

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
November 10, 2025
Special Meeting**

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

Unable to Attend: Robert Kreisberg, Stephanie Shaw, Jamie Evick

Administration/Faculty/Staff/Guests: Tim Borchers, Lori Hudson, Cathy Monteroso, Jacob Manning, Cyndi Galloway, Susan Ridley, Betsy Delk

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 - Susan Ridley, Assistant Professor of Creative Arts Therapy

III. Public Comment - None.

**V. Board Items for Approval*
New Program Approval**

Dr. Borchers noted that the purpose of this meeting is to request Board approval to move forward with submission to HEPC for the Master's in Mental Health Counseling program. Susan Ridley then provided an overview of the proposed program, noting that it will be a 60-credit graduate program, which meets the minimum requirements for licensure. Of these credits, 48 will be core courses in art therapy and counseling. The program is designed to be completed in approximately 2.5 years and will be delivered through synchronous Zoom evening classes, with a virtual residency requirement and no on-campus component. A bridge program will also be available to allow students to transition from undergraduate to graduate studies. To support the program, one full-time faculty member and three adjunct faculty will be requested. Susan emphasized that this program will provide an excellent pathway for psychology majors at WLU and is expected to attract students from outside West Virginia.

During discussion, David McKinley asked how this program differs from the previously discontinued Psychology program. Susan explained that while the two programs share similarities, the psychology program was at the doctoral level, and the proposed mental health counseling program is at the master's level. This allows students to enter their professional careers more quickly and enables the university to serve more students with fewer faculty resources.

***A motion to approve the Master's in Mental Health Counseling program as presented was made by Rich Lucas and seconded by Katie Kacmarik. The motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Information Gathering:
None.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Baker and seconded by Tom Cervone.
The meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.

David McKinley _____ Tom Cervone _____
Chair Secretary