

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
December 11, 2019**

Attendance:

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

Unable to Attend:

Joe Carey, Pat Ford

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Amy Baccelliere, Scott Cook, Katie Cooper, Brian Crawford, Caitlin deVries, Mary Ann Edwards, Steve Greiner, Nancy Gunza, Diana Harto, Angie Hill, Stephanie Hooper, Jason Koegler, Roberta Linger, Cathy Monteroso, Brandon Morrison, Nick Musgrave, Gerard NeCastro, Ron Witt, Maureen Zambito

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

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

II. Introductions

Dr. Greiner introduced First Team All American's Caitlin deVries and Brandon Morrison. Caitlin is a soccer player majoring in Environmental Stewardship, and Brandon is a football player and graduate student in Criminology. The board congratulated them on their outstanding academic and athletic careers.

Nancy Gunza, auditor with CliftonLarsonAllen, was introduced and presented the audit findings. A more detailed report was given previously to the Finance Committee. There was only one matter to report on internal controls, but management has determined that there is an aggressive action plan put together and new procedures in place for next year.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Agenda Order

No changes were made to the agenda order.

V. Approval of Minutes*

Minutes of the Full Board October 16, 2019 and of the Executive Committee November 11, 2019, December 4, 2019*

On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by William Mercer, with one correction to the November 11, 2019 Executive Committee minutes, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the full board of October 16, 2019, and the Executive Committee minutes of November 11 and December 4, 2019.

VI. Board Items for Approval*

A. Audit*

The West Liberty University Board of Governors is asked to approve the Fiscal-Year 2019 audit report. The Finance Committee has met with the auditors and approve the audit findings.

On motion by Richard Lucas and seconded by William Mercer, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the submission of the Fiscal-Year 2019 audit report.

B. Oil and Gas Lease*

Ms. Hooper stated that the Board is asked to approve an oil and gas lease with Southwestern Energy (SWN). In 2010 WLU leased all of its property to Chesapeake, with the exception of four (4) acres. Chesapeake sold their interest to SWN and they are now seeking to lease the four (4)

acres missing initially, along with the acreage picked up with the Beatty property up the street, which is under .5 acres. There is a per acre bonus and an 18% gross royalty. A brief discussion followed regarding the acreage.

On motion by Cindy Fluharty and seconded by Richard Carter, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the authorization of the President of West Liberty University to initiate all actions and execute all documents and instruments to carry into effect the final terms of said lease.

C. Executive Committee Nomination*

Dr. Greiner stated that Pat Ford will be resigning after the commencement ceremony this weekend. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend adding Mr. Lucas to the Executive Committee, replacing Pat Ford following his resignation.

On motion by Jack Adams and seconded by Richard Carter, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the recommendation of Rich Lucas to serve on the Executive Committee.

D. Board Chair Special Election*

Ms. Williams noted that due to her schedule and possible job move, it was not feasible to move into the position of Chair for the WLU Board of Governors.

On motion by Jack Adams and seconded by Richard Carter, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the recommendation of Rich Lucas to serve as the Chairperson of the Board.

E. Presidential Search Procedure*

Dr. Greiner stated that the presidential search procedure was developed and required to be approved by the HEPC. After consulting attorneys with the HEPC, the procedure was submitted for approval. In order to be approved in a timely manner it had to be approved prior to today's board meeting. Dr. Gall asked if advertisements for the position have been running. Dr. Greiner stated that it has been running in InsideHigherEdjobs.com, the Chronicle, and universityjobs.com. The ad will run again after the first of the year. A brief discussion followed regarding advertising. It was also noted that characteristics and qualities are still being accepted.

On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Robert Gall, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the presidential search process.

F. Presidential Search Committee*

Dr. Greiner stated that it is recommended that Mr. Lucas act as Chair, and Mr. Adams as Vice Chair, along with all BOG members as part of the Presidential Search Committee. The Committee will also include:

- Scott Cook (administration)
- Katie Cooper (staff)
- David Croft (Foundation Board)
- Courtney Huffman (faculty)
- Nick Sparachane (community member and donor)

A discussion followed as to how the additional staff and faculty members were chosen, the current BOG policy, and changes to State Code. It was noted that policies need updated, which is one of the tasks Ms. Hooper will be undertaking.

On motion by Cindy Fluharty and seconded by William Mercer, it was adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the recommendation of Rich Lucas as Chair and Jack Adams as Vice Chair of the Presidential Search Committee and the additional committee members as stated. Kelly Baker and Robert Gall were opposed.

