

WLU Board of Governors

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Shaw Hall Board Room

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

ID: 2279178923347

Passcode: BB2MZ3Mh

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Quorum and Mission Statement**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Public Comment** Description: Up to 10 individuals may sign in to speak in open session for three minutes each. The sign-in sheet will be available from Cyndi Galloway fifteen minutes prior to the meeting until the noticed start time.
- IV. Agenda Order (Board may move to change order of consideration)**
- V. Approval of Minutes***
 - A. Minutes of the Full Board Regular Meeting April 15, 2026* (pgs. 3-5)
- VI. President's Report** (pg. 6)
- VII. Reports**
 - A. Academic Affairs (Monteroso, pg. 7)
 - B. Student Affairs/Enrollment (Cooper, pg. 8)
 - C. Fiscal Affairs/Facilities (Hudson, pg. 9)
 - D. Athletics (Forshey, pg. 10)
 - E. Foundation (Delk, pg. 11)
 - F. Faculty (Kreisberg)
 - G. SGA (Sweat)
 - H. Staff (Karas)
- VIII. Board Items for Approval***
 - A. **FY27 Budget** (pg. 12)
 - B. **Capital Budget** (pg. 13)
 - C. **Salary Enhancement** (pg. 14)
 - D. **Name Change—Division of Finance and Administration** (pg. 15)
 - E. **2026-2027 Meeting Schedule** (pg. 16)
 - F. **Election of Officers** (pg. 17)
 - G. **Notice of Intent—Revision of BOG Rule 4.3** (pg. 18)
 - H. **President's Goals 2026-2027** (pg. 19)
 - I. **Student appeal of expulsion and possible process for considering the appeal of an expulsion**
- IX. Discussion Items**
 - A. **BOG Retreat Planning**
- X. Information Gathering** (Members may ask questions or gather information to prepare for future agenda items without general discussion or action at this meeting.)
- XI. Next Meeting Date - Wednesday, August 12, 2026**
- XII. Adjournment**

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
April 15, 2026**

Attendance: Rich Lucas, Will Turani, Mike Baker, Luke Sweat, Katie Kacmarik, Lou Karas, Robert Kreisberg, Erikka Storch, Tom Cervone

Unable to Attend: None

Administration/Faculty/Staff/Guests: Neil Szmunsky, Tim Borchers, Cyndi Galloway, Brad Forshey, Jacob Manning, Cathy Monteroso, Katie Cooper, Ann Saurbier, Sherri Theaker, Joe Horzempa

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and a quorum was established.

II. Introductions: None.

III. Public Comment: Neil Szmunsky, MLS Program Director, addressed the Board regarding the proposed closure of the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program. He emphasized the critical role MLS graduates play in healthcare and noted ongoing statewide and national shortages, including significant hiring incentives offered by healthcare organizations. He shared concerns about the impact the program's closure may have on local hospitals that rely on WLU graduates and noted current student enrollment in the program. Mr. Szmunsky also referenced potential cost-saving measures and external funding opportunities that could support the program.

IV. Approval of Minutes*

Minutes of the Full Board – February 11, 2026

On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Will Turani, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of February 11, 2026.

V. President's Report

President Borchers reported that nursing students and Chair Jessica Davis recently traveled to Washington, D.C., and nine students attended a psychology conference in New Orleans. The University also celebrated its first doctoral graduate successfully defending her dissertation. Key performance indicators remain stable, with revenue on target and expenses generally within projections, though utilities and contracts are slightly elevated. Admissions and housing numbers are trending higher than the previous year. The University hosted the Intermediate Court of Appeals on campus with strong attendance and positive coverage. Additionally, three congressionally directed funding requests totaling approximately \$4 million have been submitted. An aviation ribbon cutting is scheduled for April 24. A strategic planning update will be shared in June. Dr. Moonjung Kung will be on sabbatical in the fall to research the integration of artificial intelligence into the graphic design curriculum.

