

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
October 15, 2025**

Attendance: Robert Kreisberg, Mike Baker, Luke Sweat, Lou Karas, Rich Lucas, David McKinley, Katie Kacmarik, Jamie Evick, Stephanie Shaw, Tom Cervone

Unable to Attend: Will Turani, Erikka Storch

Administration/Faculty/Staff/Guests: Tim Borchers, Cyndi Galloway, Brad Forshey, Sylvia Berman, Jacob Manning, Cathy Monteroso, Katie Cooper, Betsy Delk, Lori Hudson, Ann Saurbier, and Cecilia Konchar Farr

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

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

II. Introductions

None.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Agenda Order (Board may move to change order of consideration)

V. Approval of Minutes*

A. Minutes of the Full Board and Special Meeting August 13, 2025*

On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the full Board and Special Meeting of August 13, 2025.

VI. President's Report

Dr. Borchers highlighted the success of the campus trails and invited attendees to an 11 AM hike on Saturday morning, noting that the trails have been a great addition to campus life. Dental Hygiene students recently visited Madison Elementary School to provide dental cleanings, showcasing community engagement. The AI Task Force has been meeting regularly, creating AI literacy outcomes and discussing strategies for integrating AI into academic programs.

Additionally, the Leadership Program has enrolled 15 employees and is expected to foster leadership development throughout the year.

Dr. Borchers and Betsy attended alumni gatherings in Columbus, Charleston (WV), and Charleston (SC) to encourage alumni to reconnect and consider attending reunions. Homecoming is scheduled for October 25th with numerous activities planned. Dr. Borchers shared a demo of the new website, which will launch later this year. The site will be visually appealing, recruitment-focused, and developed by EFK. It will feature career opportunities prominently and include dynamic content and imagery to align with modern college websites.

The 2025 Wall of Honor inductees include Joe Nolan, Mickey Marotti, Kym Gable, and Denise Penz. They will be honored at the President's Recognition Banquet next Friday evening.

VII. Board Reports

A. Academic Affairs (Monteroso)

Cathy Monteroso reported on the Student Success and Engagement initiative, which is piloting this fall with a full rollout planned for spring. Faculty feedback has been positive. Microcredentials will be supported through the Accredible badging platform. A workforce meeting is scheduled for November 18 in collaboration with WVNCC and HEPC to address workforce gaps and prepare students for employment. Program reviews were discussed in detail: focused reviews are due December 1, five-year reviews are required by HEPC Series 10 and due February 1, and monitoring reviews will continue. David McKinley raised concerns about the timeline for implementing changes, suggesting adjustments to allow quicker action, but the assessment team will also need time to go through process, too. The review task force includes Tom Cervone, CFO, Cathy Monteroso, Sarah West, Tammy McClain, and Sylvia Berman.

B. Student Affairs/Enrollment (Cooper)

Katie Cooper shared enrollment data: Fall 2025 headcount is 2,235, UG FTE is 1,458, graduate hours total 2,290, and housing occupancy is 897. Recruiting for Fall 2026 is underway with 418 applications and 231 accepts. Admissions are trending upward, and over 140 transfers have been enrolled this year. The Thundering Hilltoppers program has 20 students signed up to transfer directly from WVNCC. High school visits and individual campus visits are increasing, and EAB's senior apply campaign has a 9% engagement rate, exceeding the national average of 5%. Student activities include Oktoberfest and numerous events planned after Homecoming. David suggested inviting freshmen to bring friends from high school to campus events, and Katie noted that a sibling day is under consideration.

Robert raised concerns about the Promise Scholarship not covering courses outside a student's degree requirements, such as minors unless required. Katie responded that the university now has tools to track this and is working to educate students early. Robert emphasized the need for proper advising and advisor training. Katie Kacmarik asked about tools for course planning, and Katie Cooper identified DegreeWorks as a helpful resource. The discussion will continue with the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, and SAEM.