VII. Reports

A. Provost

Dr. Crawford stated that the accreditations for Art Therapy and Counseling, Speech Language Pathology, and Exercise Physiology are all on track and continue to move along through the internal steps. There is an intent to plan for a new track in the M.A.Ed. program in Educational Leadership Principals. It was also announced that after 2.5 years as interim dean, Dr. Cathy Monteroso has been named Dean of the College of Education.

B. Enrollment Update

Mr. Cook distributed an enrollment update as of December 11, 2019 and reviewed the figures. Although the student population continues to decline in the tristate area, we see more students visiting campus, up 24% from last year.

C. Foundation Update

Ms. Hill distributed a copy of the Foundation Annual Report for 2018-2019 and reviewed the various measurements, which were all positive. We are currently 13% ahead of last year with 21 days left. She also reported on the recent weekend in Cambridge, MD where, along with Dr. Greiner and Ron Witt, they visited with 25 alums, many who were new to the Foundation. The weekend was a huge success, with the message presented about all the good things happening on campus well received, a new endowment, and a new Nathan Shotwell member. Ms. Hill recognized Kris Williams for her gift in her father's name; a fund that has been providing opportunities for faculty to travel abroad. This fund will also be able to provide a resource for the International Student Center, which will be named the Rollie Williams International Center. A brief discussion followed with regard to restricted funds.

D. Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Gall noted that faculty and staff are expected to follow policy, but the board and administration did not by not conducting an evaluation of the president. The board is soliciting characteristics for the next president; if an evaluation had been done this information would already be available and would also clarify Dr. Greiner's ability as a consultant. It was also noted that academics don't seem to get priority; administration and athletics get priority. An administrator is added here or there, sports facilities are fixed, but when there are fiscal problems it seems as if academics get the first hit. There is a lack of or should be better communication with regard to budget cuts. A brief discussion followed with regard to the lack of an evaluation. Characteristics and qualities of the next president should still be submitted at bog@westliberty.edu.

E. Student Government (Yakicic)

Ms. Yakicic stated that Student Government was able to donate over \$3,000 in prizes last week for those attending Winterfest. Bingo in the college union continues to be a popular event, with 400 students attending; it was standing-room only. Meetings have been held with Mr. Orr and students to get feedback for new meal plans. Student Government will continue to work with Sodexo for more meal plan choices. New York City has once again been chosen as the bus trip next year, with tickets ranging from \$50 to \$80/per person. It is hoped that Chicago and Washington, DC will be in the rotation for the next few years. Student Government also looks forward to giving their input on the presidential search.

VIII. President's Report

Dr. Greiner noted that the 100th anniversary of Shaw Hall is this month. Fall commencement will be held on Saturday with Interim Chancellor Dr. Sarah Tucker Armstrong, a Wheeling native, giving the commencement address. WLU's nursing program has been ranked as one of the Best Online RN to BSN Nursing Schools in West Virginia. The HEPC put out a new census data report for 2019, and WLU is one of only two universities in WV that experience overall enrollment growth. The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation announced that WLU has received accreditation for the program, with thanks to Cathy Monteroso and her hard work. The Speech Pathology and Audiology Program competed in a competition at the Harvard Graduate School, winning a \$5,000 third place to be put towards the new clinic.

A legislative breakfast was held this morning with area legislators. There were several presentations about what's happening at West Liberty, new programs and activities, and also made it known our own legislative agenda for next year. Some of the items discussed were campus carry legislation

and a new funding formula. Currently there is no formula; universities are penalized for growing enrollment and those who are losing enrollment are rewarded. A formula based on performance is needed. With no capital funding provided we have to take out our own loans to pay for building improvements.

In terms of priorities and preferences with regard to hiring; we have added 21 new faculty positions and one administrator. In other academic priorities we have developed and are in the process of developing 13 new academic programs, \$1 million was used to improve technology to enhance classrooms, \$1 million to upgrade the HVAC in Arnett Hall, \$5 million to build out the clinics and labs on the fourth floor of Campbell Hall, and will be renovating Main Hall this summer. Money has been spent on athletics, but we had a lot of restricted donations for that area.

IX. Finance Report

Ms. Linger gave an operating budget status ending November 30, 2019. All is trending as expected, with utilities running a little behind due to issues with the auditors and changes down state. We are still waiting to see if the \$419,000 is the final budget cut; it could be more but we have not heard. More cuts are expected for next year.

X. Information Gathering

None.

XI. Possible Executive Session – Personnel

None.

XII. Actions Emanating from Executive Session

None.

XIII. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Richard Lucas _____
Chair

Jack Adams _____
Secretary