VI. Board Reports

A. Academic Affairs (Monteroso)

Cathy Monteroso reported that the Mental Health Counseling program has received HLC approval and will launch in Fall 2026. A Bachelor of Applied Sciences program will also begin in the fall, along with a construction management program currently under Faculty Senate review before submission to HEPC. The Physician Assistant program has expanded by seven students.

Five-year program reviews and monitoring reviews have been completed. Recommendations from the Program Review Task Force and the President are detailed in the Board packets.

5-Year Recommendations:

MA Art Therapy Counseling—Continue
BS Chemistry—Revise/Restructure
BS Creative Art Therapy—Continue
BA Elementary Education—Continue
BS Psychology—Continue
BA Secondary Education--Continue

Monitoring Recommendations:

AS/BS Dental Hygiene—Continue
BA English—Revise/Restructure
BS Nursing—Monitoring
BS Pre-Professional SPA—Monitoring
BA Visual Communication—Continue

Digital badge graphics for micro-credentials have been developed. Three students are presenting research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Cathy also introduced Joe Horzempa as Interim Dean of the College of Sciences.

B. Student Affairs/Enrollment (Cooper)

Katie Cooper reported total enrollment of 1,002 students, including 826 continuing and 176 new students. Fall 2026 enrollment and housing trends are positive. Recruitment efforts in local feeder schools are showing improvement. EAB marketing efforts have reached over 50,000 prospective students. Some members of the Critical Incident Response Team will attend a state symposium, and student engagement activities for Spring Week are underway.

C. Fiscal Affairs (Hudson)

Lori Hudson reviewed the budget through the end of March, noting operations remain within acceptable ranges despite a tight budget. The proposed FY27 Tuition and Fee schedule includes modest increases to housing, online programs, and select fees. The proposed FY27 revenue budget is approximately \$46 million, reflecting increased operational costs. Deferred maintenance updates include state funding for roof replacements, paving, and fire system improvements.

D. Athletics (Forshey)

Brad Forshey provided athletics updates, including an impact story involving staff member, Chad Salisbury, participating in a kidney donation. Additional updates were shared through distributed materials.

E. Foundation (Delk)

Foundation revenue for FY26 is nearing \$1.9 million. The Topper Day of Giving raised over \$364,000, marking the most successful year to date. Recent gifts have supported scholarships, including the Megan Dart Memorial Volleyball Scholarship. Alumni engagement efforts continue, with upcoming events including the Larry Lowe Golf Scramble and Homecoming.

F. Faculty Representative (Kreisberg)

Robert Kreisberg highlighted faculty and student research achievements and participation in academic conferences. He raised concerns regarding scholarship credit hour requirements and early graduation trends. Further discussion on this topic will occur at a future meeting.

G. SGA Representative (Sweat)

Luke Sweat reported that he and Ashley Law have been reelected as SGA President and Vice President. Spring student programming is underway, including Spring Fling, Greek Week, and Spring Week. He also shared student concerns related to housing contracts, registration issues, graduation fees, and communication challenges across campus.

H. Staff Representative (Karas)

Lou Karas reported that she will attend the WV Advisory Council of Classified Employees meeting. Updates were also shared regarding student leadership conference participation and a community indoor farmers market initiative on campus.

VII. Board Items for Approval*

- A. **Five-Year Program Review Recommendations** – On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Will Turani, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the Five-Year Program Review Recommendations as presented.
- B. **Monitoring Review Program Recommendations** – On motion by Tom Cervone and seconded by Rich Lucas, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the Monitoring Review Program Recommendations as presented.
- C. **BOG Rule 1.5 (combining Rules 28, 29, 32)** – On motion by Erikka Storch and seconded by Stephanie Shaw, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve BOG Rule 1.5 as presented.
- D. **FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule** – On motion by Tom Cervone and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule as presented.
- E. **FY27 Revenue Budget** – On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Erikka Storch, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the FY27 Revenue Budget as presented
- F. **Spring 2026 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree** – Stephanie Shaw recused herself. On motion by Tom Cervone and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the Spring 2026 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree as presented.

