

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Student Life Committee
Minutes
December 2, 2024**

In Attendance: Katie Kacmarik, Jenna Maguire, Stephanie Shaw, Lou Karas

Administration/Faculty/Staff/Guests: Tim Borchers, Brad Forshey, Katie Cooper, Cyndi Galloway

Unable to Attend: Tom Cervone, Jamie Evick

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

- a. Stephanie Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM

2. Approval of Minutes

September 30, 2024

On motion by Jenna Maguire and seconded by Lou Karas, the West Liberty University Student Life Committee unanimously approved the minutes of September 30, 2024.

3. Enrollment Update-Katie Cooper

Katie reported that the current headcount for Spring 2025 enrollment is 1,494. Deans, advisors, and the Student Success Center are actively tracking students who should register for the Spring semester. Dually enrolled students are not included in the current headcount but will be added this week. There has been an increase in Fall 2025 applications and accepted students compared to the same time last year. Vision Point's strategic marketing efforts are yielding positive results.

4. Student Activities Update-Katie Cooper

Winterfest is scheduled for this Wednesday, featuring tree lighting, cookie decorating, other activities, and bingo, with notable prizes including an electric scooter. Next week's finals week events include late-night breakfast, a chicken nugget bar, and relaxation activities. Throughout the fall semester, 7-8 events have been offered weekly, including a shopping trip to Tanger and weekly shuttles to local grocery stores, which are consistently full.

There is an opportunity to collaborate between the WESPY Awards and Spring Fling, with the Spring Fling date yet to be determined.

5. Enrollment and Retention Initiatives-Katie Cooper

Significant efforts are being placed on promoting the Online Business Program to boost enrollment. Collaboration with WVNCC is underway to further develop this initiative. The program was featured on the back inside cover of In Wheeling magazine to increase visibility, with ongoing efforts to grow and expand online programs in general.

6. Arts Update-Katie Cooper

The arts program received positive feedback for the Rocky Horror Show. Upcoming events include It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play and a Musical Performance Series.

7. Athletics Update-Brad Forshey

Brad highlighted several accomplishments, including seven MEC Players of the Week and the men's basketball team's #5 national ranking. Numerous student recognitions and achievements were shared, along with planning underway to honor athletes with high academic achievements. Updates from the Student Athletic Advisory Council were provided, and athletic signings for Fall 2025 freshmen are progressing on schedule, with football signings set to begin in February.

8. Community Connections: Lou Karas

Lou thanked Brad for great participation from athletics in the annual Trick or Treat on the Quad. Many schools have been in to visit the Center for Arts and Education. The Center has also been

working with the Diversity Committee to hold events for Hispanic Heritage and Indigenous People Month.

Dr. Borchers provided updates on the RISE initiative, noting two events held since the last meeting: the Rise Up Event, which focused on networking and internship/job opportunities for educators in the creative sector, and a monthly meeting on Nov. 1 to discuss internships and introduce an internship starter kit. The next RISE event is scheduled for Dec. 12, focusing on the Human Services area. Over the next few years, the HLC project will concentrate on developing an integrated career development program. Dr. Borchers also hosted Thanksgiving dinner for students.

9. DEI Update-Katie Cooper

The DEI committee recently concluded International Education Month, hosting over 20 webinars and events. International students collaborated with the Bear's Den chef to share their cuisine, and the International Tea Time event remained highly popular. Drag Bingo in November and is a popular event. Challenges persist in achieving campus-wide participation in DEI events and securing additional manpower for initiatives. The Black Student Union is becoming increasingly active and visible on campus.

Adjournment—Jenna Maguire motions to adjourn. Katie Kacmarik seconds the motion. Motion to adjourn approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway

Stephanie Shaw _____
Chair