas and oil company for WLU to sell the property for \$60,000, followed by an offer of \$100,000, both of which were declined. As a result, this first year the royalties to date are approximately \$73,000, and we're not done with the year.

Dr. Greiner stated that we will be moving forward with the elevator projects with \$900,000 from a state bond, to be used specifically for a safety project. The Library elevator contract has been awarded, and we are in the process of bidding the residence halls elevators. We have met with the company doing the HVAC repairs for the Arnett Hall renovation. We have also met with the architect with regard to the new classrooms and labs on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Campbell Hall. The track and soccer complex is complete except for the track surface, which will be finished in the spring. The Belmont Savings Bank indoor facility is under construction right now and should be completed in a few months. Work has begun on the apartment complex across the street and may be called "West Liberty Gardens." It is owned by R&D Holdings, the same group who built UP I and II. They will work with Mr. Cook and the Housing office to set up pricing. We have signed an easement agreement on the back portion of the property that's now up to Gary West to sign. They have agreed to put a lighted sidewalk down to Roadworthy Lane so students going to the restaurant can go across the street and not walk along Route 88. They have also agreed to put a sidewalk in front of the complex parallel to Route 88. The last addition is the Main Street Bank video board, which will be unveiled tonight in the ASRC. The board is 9 x 16 feet and will be used at other events such as the upcoming commencement.

Dr. Greiner introduced Alexis Montes, Athletic Advancement Coordinator. She will be selling ads for the video board, among other things, and is a graduate of WLU. She earned her masters at Marshall University and is a two-time All-American javelin thrower.

#### **VIII. Finance Report**

Ms. Linger gave a budget status report as of October 31, 2018. The figures do not include any grant expenses, expenses reimbursed by the Foundation, fundraising activities, or any funds not used in the operation of the University.

#### **IX. Reports**

##### **A. Provost (Crawford)**

Dr. Crawford noted that a new articulation agreement was signed with WVNCC. Although WLU has had an agreement with them for many years, there are a few differences with the current agreement. It allows guaranteed admission for associate graduates from WVNCC to come to WLU.

A new agreement has been signed with BridgeValley Community & Technical College. This agreement will allow BridgeValley students who have earned their associate degree to complete a bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene at WLU in two years.

We have received approval from the U.S. Department of Education for the MS in Dental Hygiene and MA in Clinical Psychology. We are currently marketing both programs, and students are able to receive financial aid for these programs, which should start in the fall 2019.

Last Friday the WV Higher Education Policy Commission approved the proposal for the MS in Athletic Training. The proposal will now go to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for their approval, with an anticipated start in the fall 2020. There are a few other programs in the pipeline but we're not sure when they will be coming before the Board.

Dr. Crawford stated that with regard to the Faculty Senate issue presented by Dr. Cox earlier in the meeting, Deans Council came to him to find a way to budget for more travel for interviews next year. Dr. Crawford will work with Ms. Linger on this line item in the FY19 budget.

**B. Enrollment Update (Cook)**

Mr. Cook distributed information with regard to enrollment. At the request of Chair Ford, campus visit information has been added to the information. All campus visitation programs have increased anywhere from 12% to 27%. At each of the individual student events students see who they want to see. At the start of the day they meet with the president and end with meeting with the Admissions staff, seeing professors and the campus in between. Every encounter impacts a student decision. There are four upcoming sessions planned to meet with faculty and staff to discuss our recruiting message and solicit suggestions on how to enhance enrollment.

**D. Student Government (Rhodes)**

Mr. Rhodes noted that homecoming went smooth, but they are looking at changes for next year to make it even better. The parade went well and it was nice to have the band involved and able to participate. In a recent meeting with Kate Billings, SGA presented strategic planning information and swat analysis. The SGA appreciated the opportunity and allowing their voice to be heard in this process.

Coming up is Winterfest with crafts, music, hot chocolate, bingo games, and give aways at bingo. The WLU Foundation, Sodexo, and Alumni and Community Relations have donated prizes. A bus trip is being planned to New York City in the spring. Dr. Greiner noted that the Blatnik gym will open up next year for more activities when the practice field is completed.

**X. Information Gathering**

Mr. Haizlett noted that he was glad Dr. Crawford is looking into the matter of faculty travel. He also stated with regard to the two guests who signed up to speak this evening, it's possible decisions are made that we might not fully understand the ramifications of what was decided, and asked that an explanation of how the system works be on the agenda for the next meeting. Dr. Greiner stated that unfortunately, they are asking to change the State system, which is something the Board cannot do. New State guidelines have been put into place at every university, moving towards a performance based system. It's hard for a small population to accept this change. Informational meetings have been held with employees with representatives from Charleston. Representatives spoke via conference phone at a previous Board meeting to explain these guidelines. A brief discussion continued and Ms. Tysk asked if it would be possible to revisit the Compensation Administration Guidelines associated with the new system.

**XI. Possible Executive Session**

None

**XII. Actions Emanating from Executive Session**

None

**XIII. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, January 30, 2019**

**XIV. Adjournment**

**On motion by Kris Williams and seconded by Rhonda Tysk, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m.**

Patrick B. Ford \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Jack Adams \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary