

WLU Board of Governors

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 – 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**
 - A. Jared Clark & Ryan Kramer, CliftonLarsonAllen—FY25 Audit Results
 - B. Andrew Lewis—Student Success and Engagement Presentation
- 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 October 15, 2025* (pgs. 3-6)
 - B. Minutes of the Full Board Special Meeting November 10, 2025* (pg. 7)
- VI. President's Report** (pg. 8)
- VII. Reports**
 - A. Academic Affairs (Monteroso, pg. 9-10)
 - B. Student Affairs/Enrollment (Cooper, pg. 11)
 - C. Fiscal Affairs/Facilities (Hudson, pg. 12)
 - D. Athletics (Forshey, pg. 13)
 - E. Foundation (Delk, pg. 14)
 - F. Faculty (Kreisberg)
 - G. SGA (Sweat)
 - H. Staff (Karas)
- VIII. Board Items for Approval***
 - A. **FY 25 Audit** (pg. 15)
- IX. Discussion Items**
- 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. Possible Executive Session**

In accordance with Section 6-9A-4(b)(10) of the West Virginia Code, To avoid the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize or similar award; and Section 6-9A-4(b)(9) To consider matters involving or affecting the purchase, sale or lease of property.
- XII. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, February 11, 2026**
- XIII. Adjournment**

**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

**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

II. 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.

III. Introductions - Susan Ridley, Assistant Professor of Creative Arts Therapy

IV. Public Comment - None.

**XII. 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.**

XIII. Information Gathering:
None.

XIV. 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

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway

**President's Report to Board of Governors
December 17, 2025**

1. Key Updates Since August 12 Meeting

- We hosted a successful Homecoming weekend, welcoming alums back to campus. The President's Recognition Dinner honored Wall of Honor recipients and Impact of Philanthropy award recipients.
- We hosted a nonprofit roundtable on Monday, Dec. 1 to identify opportunities for our faculty, staff, and students to engage more with the local nonprofit community.
- RISE continues to meet and last week, we held a RISE UP networking event for the healthcare sector.

2. Other Activities and Accomplishments

- We held Alumni Reunions in Charleston, WV on October 29 and Washington, PA on November 20.
- President Borchers attended the BOG summit October 29-30.
- We hosted seven students for Thanksgiving.
- We presented to the HEPC last week on Dec. 12.
- Betsy Delk and I are planning a trip to meet alums and donors in Florida and Atlanta this January.

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 December 17, 2025

Student Retention and Engagement Software

The Student Success and Engagement platform (Watermark) launched its pilot this fall with department chairs, program directors, and COLL 101 instructors.

- Full implementation is planned for **Spring 2026**.
- The platform will support early alerts, advising, and student engagement to improve retention and persistence.
- Faculty and Staff Training:
 - December 17, 2025 (Virtual) – 1:00–4:00 PM
 - January 7, 2026 – 1:00–4:00 PM

II. Micro-Credential Development

Academic Affairs is launching a micro-credential initiative with the goal of developing four credentials by 2025–26.

- Accredible will serve as the digital badging platform.
- Two credentials have been approved:
 - *PSYC Canine Cognition*
 - *MAED Collaborative and Inclusive Teaching*
- Workforce alignment efforts included participation in the Credential WV Workforce Meeting Nov. 18, 2025.

III. Program and Initiative Update

New program development:

- **Master of Arts in Counseling** – Submitted to HEPC
- **Bachelor of Applied Science** – Reintroduction under development; anticipated start **Fall 2026**

HLC Quality Initiative

The Quality Initiative, Passport, is designed to strengthen community and external partnerships by creating seamless transitions from education to employment. This strategic effort will positively and mutually benefit students, regional employers, and contribute to overall economic growth and workforce development within the Ohio Valley region. By aligning academic pathways with industry needs, Passport ensures that students are prepared for meaningful careers while supporting the vitality of our local economy.

Experiential Major Maps

As part of this initiative, we will collaborate with EAB this spring in an intensive focused on Experiential Major Maps. These maps provide a structured, holistic approach to student success by helping learners make informed decisions about coursework, integrating complementary activities such as internships and co-curricular experiences, and driving engagement throughout the pathway to degree completion. This work will promote a cohesive, well-rounded educational experience that connects classroom learning with real-world application, further advancing the goals of the Passport initiative.

IV. Community Engagement

- Nonprofit Roundtable: December 2, 2025, 19 Non-profit organization representatives and 13 WLU faculty and staff attended. Next steps moving forward a non-profit engagement fair to connect non-profits with our students for experiential learning including project and internships
- Continued collaboration with Credential WV Workforce initiatives.

V. Contribution Margin

Academic Affairs and Fiscal Affairs are working with CLA on contribution margin analysis to inform program sustainability and resource allocation. Contribution margin analysis projected for the end of the calendar year.

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

**Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Report to Board of Governors
December 17, 2025**

1. Enrollment

- a. Spring 2026
 - i. Headcount 1484 – UG and GR
 - 1. Dual Enrolled high school students have not been registered yet for the Spring semester. Anticipating 350-400 students again.
 - ii. Currently working with the Student Success Center, Coaches and Deans to enroll the additional 300 students that have not registered from the Fall.

2. Fall 2026

- a. We have 955 undergraduate applications which is down overall from last year, but nationally applications are down.
 - i. Accepts are still up 30+%, which means students are following through on transcripts and completing their next steps.
- b. We have seen an increase in our local feeder schools and applications as well as visits from local high schools and interactions at college fairs.

3. Marketing and Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Updates

- a. RFP – Student Search - EAB
 - i. We are working closely with EAB to focus on application growth. We are up in our feeder schools but need to grow in our out-of-state markets. We are also finalizing our cultivate campaigns that focus on sophomores, juniors and parents.

4. Student Affairs

- a. Student Activities
 - i. We had a lot of activities going on last week and this week for dead week and finals week. Winter Fest with cookie decorating, tree lighting, ornament decorating, crafts and bingo were all a hit. This week we focus on stress and feeding the students with an ice cream bar, posing with ponies, stress ball making, chicken nugget bar, and late-night breakfast where we had over 400 students come through.

5. Staffing

- a. Vacant Positions
 - i. Two Campus Police Officers
 - ii. Director of Admissions and Recruitment
 - 1. Our Director of Admissions left for a position outside of higher education. We are looking at some reorganizations opportunities to hopefully be able to put more boots on the ground for recruitment.

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

**WLU Fiscal Affairs & Facilities Report to Board of Governors
December 17, 2025**

Report on FY 2025 audit by CliftonLarsonAllen – unmodified, clean opinion

Budget Status Report through November 4, 2025

Revenue

- Undergraduate Tuition & Fee Revenue is exceeding the projection for the Fall 2025 semester
- Graduate Tuition & Fee Revenue is on target for the Fall 2025 semester
- Housing & Meal Plan Revenue is exceeding the projection for the Fall 2025 semester
- Appropriation received first and second quarters
- Other Revenue is on target

Expenses

- Salaries and benefits are within an acceptable range with 9 pays plus the increment posted
- All other expense categories are on target

State-funded Deferred Maintenance

- Spent nearly \$11.5 million in projects for roofs, windows and doors, and HVAC
- We will be applying to use the 18% held back funds for other deferred maintenance projects

Respectfully submitted by: Lori Hudson, VP of Fiscal Affairs

**Athletics Report to Board of Governors
December 17, 2025**

Athletic Updates:

