

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Academic Affairs & Student Life Committee  
Minutes  
January 27, 2026**

**In Attendance:** Cyndi Galloway, Brad Forshey, Cathy Monteroso, Tom Cervone, Jamie Evick, Robert Kreisberg, Tim Borchers, Katie Cooper, Sarah West, Katie Kacmarik, Lou Karas, and Stephanie Shaw.

**Unable to Attend:** Will Turani, Luke Sweat

**Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the December 2, 2025 meeting were approved following a motion by Stephanie Shaw and a second by Jamie Evick.

**Academic Updates**

Cathy Monteroso provided updates regarding academic initiatives. She noted that the student retention and engagement software is fully implemented for the spring semester. She also highlighted new program development underway, including:

- Master of Arts in Counseling – approved by HEPC and submitted to HLC
- Bachelor of Applied Science – reintroduction planned for Fall 2026

Contribution margin reports (CLA) have been completed and distributed to deans and chairs.

**Program Review**

Dr. Tim Borchers presented program review findings and recommendations. Outcomes may include continuation, continuation with monitoring, restructuring and revision, or phase-out and suspension. Recommendations include:

- Theater – restructure or revise
- Communication – restructure and revise
- Community Education – suspend or phase out
- Music – restructure and revise
- Social Sciences Education – continue with monitoring
- History – continue with monitoring
- Political Science – continue with monitoring
- Sociology – suspend or phase out (no current students or faculty)
- Geography – suspend or phase out (minimal enrollment)
- Exercise Physiology (Master's) – restructure and revise
- Data Science – suspend or phase out
- MBA – restructure or revise (move entirely online; accelerated option remains)
- Speech-Language Pathology (Master's) – continue with monitoring

In response to questions, Dr. Borchers noted that program phase-out timelines vary based on enrollment and program needs. Approximately twelve students total may be affected across identified programs. Students will be contacted individually prior to any public announcement. A Board of Governors vote is scheduled for February 11.

### **Board Recommendation**

A motion was made by Tom Cervone to forward the committee's program review recommendations to the Board of Governors for full approval.

The motion, made by Stephanie Shaw and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, passed unanimously.

### **Student Life Update**

Katie Cooper provided the Student Life report. Spring 2026 headcount is 1,788, with expectations to exceed 2,000. FTE projections are being surpassed, and housing and meal plan numbers remain strong. For Fall 2026, applications are down by only 18, and acceptances are up by roughly 300. The first round of financial aid award letters has been issued.

Spring semester planning is ahead of schedule, with the resource fair offering centralized services for students. Spring Fling preparations are underway, with numerous events and contracts already established.

Enrollment and retention efforts include extensive EAB-supported marketing, reaching 35,000 prospective students with email and mailing campaigns.

### **Website Updates**

Website content revisions continue as part of recruitment optimization efforts.

### **Arts Update**

The COLCA Open House is scheduled for January 30, with 13 students registered. Music scholarship audition days are also upcoming, with prospective students spending significant time on campus.

### **Athletics Update**

Brad Forshey reported that the Blatnik flooring project is complete. Student-athletes continue to excel academically. The university will host the first-ever NCAA women's wrestling regional this spring. Athletic scheduling adjustments have been handled effectively by staff.

### **Community Connections**

A nonprofit roundtable was held in December. A Nonprofit Opportunity Fair is planned for March 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m. following a motion by Stephanie Shaw and a second by Katie Kacmarik.