VIII. Discussion Items

MLS Program: Discussion continued regarding workforce demand, prior reviews, and future consideration. Additional data may be presented at the June meeting.
BOG Self-Assessment Results: The Board agreed to allow additional time for review and revisit in June.

IX. Executive Session

At 5:40 p.m., a motion to enter executive session was made by Will Turani and seconded by Erikka Storch; motion passed unanimously.
Executive Session began at 5:40 p.m.
A motion to rise was made by Rich Lucas and seconded by Mike Baker; motion passed unanimously.
Executive Session ended at 5:58 p.m. with no action taken.

X. Adjournment

On motion by Mike Baker and seconded by Rich Lucas, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Chair _____
Secretary _____

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway

**President's Report to Board of Governors
June 10, 2026**

1. Key Updates Since April Meeting

- The University Planning Committee completed its work for the year. The final report is available to you in print or in Teams.
- The ASPIRE U Employee Leadership program graduated its second class.
- We held the Gary E. West Aviation Center ribbon cutting on April 24. We also introduced the "West Woods" as part of this event to thank the West family for the cabins and associated property.
- The University has switched to the Microsoft platform. IT Directory Becky McCullough will provide more details in her annual IT report.
- We are planning a professional development day for staff and faculty on June 11.

2. Other Activities and Accomplishments

- A team of WLU emergency personnel attended a training session in Charleston sponsored by the HEPC and conducted by the FBI.

3. Personnel Items at the Cabinet Level or President's Reports

- None at this time.

Respectfully submitted by: Tim Borchers, President

**Academic Affairs Report to Board of Governors
June 10, 2026**

1. Faculty Activities Report

Uploaded to the Teams Board of Governors, 20260610 Meeting Materials, Faculty Activities Report.

- 2025-26 Faculty Awards and Honors
- 2025-26 Faculty Contracts, Grants, and Sponsored Research
- 2025-26 Faculty Creative Works
- 2025-26 Faculty Editorial and Review Activity
- 2025-26 Faculty General Service
- 2025-26 Faculty Intellectual Contributions
- 2025-26 Faculty Presentations

2. Program Review

Submitted to HEPC

3. New program development includes:

- Intent to Plan Construction Management approved by Faculty Senate
- Submitted to WV HEPC – returned with no concerns
- Development begins in the Fall 2026 intended start date Fall 2027

4. Graduation

- Undergraduates 253
- Masters 49
- Doctorate 8
- PA Graduation June 12 – 16 Graduates

5. Graduate Studies Report

Director of Graduate Studies, Jim Temple

The Initiative in Graduate Studies has been reviewing programs to generate interest and drive enrollment growth.

- Master of Business Administration: Implemented new tracks
 - Accounting
 - Project Management
 - Management
 - Marketing
 - Microcredential: Project Management
- Master of Arts and Education: Implemented 2 new tracks
 - Inclusive and Trauma-Responsive Teaching
 - Integrated STEAM Teaching
 - Microcredential: Collaborative and Inclusive Teaching
- Master of Science in Biology
 - Microcredential: Graduate Certificate in Zoo Science
- Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling

Respectfully submitted by: Cathy Monteroso, Provost & VP for Academic Affairs

**Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Report to Board of Governors
June 10, 2026**

1. Enrollment

- a. Current Fall 2026
 - i. Total Headcount - 1393
 - ii. Undergraduate FTE – 1123
 - 1. Prior to any Dual enrollment registration
 - iii. Graduate Hours– 1523 for Fall semester

2. FY27 Budget Projection

- a. Total Undergraduate Headcount – 1420
- b. Undergraduate FTE – 1391
- c. Graduate Hours – 5010 Full Year projections
 - i. Does not include Physician Assistant hours.
- d. Housing – 933 for full year projection.

3. Marketing and Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Updates

- a. Orientation
 - i. Orientation registration is off to a strong start, with 342 first-time freshmen and transfer students signed up so far. Every Wednesday this summer, offices from across campus come together to create a personalized, one-on-one experience for students and their families — helping them finalize schedules, tour their residence halls, navigate our systems, and get all their questions answered before the fall semester begins.
- b. EAB 26-27 Enhancements
 - i. Expansion of digital channels including LinkedIn, YouTube, Spotify, and connected TV advertising
 - ii. Advanced targeting strategies such as geo-fencing, cross-device retargeting, and look-alike audiences
 - iii. AI-driven conversation agents enabling real-time, two-way engagement via web, SMS, and campaigns
 - iv. Dynamic, multi-channel communication journeys that respond to student behaviors and milestones
 - v. Expanded parent engagement strategy through new platforms and integrated communications

4. Student Affairs

- a. End of Year Activities
 - i. The end of the year was filled with exciting events for our students, including the always-popular Late-Night Breakfast, featuring inflatables, a chicken nugget bar, and plenty of finals prep activities to help students recharge and refocus during exam week.
- b. Summer Camps and Conferences
 - i. We are preparing to host our first camp in a couple weeks. Currently we have 17 camps and conferences scheduled for this summer ranging from Upward Bound, sports camps and several high school band camps. Always thankful for the help of everyone on campus across the board from housekeeping, turning over the residence halls quickly to food services making sure options are available for camps.

5. Staffing

- a. Vacant Positions
 - i. Admissions Counselor
 - ii. Campus Police Officers

Respectfully submitted by: Katie Cooper, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

**WLU Fiscal Affairs & Facilities Report to Board of Governors
June 10, 2026**

I. Update of Division/Area

FY26 Budget Status Report through May 20, 2026:

- Revenue
 - Undergraduate tuition & fee revenue exceeded projection
 - Graduate tuition & fee revenue exceeded projection
 - Housing & meal plan revenue exceeded projection
 - Appropriation met projection
 - Other income exceeded projection
- Expenses
 - Closely monitoring expenses through the end of the fiscal year
 - On target with the exception of Contract Services and Other

II. Other Matters of Focus – Board Approval Requested

- FY27 Operational and Capital Budget
- FY27 Pay Raises – Governor signed legislation and WLU allocation

III. Facilities

- Remaining Deferred Maintenance Funds - \$2,479,000 for FY27
- Summer work
 - West Virginia First Foundation – renovation of 2 classrooms in Main
 - AACC – Greenhouse, flooring, kitchen lab
 - Krise Fit – light renovation
 - Aviation classroom
 - Topper Village and UP 1 & 2 Exit
 - HVAC Preventative Maintenance
 - Work Orders and PM Work Orders

IV. Functional Expense Areas – Salaries and Benefits benchmarking of Student Services, General Institutional Support, and Instruction for AY24-25.

Respectfully submitted by: Lori Hudson, VP of Fiscal Affairs

Athletics Report to Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

Athletic Updates:

West Liberty celebrated student-athlete achievements at the third annual WESPY Awards inside the ASRC. The event featured a gold carpet reception, awards ceremony, and live stream on Topper Station, with Dave Flatley Director of Marketing for of The Health Plan serving as emcee.

The football and volleyball programs hosted a “Get in the Game” donor drive in partnership with NMDP as part of the national initiative founded by coach Andy Talley. Student-athletes helped educate and register potential blood stem cell and bone marrow donors, resulting in 207 new registrations.

Women’s wrestlers Cassia Zammit and Mariah Mills earned All-American honors at the U.S. World Team Trials, with Zammit recognized in the U23 division and Mills in the U20 division.

Groups of WLU student-athletes volunteered at the NFL Draft in Pittsburgh, assisting with event operations at Acrisure Stadium during the three-day event. Participants represented tennis, track & field, cross country, and men’s soccer.

The WLU men’s golf team qualified for the NCAA Atlantic/East Regional Championship, while freshman Adam Gill advanced to the NCAA Division II National Championship in Boulder Creek, Nevada.

Senior Francis Toohey captured the MEC Championship in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:53.99, while teammate Zachary Workman finished second.

