

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Academic Affairs & Student Life Committee
Minutes
December 2, 2025**

In Attendance: Tom Cervone, Stephanie Shaw, Will Turani, Lou Karas, Luke Sweat

Others: Tim Borchers, Katie Cooper, Cathy Monteroso, Sarah West

Unable to Attend: Robert Kreisberg (due to technical/Teams issues), Katie Kacmarik (due to technical/Teams issues), Jamie Evick, Brad Forshey

Approval of Minutes

Student Life Committee 9/29/2025

Academic Affairs Committee 9/30/2025

Motion by Stephanie Shaw, seconded by Will Turani.

Minutes of September 29th, 2025 and September 30, 2025 are approved.

Student Retention and Engagement Software

Student success and engagement remain a central focus, with faculty and staff receiving training on the new system and students actively using and engaging with it. Faculty training will take place on December 17 and January 7. Full implementation is planned for Spring 2026. The platform will support early alerts, advising, and student engagement to improve retention.

Micro-Credential Development

We've set a goal to develop four micro credentials this year, with two already completed--PSYC Canine Cognition and MAED Collaborative and Inclusive Teaching.. Workforce partners were on campus recently to help identify the skills students need most. The focus is on essential and durable skills that are already embedded in the curriculum, with the intent to formally badge these competencies.

New Program Development

Several academic programs are in development. The proposed Master's in Counseling will be presented to HEPC on December 12 and then submitted to HLC, with a planned launch in Fall 2026. In addition, a Bachelor of Applied Science is being developed to better serve students who hold applied associate degrees.

Community Engagement

Community engagement efforts continue to expand. A nonprofit summit was held on campus yesterday to explore more meaningful partnerships and increase engagement with nonprofit organizations. Discussions centered on experiential learning opportunities, including short-term or project-based experiences for students. Tom Cervone also mentioned the possibility of exploring matching funds to support higher-paying student internships or project work.

The Credential WV Workshop was held on November 18 and focused on building more collaborative relationships with businesses. Work is also underway with CLA on contribution margin analysis, with a draft expected by this Friday.

Spring Enrollment Update

Katie Cooper reviewed spring enrollment data, noting a headcount of 1,346 students excluding dual enrollment, with approximately 350 students still needing to register. For Fall 2026, efforts are focused on closing the application gap. While projections are improving, enrollment remains down year over year; however, both acceptances and completed applications are trending upward.

Fall 2025 Student Activities

A variety of student events are planned to support engagement and well-being, including bingo, cookie decorating, and a gingerbread competition. Finals week activities will feature an ice cream bar, chicken nugget bar, late-night breakfast, stress ball making, and yoga with ponies.

Enrollment and Retention Initiatives

Enrollment and retention initiatives continue in partnership with EAB, with an emphasis on sustaining application growth. The Cultivate campaign, targeting sophomores, juniors, and parents, is currently being finalized.

A staffing update was provided, noting that the admissions director departed about two weeks ago. This transition is being viewed as an opportunity to reassess and reorganize the area

Arts Update

In the arts, A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley, opens later this week.

Athletic Update

Katie and Brad attended the NCAA Impact Forum in Indianapolis, along with Kate Billings and some student-athletes. There is interest in building on the leadership program by creating a small, semester-long cohort that intentionally brings together athletes and non-athletes.

Community Connections

Community connections remain strong. Dr. Borchers continues to participate in RISE meetings, with the next scheduled for this Friday at Ohio University Eastern. A healthcare sector networking event is planned for December 11. Dr. Borchers and Dr. Williams also hosted seven students for Thanksgiving. Lou reported on two school visits during finals week, and several new partnerships are in progress. The partnership with the Create Lab continues, and students will have the opportunity to meet with the lab's founder.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. following a motion by Will Turani and a second by Stephanie Shaw.

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway

Stephanie Shaw _____

Chair