- WLU Athletics Collaborated the Campus Catholic Ministries to raise money and donations for the WLU Food Pantry.
- Men's Cross Country finished 8th at the NCAA Regional Championship. Senior Robert Allen earned All Region Honors and was also 2nd Team All-MEC.
- Men's Soccer won their first MEC Conference Tournament game in program history in a 3-0 victory over Point Park. Ethan Neathery, Lochan Quate, and Jasper Newton all earned Hon.-Men. All-MEC. Jasper Newton, Oscar Voges, and Joao Victor Sylvino all earned Academic All-District.
- Three Women's Soccer student athletes earned Academic All District honors; they are Maya Taggart, Abigail Barki, and Emma Lieu.
- Volleyball finished the regular season with their first ever Mountain East Conference North Division Championship. Ashley Cudnik earned 1st Team All-MEC while Dakota Keni earned 2nd Team All-MEC honors. Cudnik also earned 1st Team All-Atlantic Region honors.
- Ashley Cudnik, Grace Hill, Bella Dart, and Adrienne Staib all earned Academic All-District.
- Hunter Patterson earned MEC Offensive Player of the Year and 1st Team All-MEC honors. Three other players joined him on the MEC 1st Team, Isaac Tavo, Grant Thompson, and Bri'andre Horlsey. Nolan Shimp earned 2nd team All-MEC honors. Patterson and Thompson earned 2nd Team All-Region honors.
- Men's Basketball is currently ranked 16th nationally in the NABC poll and currently sits with a 5-1 record.
- Women's basketball currently sits with a 4-3 record.
- Men's Wrestling is currently ranked 15th in the most recent NWCA national poll. Tony Wood is the MEC Men's Wrestler of the Week for the week of 12/8.
- Women's Wrestling hosted their first home dual in program history beating Point park 48-2.
- WLU was selected to host the first ever NCAA Women's Wrestling Regional Championship to be held on February 20th and 21st.
- A team from WLU consisting of student athletes; Grace Yoder and Mason Bille, and staff members Kelsey Kyle, Kate Billings, Katie Cooper, and Brad Forshey, recently attended the NCAA Impact Forum held in Indianapolis. West Liberty University was selected by the MEC as one of 26 Division II institutions to participate in the Enhanced Program. The program asks each institution to develop a campus wide project to enhance a sense of community, wellness, and belonging across campus. WLU coordinated a project to improve leadership and student engagement across campus. We developed the Emerging Leader Program at West Liberty University. Launching in Fall 2026, the program will bring together six student-athletes and six non-athletes to strengthen campus belonging and develop leadership skills. Through structured sessions, self-assessments like CliftonStrengths and LPI, peer engagement activities, and campus projects, participants will build self-awareness and prepare for future leadership roles. The plan identifies key tactics, partners, and timelines to support implementation and sustainability, with a focus on bridging community gaps and fostering a culture of growth and engagement.

Respectfully submitted by: Brad Forshey, Athletic Director

**WLU Foundation Report to Board of Governors
December 17, 2025**

Second Quarter FY26

Total Revenue Received = \$1,193,283.47 (as of 12-5-25)

Significant Gifts:

\$15,000 from Jackson Family Foundation for Jackson Family retention scholarship

Additions to the Endowment:

\$20,194.32 from the estate of Edwin B. VanLynn for a general endowed scholarship

\$620,000.00 from Estate of Jack E. Cisney to establish an endowed business scholarship

Additional gift to permanently endow the Bravo Zulu Veterans Scholarship (Denise & Karl Penz)

Additional gift to permanently endow the Todd and Joyce Kimpel Family Financial Planning Scholarship

Recent Events and Activities:

Scholarship Day – over 170 students participated

Washington PA Alumni Gathering

Tri-State Tax Institute was held on October 28

Save the Date – October 27, 2026

NIP Tax Credits – some credits still available

Upcoming Events:

WLUF Quarterly Board Meeting – Friday, January 16 @ 2:30PM

DMV Alumni Gathering/Watch Party – Saturday, February 7

Day of Giving – Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Respectfully submitted by: Betsy Delk, Executive Director WLUF

FY 2025 AUDIT

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

The West Liberty University Board of Governors is asked to approve the Fiscal-Year 2025 audit report. The Finance Committee has met with the auditors and approved moving the approval request to the full board.

Proposed Resolution: *Resolved*, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the submission of the Fiscal-Year 2025 audit report.