The West Liberty softball team qualified for the MEC Tournament, with Paytyn Tucker earning First Team All-MEC honors. Jaden Conrad, Kadence Pettit, and Sarah Simon received Second Team recognition.

Baseball Student Athlete Hunter White was named First Team All-MEC.

Men’s tennis standouts Barney Cowan and Pablo Zubieta earned CSC Academic All-District honors for excellence both on the court and in the classroom. Cowan has 3.71 cumulative GPA as a marketing major and Zubieta graduated with a 3.5 cumulative GPA while completing his MBA

Junior golfer Justin Doerr was named to the NCAA Division II PING Atlantic All-Region Team after recording four top-five and six top-10 finishes during the season.

The Athletic Department continued its academic success during the Spring 2026 semester with a department-wide GPA of 3.33, marking the 16th consecutive semester above a 3.0 GPA. A total of 106 student-athletes earned perfect 4.0 GPAs, while 313 finished with GPAs of 3.0 or higher. Every athletic program posted a team GPA above 3.0 for the semester.

Respectfully submitted by: Brad Forshey, Athletic Director

**WLU Foundation Report to Board of Governors
June 10, 2026**

Total Revenue (including pledges) - \$2,315,051.49 (as of 5-11-26)

Annual Fund: \$143,872.81

Significant Gifts:

\$250,000 pledge of Marty and Patti Adams – to support unpaid internships and add to their existing scholarship endowment

Recent Events and Activities:

Make Your Topper Mark – 65 donors
Aviation Center Ribbon Cutting

Upcoming Events:

Lary Loew Hilltopper Golf Scramble – Friday, June 26
WLUF Quarterly Board Meeting – Friday, July 24 at 2:30pm
Stewardship Mailing – late June
Homecoming Weekend – October 16-18
Tri-State Tax Institute – Tuesday, October 27

Respectfully submitted by: Betsy Delk, Executive Director WLUF

West Liberty University Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

FY27 BUDGET

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

West Virginia Code §18B-2A-4 states that the governing boards determine, control, supervise and manage the financial, business and education policies and affairs of the state institution of higher education under its jurisdiction.

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approves the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget as presented based on the recommendation from the Finance Committee.

West Liberty University Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

FY27 CAPITAL BUDGET
WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

West Virginia Code §18B-2A-4 states that the governing boards determine, control, supervise and manage the financial, business and education policies and affairs of the state institution of higher education under its jurisdiction.

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approves the Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget as presented based on the recommendation from the Finance Committee.

West Liberty University Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

SALARY ENHANCEMENT
WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve salary enhancements effective July 1, 2026, as presented.

West Liberty University Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

Per Board Policy 4, creating a new administrative unit headed by an individual who reports to the President requires board approval.

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, the West Liberty University Board of Governors approves changing the Division of Fiscal Affairs to the Division of Finance and Administration.

West Liberty University Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

2026-2027 BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING SCHEDULE

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

West Virginia statute §18B-2A-2 states that the boards of governors shall hold at least six meetings in every fiscal year, including an annual meeting each June for the purpose of electing officers.

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the 2026-2027 BOG Meeting Schedule as provided.

West Liberty University Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

The BOG Bylaws state that at the Annual Meeting, the Board shall elect the following officers to serve a one-year term beginning the first day of July of that year through the thirtieth day of June of the following year and until after their respective successors have been duly elected.

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, that the BOG officers for next year are appointed as elected.

West Liberty University Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

NOTICE OF INTENT: BOG RULE 4.3

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

A Notice of Intent to review and update Board Rule 4.3, Waivers. Once updated, this Rule will be sent to campus for a 30-day comment period and BOG approval will be requested at a future Board Meeting.

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve Notice of Intent, as presented.

West Liberty University Board of Governors
June 10, 2026

PRESIDENT'S 2026-2027 GOALS

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

Board Policy 9 calls for the President's goals with the Executive Committee with a report to the full Board during Executive Session in May or June.

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approves the President's goals for 2026-2027.