

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Governance Committee
Minutes
December 4, 2024**

In Attendance: Erikka Storch, Lou Karas, Will Turani, David McKinley

Unable to Attend: Rich Lucas, Stephanie Shaw

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

1. Meeting called to order at 9:07 AM

2. Approval of Minutes-July 31, 2024

On a motion by Lou Karas and seconded by David McKinley, the Governance Committee minutes of July 31, 2024, were approved.

Approval of Minutes-October 2, 2024

On a motion by Lou Karas and seconded by Will Turani, the Governance Committee minutes of October 2, 2024, were approved.

3. Review of comments for BOG Policies 1, 2, 9:

Dr. Borchers reported that no comments were received on BOG Policies 1, 2, and 9 following the 30-day review period. He stated that he would request the Executive Committee recommend these policies to the BOG, with the intention of presenting them to the full board in December. These updates were made to align with the recent changes to the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) rules. Dr. Borchers also reviewed the minor revisions made to each policy, emphasizing the importance of consistency and alignment with HEPC guidelines.

4. Easement agreement with Utica East Ohio Midstream Services, LLC

Jacob provided an update regarding an easement agreement proposal from Utica East Ohio Midstream Services, LLC. The company approached WLU with a request to install a pipeline on the university's western wooded property, which is not part of the main campus and is located away from the trail system. The proposed easement would allow for the burial of a single pipeline, with erosion control measures included, and the university retaining the ability to use the property if necessary.

Jacob noted that the company specifically requested a signature from the BOG. David raised concern about the compensation amount of \$500, suggesting it seemed low. Jacob will research the standard rates for similar agreements.

5. Other

Dr. Borchers shared that representatives from Senator Capito's office recently visited the campus, and a WLU team met with the senator in Washington, D.C., last week to discuss external funding opportunities. Additionally, the external funding task force has conducted 11 meetings with various groups on campus, resulting in the identification of 62 potential projects for external funding. The aim is to have proposals ready for potential donors or funding opportunities. Discussions also included the possibility of submitting a congressionally directed funding request to update Blatnik, as well as state legislative funding requests for deferred maintenance and possibly an airplane.

Dr. Borchers also presented a draft of an IMPACT Report, highlighting key items and plans to host state legislators on campus in January to share the report and outline priorities for the upcoming year. The report is intended to showcase WLU's identity and accomplishments.

Lou Karas noted that students who participated in dual enrollment courses tend to perform better academically than students who did not complete such courses.

6. Adjournment

Lou Karas motions to adjourn and David McKinley seconds the motion.
Meeting adjourned: 9:35 AM

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway