

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
August 21, 2019**

Attendance:

Jack Adams, Kelly Baker, Richard Carter, Cindy Fluharty, Patrick Ford, Robert Gall, Rich Lucas, William Mercer, Kris Williams, Isabella Yakicic

Unable to Attend:

Joe Carey

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Scott Cook, Brian Crawford, Mary Ann Edwards, Steve Greiner, Diana Harto, Angela Hill, Jason Koegler, Roberta Linger, Nick Musgrave, Joe Rodella, Sara Sweeney, Ron Witt

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. Introductions

Current and new board members made introductions.

III. Swearing in New Board Members

Chair Ford issued the Oath of Office to Kelly Baker, Robert Gall, and Isabella Yakicic and welcomed them to the Board.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Agenda Order

No changes were made to the agenda order.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of the Full Board June 5, 2019*

On motion by Richard Carter 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 June 5, 2019.

B. Minutes of the Executive Committee August 7, 2019*

On motion by Jack Adams and seconded by Kris Williams, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of August 7, 2019.

VII. Board Items

None.

VIII. Reports

A. Provost (Crawford)

Dr. Crawford stated that we received approval for the MS in Athletic Training from the U.S. Department of Education last week. The Intent to Plan for the MS in Exercise Physiology has been approved by the HEPC, along with the MA in Art Therapy and Counseling, and the MS in Speech Language Pathology.

With the possible closure of OVMC and EORH, there is a great deal of concern for the 86 PA, Nursing, and Medical Lab students needing placements for clinical rotations, internships, etc., along with the psychology and social work students who also do placements. A discussion followed with regard to Pennsylvania institutions and other placement factors.

B. IT Strategic Plan (Rodella)

Mr. Rodella opened his presentation with a review of the mission of the Information Technology Department. He continued with the three components of the strategic goals and what they entail, those being the connected campus, creating a platform for personalized learning, and creating a “dashboard mentality” and improve institutional reporting. This was followed by a review of current projects and closed with a brief discussion on prior infrastructure work completed on campus.

C. Enrollment (Cook)

Mr. Cook distributed an enrollment update as of August 21, 2019. Summer registration was 744, an increase of 162 students. A summer tuition break was offered and the majority of classes were on line. Applications for fall 2019 are 2,542, up 330 from this time last year, with accepted applications up 66. Overall headcount enrollment is down, which is the total number of students registered to take classes, by 45 students. Numbers will continue to fluctuate for the next two weeks. Graduate student numbers are up, along with housing applications. We currently have 60 to 70 international students, representing 25 to 30 countries.

D. WLU Foundation (Hill)

Ms. Hill stated that FY 2018 closed on June 30, 2019, with just under \$2.3 million in revenue, 11 new Nathan Shotwell Society members, and \$2.5 million in deferred gifts. The annual audit is currently under way. New projects are planned, one of which is the new signage project. The project is estimated at \$100,000 with a goal of \$30 to \$40 thousand to start this year. They are also looking at endowment projects and investment club initiatives. A brief discussion followed with regard to increasing first time givers, reaching a younger audience, and building awareness with current students.

E. SGA (Yakicic)

Ms. Yakicic noted the current SGA officers and she recently attending the WV State Leadership Conference at Jackson’s Mill. SGA is working to reach out to the community and partner with local businesses for student discounts by presenting their topper ID. They are hoping to go live with the idea in 2020. Topperfest plans are in the works, along with the possibility of a bus trip to New York in the spring semester. They are also looking into requiring board and senate members to complete community service projects; one in Wheeling and one in West Liberty. Homecoming dance plans are in process, noting that alcohol will only be served to those with wrist bands after an ID check upon entry to the dance.

IX. President’s Report

Dr. Greiner asked Ms. Sweeney to give an update on graduate enrollment. Ms. Sweeney stated that the numbers will fluctuate until mid-October, but we are just over 300 students. A good relationship has been established with WVSOM and the bridge program, although they have raised their requirements for WLU students.

Dr. Greiner stated that WLU’s Gary E. West College of Business was recognized recently by College Consensus for having one of the Best Online Master’s in Accounting Programs for 2019.

The final draft of the 2019 Campus Master Plan and subsequent recommendations has been received; the last plan was done in 1999. This is a road map of where we want to take the institution in the next 10-15 years in terms of planning. The signage project has started and the leadership team will develop a priority system for implementation.

Recently there were two visitors from China who are interested in partnership with WLU for health care management and possibly some certificate projects in Nursing and Physical Therapy. This would be our second partner in China.

Last week, on a conference call with our first partner in China, it was stated that the question most asked by Chinese parents when trying to recruit students for the U.S., “is it safe to send our children to the United States,” because of all the mass shootings.

150 young people attended the Sheriffs Youth Leadership Academy this summer. This was the first year for the academy at WLU, which was very successful, with talk of returning next year.

Don Clegg was recently inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. Mr. Clegg is a valuable member of WLU's athletic office. The WLU volleyball and tennis teams have again been awarded academic honors. Our athletes continue to do well academically.

Dr. Greiner displayed a WLU advertisement in the Pittsburgh Steeler yearbook, opposite the page from Ben Roethlisberger.

Dr. Greiner gave a list of construction updates. The apartments across the street are not ready at this time. Building one is scheduled to be ready by mid-September and building two may be ready October 1. A discussion followed with regard to displaced students. As soon as we get the asbestos report, we will be taking down three houses on property purchased on Rt. 88.

Air conditioning issues continue in Fine Arts, Main Hall, the cafeteria, and Bonar Hall. We need to move forward with a performance contract, one where we can go out and request companies to replace all of our HVAC systems, with them funding the project, and we pay them back through the savings. These are normally set up with a 15-year pay back. A discussion followed with regard to how a performance contract is structured.

Mr. Witt and Mr. Koegler distributed copies of the special edition Top of the Hill, with a departure from the previous format, it highlights accomplishments done as a team at WLU. All of the good work of employees, faculty, staff, and students attributed to this issue of Top of the Hill. Formerly text heavy, a concerted effort was made to make it visually appealing. Mr. Koegler stated that this will be a great tool when meeting with alumni, donors, legislators, etc. To view the Top of the Hill online, a link is located at the top of WLU's home page - <https://westliberty.edu/alumni/files/2019/08/WLUTopOfTheHillAug2019.pdf>.

X. Finance Report

Ms. Linger gave an update as of July 31, 2019, the first month of the new fiscal year. A brief discussion followed with regard to unencumbered net cash.

XI. Information Gathering

Dr. Gall noted the presidential evaluation process, which is being organized.

XII. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by Cindy Fluharty, the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Patrick B. Ford _____
Chair

Jack Adams _____
Secretary