

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
February 3, 2021**

Attendance:

Jack Adams, Kelly Baker, Michael Baker, Richard Carter, Linda Cowan, Jamie Evick, Rich Lucas, Isabella Yakicic

Unable to Attend:

Joe Carey

Administration/Faculty/Staff:

Scott Cook, Brian Crawford, Mary Ann Edwards, Matthew Harder, Angela Hill, Stephanie Hooper, Jason Koegler, Jeremy Larance, Roberta Linger, Cathy Monteroso, Sara Sweeney, Ron Witt

I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Quorum and Mission Statement

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and a quorum was established.

II. Introductions

None.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Agenda Order

No changes to the agenda order.

V. Approval of Minutes*

A. Minutes of the Full Board December 9, 2020*

On motion by Michael Baker and seconded by Jack Adams, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the full Board of December 9, 2020.

B. Minutes of the Executive Committee January 20, 2021*

On motion by Jack Adams and seconded by Richard Carter, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of December 2, 2020.

VI. Board Items for Approval*

None.

VII. Reports

A. Provost (Crawford)

Dr. Crawford stated that with regard to academics, the HLC has combined the site visit for the MA in Art Therapy and Counseling and the MS in Speech Language Pathology for February 15-16, 2021. Only the team chair will be on site, with two other members joining remote. The HLC Panel Review of the MS in Exercise Physiology proposal is in progress. The BA in Music proposal is waiting for approval by the HEPC. This Friday's meeting of the HEPC was cancelled, with the next meeting to be held April 30th.

The final lists of employees and health science students were sent to the Wheeling/Ohio County Health Department today. By the end of next week all should have had their first dose of the vaccine. 233 employees and 109 health science students names were submitted and a number of other employees have already been vaccinated elsewhere.

B. Enrollment (Cook)

Mr. Cook gave an enrollment update, noting that the spring 2020-2021 semester is up nearly 3%. Once enrollment is verified we should still be above a 2% increase for the spring. Numbers are up in graduate, early entrance high school, transfers, and non-degree students. Continuing student numbers are down primarily due to new students being down in the fall by over 100. It is critical for us to keep students here once they're enrolled, keeping in mind every contact, whether positive or negative, impacts enrollment. Accepted applications for fall 2021 are down 17%. With continuing COVID challenges for admission we are still not able to get in the high schools or hold large admission events, but this is not unique to WLU.

C. Staff (Baker)

None.

D. Faculty Senate (Cowan)

None.

E. Student Government (Yakicic)

Ms. Yakicic stated that the SGA is back to in person meetings and are following all COVID guidelines. Elections were held last night and as of today, nine new Senators were added to the Association. If you've been out on campus near Shaw Hall and the quad side of Main Hall you will see the new SGA sponsored campus directories. The SGA is also planning on working and partnering with the University to improve the campus for students, and hope to contribute to the retention of students.

F. Foundation (Hill)

Ms. Hill stated that the endowment has grown 41% over the last four years, bringing it to approximately \$20.5 million at the close of fiscal year 2020. To date the endowment stands at over \$21 million. A discussion followed on the makeup of the endowment, noting that unrestricted funds represent 4%. Fiscal Year 21 fundraising has just surpassed \$1 million.

VIII. President's Report

Dr. Evans presented a PowerPoint update, noting the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan core priorities are: Demonstrate academic success, emphasize University branding, strengthen community engagement, ensure operational excellence, and enhanced student experience. Presidential priorities are enrollment, financial stability, student success, community focus, and alumni engagement. Dr. Evans continued with the many unique aspects of WLU, those being affordability, small class size, low student-faculty ratio, rural setting/family environment, safe/secure campus, strong athletics, exceptional academics, and dedicated/caring employees.

With regard to enrollment, spring 2021 is at 2,271 students wherein 2020 was at 2,208 students. The residence halls for spring 2021 are at 905, with spring 2020 at 1041. Undergraduate and housing revenues are at 98% of the estimated budget, with the 4th quarter state appropriation of approximately \$3 million due by March 31, 2021.

COVID testing continues on campus with weekly surveillance testing and a virtual Spring Convocation will be held tomorrow at noon. The HLC visit for the MS in Speech-Language Pathology and MA in Therapy and Counseling is set for February 15 & 16, 2021. February is Black History Month and Dr. Evans has participated in several virtual presentations. We are also celebrating the 100th anniversary of *The Trumpet*. With regard to athletics, the wrestling team is headed to the MEC Championship this Saturday and the basketball teams are playing a limited number of games.

Dr. Evans has participated in numerous meetings and offered up greetings to various groups, both virtual and in person. He is currently serving on the Board on the Ohio County Development Authority and recently attended his first WLU Foundation Board meeting.

IX. Finance Report

Ms. Linger reported on the current budget status, with revenue and expenses as expected. There is still uncertainty with expenses due to COVID 19, but overall we are in better shape than expected. The 4th quarter state appropriation is due at the end of March.

X. Information Gathering

None.

XI. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, March 31, 2021

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Richard Lucas _____
Chair

Jack Adams _____
Secretary