C. Fiscal Affairs (Hudson)

Lori Hudson presented the budget status report. Undergraduate numbers exceed projections, graduate revenue is on target, and housing and meals is performing well. However, fewer students overall mean tighter operational budgets. Expenses are within acceptable ranges, with five payrolls completed out of 26. The financial statement audit by CLA resulted in a clean opinion with no material findings. CLA will present at the December finance committee and board meetings. Facilities updates include roof replacements on four buildings, window and door upgrades affecting 12 buildings, and HVAC improvements in multiple facilities. Deferred maintenance funds were fully utilized. Campus crews have completed significant in-house work in the library, AACC, Arnett, Aviation Center, Campbell Hall, and Blatnik.

D. Athletics (Forshey)

Brad Forshey reported that WL Elementary attended a volleyball game, where one player serves as their resident teacher. Athletes were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame on October 4 in the Union Ballroom. Those inducted were Damon Brooks, Lena Kalvans, Cory DelGuzzo, Eddie Garczyk, CJ Hester, Mark Johnston, and Hilary Southworth. The first annual Ohio Valley Soccer Night was hosted in collaboration with Wheeling University and was well received. WL partnered with United Way for a football game and plans to do the same for basketball. WL will host the first-ever NCAA Women's Regional Wrestling Tournament in February, marking a milestone for women's sports. Partnerships with Fanward (an AI vendor) and Max Effort (a nutrition company) were announced to enhance efficiency and athlete support, including NIL opportunities and branded nutritional products.

E. Foundation (Delk)

Betsy Delk reported \$350K in revenue for Q1, along with a \$20K grant from the David and Linda Edwards Foundation for the Dental Hygiene Program and a \$28K grant from the Raymond and Gertrude Hyer Foundation for Blatnik flooring. The FY25 audit was clean. The Hilltopper Athletic Club is operational, and the Annual Fund mailing will be sent soon. Impact of Philanthropy Award winners include Flip West and the West Family, Joan and Fred Stamp, Expand Energy, Rich and Terry Azhtzehn, and Peggie Dalrymple Mueller.

The Day of Giving is scheduled for March 25.

F. Faculty Representative (Kreisberg)

Robert Kreisberg shared that faculty are interested in seeing the ROI with EAB. He also noted faculty concerns about students using AI browsers to cheat on tests. Faculty shoutouts will be shared in the Team account.

G. SGA Representative (Sweat)

Luke Sweat reported that funds were approved for club activities, and SGA met with President Borchers. Homecoming events are finalized, and the new SGA office is in Main Hall. Canvas transition feedback has been positive, with students appreciating the improved system. Winterfest and Spring Fling are being planned.

Luke also addressed financial aid concerns that were mentioned earlier, noting that he recently talked with financial aid regarding his credits and if you are truly pursuing a degree and not taking random courses, students should be fine. He believes the issue may not be as big as it seems.

H. Staff Representative (Karas)

Lou Karas shared updates on staff involvement in committees, including the Employee Engagement Committee. Lisa McGee was August Employee of the Month, and Stephanie North was September Employee of the Month. Nominations are currently open for three staff awards: True Topper, Customer Service, and a third category.

VIII. Board Items for Approval***A. BOG Bylaws Revisions**

On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Mike Baker, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the Bylaw revisions as presented.

Dr. Borchers noted that the board meeting schedule will need to be modified and a chair will need selected for the newly combined Academic Affairs and Student Life Committees. In the interim, Stephanie Shaw and Tom Cervone have agreed to co-chair the committee.

B. Focused Program Review

On motion by Mike Baker and seconded by Tom Cervone, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the focused review process for 2025-2026.

C. Notice of Intent-Rules 28, 29, 32

On motion by Katie Kacmarik and seconded by Rich Lucas, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the Notice of Intent as presented.

D. Academic Program Discontinuation

On motion by Stephanie Shaw and seconded by Mike Baker, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the discontinuation of the

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology and the Master of Science in Criminology as presented.

IX. Executive Session

Pursuant to WV Code § 6-9A-4, at 5:44PM, a request for a motion to retire to executive session was made by David McKinley. The motion was made by Rich Lucas and seconded by Katie Kacmarik; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session began at 5:44PM

A motion to rise from executive session at 5:56PM was made by Mike Baker and seconded by Katie Kacmarik; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 5:56PM

No action was taken in executive session.

X. Information Gathering:

None.

XI. Adjournment

On motion by Mike Baker & seconded by Rich Lucas, the meeting adjourned at 5:56PM

David McKinley _____ Tom Cervone _____
Chair Secretary

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway