

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Student Life Committee
Minutes
May 27, 2025**

In Attendance: Tom Cervone, Lou Karas, Katie Kacmarik

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

Unable to Attend: Jamie Evick, Jenna Maguire, Stephanie Shaw

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

- a. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM

2. Approval of Minutes

March 31, 2025

No quorum established-unable to approve at this meeting.

3. Fall 2025 Enrollment

Continuing student registration is currently trending upward. Efforts are ongoing to close the gap in housing numbers, with collaboration from deans and coaches to ensure returning students are registered. As of now, the Fall headcount stands at 1,459.

4. Spring 2025 Student Activities

Recent campus activities included popular events such as the late-night breakfast and chicken nugget bar. Lavender and multicultural graduation ceremonies were also successfully held.

5. Enrollment and Retention

In terms of enrollment and retention, there are 350 first-time freshmen and transfer students expected for Fall. Summer orientations are scheduled each Wednesday, with approximately 75 students attending per session. These orientations provide an opportunity for students to finalize their financial aid, receive their class schedules, tour the residence halls, and connect with faculty—helping to solidify their commitment to enrollment. Due to ongoing campus projects, orientation sessions will be held in the Library.

The Student Search initiative recently wrapped up, and the institution will now partner with a new vendor—a full-service consulting firm that will assist with communication strategy, yield workshops, and training across enrollment functions. Dr. Borchers noted that a new university website is scheduled to launch in the Fall, which is expected to positively impact recruitment. With the support of the new vendor, changes in recruitment outcomes are anticipated beginning in Fall 2026.

Lou suggested that Katie consider joining the GA orientation team, and Katie agreed to participate.

6. Arts Update

The Arts department recently concluded their production of *She Kills Monsters*, with a creative team composed primarily of students. Additionally, faculty member Matt Harder had a composition featured by the Wheeling Symphony. The piece was inspired by the poem *Where I'm From* and was celebrated with a reception at the downtown Foundation Office.

7. Athletics Update

The Athletic Department celebrated its 14th consecutive semester with a cumulative GPA above 3.0. The softball team reached the championship game but narrowly lost to Charleston, ending the season with a record of 31-25. The baseball team finished at 23-26. Men's track and field had a standout spring, and acrobatics and tumbling was recommended to become an official NCAA championship sport. Both the women's tennis and men's golf teams had strong seasons. WL alumnus Seger Bonifant has been elected to the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame. The WESPY awards were a success, drawing over 300 online viewers. The annual Larry Lowe Golf Scramble is scheduled to take place later this month.

8. **Community Connections**

RISE continues to host monthly meetings and networking events. Planning is underway for Fall student engagement activities, including a "business crawl." The May meeting focused on helping students navigate the job search process. For more information and resources, visit www.wheelingrise.org. Additional discussions took place regarding internships, experiential learning opportunities, and compensation structures.

Adjournment—Katie Kacmarik motions to adjourn. Tom Cervone seconds the motion. Motion to adjourn approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway

Stephanie Shaw _____
Chair