

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Governance Committee
Minutes
January 29, 2025**

In Attendance: Erika Storch, Lou Karas, Will Turani, David McKinley, Stephanie Shaw

Unable to Attend: Rich Lucas

Faculty/Staff/Administration/Guests in Attendance: Tim Borchers, Cyndi Galloway, Jacob Manning

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00AM

2. Approval of Minutes-December 4, 2024

On a motion by Lou Karas and seconded by Stephanie Shaw, the Governance Committee minutes of December 4, 2024, were approved.

3. State Funding Priorities-Dr. Borchers

Dr. Borchers provided an update on external funding opportunities and reviewed several proposals he plans to present to legislators at the state and federal levels, depending on their focus. Some of these proposals include the establishment of an Interprofessional Health Care Education Center, which would occupy the fourth floor of Campbell Hall, and an expansion of the Aviation Program. Handouts have been prepared for each proposal to be distributed during meetings.

Additionally, an overview document outlining state funding priorities has been created for distribution to state officials. Key items in this document include Deferred Maintenance, the Education Center, and Performance-Based Funding. The overview also highlights WLU's enrollment figures, with a strong emphasis on the importance of maintaining the Pell Grant program. Dr. Borchers stressed the critical role of Pell Grants and the need for their continued support.

During discussions, concerns were raised regarding the lack of state funding in previous years and the challenges it has created in making necessary campus improvements. It was noted that the newly elected state legislators need to be informed about the financial aspects of these issues. Additionally, tuition increases do not significantly impact the university's ability to fund large-scale projects.

Stephanie emphasized the importance of addressing deferred maintenance, noting that the safety of students is at stake. She pointed out that if a student were to be injured due to maintenance issues, the financial and legal consequences would be far greater than the cost of proactively fixing the problems. There was also discussion on the need to maintain all listed buildings, which will be considered throughout the funding process.

4. Update on Governor Morrisey's Executive Orders-Jacob Manning

Jacob Manning shared that Governor Morrisey has issued eight executive orders, all of which will eventually impact WLU in some capacity.

Regarding past spending decisions, the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) has requested WLU to compile information on large expenditures from the past fiscal year, as well as any projected major expenses. This request is solely for informational review. Additionally, state agencies have been asked to examine their internal rules and regulations to improve operational efficiency. WLU will be compiling relevant information to submit to HEPC.

On the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), the state government and the President have issued orders regarding compliance. WLU is already largely in compliance with the order, and no significant changes are required at this time. The university will submit a response to HEPC confirming compliance.

Stephanie inquired about the impact of the DEI mandate on private scholarships that focus on diversity and inclusion. It was clarified that the current executive order does not address private funding, meaning such scholarships would not be affected at this point.

5. Other

David McKinley announced the formation of the Presidential Evaluation Committee. Tom Cervone has been appointed as the committee chair, with Dan Joseph serving as the community representative. The Executive Committee members include David, Mike, Tom, Rich, Lou, Robert, and Jenna. The committee will be reaching out soon for feedback and is on track with the evaluation schedule.

6. Adjournment

Will Turani motions to adjourn and Lou Karas seconds the motion.
Meeting adjourned: 9:30 AM

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway