

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Student Life Committee  
Minutes  
July 29, 2024**

**In Attendance:** Stephanie Shaw, Katie Kacmarik, David McKinley, Tom Cervone, Lou Karas

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

**Unable to Attend:** Jamie Evick, Rich Lucas, Jenna Maguire, Rich Lucas

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

- a. Chair, Stephanie Shaw, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM

**2. Approval of Minutes**

May 20, 2024

On motion by Tom Cervone and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, the West Liberty University Student Life Committee unanimously approved the minutes of May 20, 2024.

**3. Enrollment Update-Katie Cooper**

Katie provided an update on Fall 2024 Admissions and Recruitment. She shared that our undergraduate budget projection was 525 and we're currently at 516. Outreach is being increased to these students in hopes of reducing the summer melt. We currently have 964 returning students. Graduate students are heading in the right direction with 4 programs currently meeting their hours goal. Some discussion took place about summer melt and how the FAFSA process went this Fall.

**4. Student Activities Update-Katie Cooper**

Katie provided an update on Fall 2025 Student Activities. Topperfest will take place 8/23-9/5 and includes Topper Wars, Build a Topper, and dessert at the President's House. The full schedule of events is posted on our website. A new student orientation was added on Saturday to remind students of the resources available to them on campus. Students will also meet with their College 101 advisors this day before classes even start. A tour of Oglebay has been added in conjunction with Ohio County and Oglebay. The trolley will pick students up on campus and take them for the tour. Lou Karas also noted that there's also a Resource Fair held in the College Union on Sunday. This helps students get connected to resources that they'll need right away.

**5. Enrollment and Retention Initiatives-Katie Cooper**

Orientations-Katie shared that Orientations are all-day events. There is an orientation fee of \$150 on their fall bills but we use it to help with the cost of Topperfest.

Black & Gold Days-A summer Black & Gold day was held last Friday. This is like an Open House for recruitment and 125 guests were on campus for this particular date. This would be Fall 2024-Fall 2027 prospective students.

Extended Hours-Many offices have extended hours during opening weekend. This will help students to make sure they can take care of things that they need to while they're moving in and parents are still here.

**6. Arts Update-Katie Cooper**

A Youth Music Camp was held in June and campus tours were given to those in attendance. More information and photos from the camp can be found on the Music website or Facebook page.

**7. Athletics Update-Brad Forshey**

Brad shared that Oglebay is offering a discounted golf rate of \$44/round for all WLU students. Discounts are available M-Th after 3:00 PM with a Topper ID.

Women's Basketball was ranked #12 on the WBCA Academic Honor Roll and Men's Basketball was one of two teams in the state to receive a NABC Team Academic Excellence Award. Volleyball

earned AVCA Team Academic Award for their 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The Hilltoppers also finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 2023-24 MEC Commissioner's Cup Standings.

Women's Empowerment Group-Women in Coaching (WIC) held two meetings over the summer and are planning to arrange for guest speakers.

A Fall Cookout for all student-athletes will be held once all students are back and Brad is hoping to attract freshmen to attend athletic events and make game days a big deal for fans, students, and athletes.

**8. Community Connections: Lou Karas**

Lou shared that she will be offering the Kids on Campus Program again this year when Ohio County students don't have school. Faculty and Staff can sign up to bring their kids to the Center for Arts & Education. Lou added that Kerry Lee, a Music Ed Alum, is a Program Specialist with Ohio County Schools will attend Kids on Campus days. Kerry will be holding a story time in the Children's Section of the Library. Kathleen Wack's Health/PE students will also host activities in Blatnik for the students.

**9. DEI Update-Katie Cooper**

The committee is already creating a schedule for the upcoming year. Activities include an African American Read-In, Second Chance Prom, Native American Heritage Month and Hispanic Heritage Month events.

**10. Other-President Borchers**

Workforce Development-The Workforce group has met about 4 times so far. Discussions have started about finding gaps and what we can do to promote workplace tours, job shadowing, internships, and getting students employed in our local community. This group has partnered with the Wheeling Chamber and they now have a section on their website where local jobs can be posted. Business After Hours will be held on campus on September 4<sup>th</sup> on the Quad and before that, breakout sessions will be held in the Theater for students. Presentations will include information on job search, networking, etc.

**Adjournment--Tom Cervone motions to adjourn. David McKinley seconds the motion. Motion to adjourn approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 AM.**

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway

Stephanie Shaw \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair