West Liberty University
Board of Governors

Minutes
June 10, 2026

Attendance: David McKinley. Katie Kacmarik, Will Turani, Mike Baker, Erikka Storch, Robert Kreisberg, Lou Karas, Rich Lucas, Tom Cervone, Stephanie Shaw

Unable to Attend: Luke Sweat, Jamie Evick

Administration/Faculty/Staff/Guests: Tim Borchers, Cyndi Galloway, Katie Cooper, Brad Forshey, Betsy Delk, Jacob Manning, Cathy Monteroso, Lori Hudson, Melissa Carroll, Sherri Theaker, Andrew Lewis, Neil Szmunsky, Joe Horzempa, Becky McCullough, Cecilia Konchar Farr, Ann Saurbier

I. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Quorum and Mission Statement**
David McKinley called the meeting to order at 4:01 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 April 15, 2026***
      1. On motion by Erikka Storch and seconded by Rich Lucas, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the full Board of April 15, 2026, with the correction regarding the spelling of Neil Szuminsky's name.

VI. **President's Report**
President Borchers recognized Rich Lucas for his dedicated service to the Board of Governors as his term concludes on June 30, 2026.

Dr. Borchers reported that University revenues have met or exceeded projections for the fiscal year, while expenses remain generally on target. Enrollment indicators for Fall 2026 continue to trend positively.

The Board received an overview of the 2025-2026 ASPIRE Report, highlighting institutional accomplishments, key initiatives planned for the coming year, and opportunities for continued improvement.

- **Information Technology Annual Report (McCullough)**
Becky McCullough presented the annual Information Technology report, highlighting major accomplishments and advancements throughout the fiscal year.

The IT department conducts an annual risk assessment reviewing cybersecurity controls and risk management practices. The 2026 assessment is currently underway, and preliminary results indicate the University's risk profile remains low.

Additional accomplishments included the launch of a campus technology newsletter providing educational resources and technology updates, management of more than 4,000 service tickets with a 95% satisfaction rating, and the ongoing transition from Google to Microsoft services, which began on May 15.

IT staff will facilitate several training sessions during the June Professional Development Day, with significant emphasis placed on Microsoft applications and resources. Several infrastructure and technology projects are planned for completion during the summer months.

VII. Board Reports

A. Academic Affairs (Monteroso)

Cathy Monteroso reported that faculty accomplishments continue to have a significant impact on student success and academic excellence. A Faculty Activities Report was provided in the Board materials.

The proposed Construction Management program continues development with an anticipated Fall 2027 launch. The University expects to hire personnel during Fall 2026 to support program implementation.

The Mental Health Counseling program will welcome its inaugural cohort in Fall 2026.

Dr. Monteroso also noted recent commencement milestones, including the graduation of the University's first doctoral cohort consisting of eight students. Additional graduation totals included 16 Physician Assistant graduates, 253 undergraduate graduates, and 49 graduate degree recipients.

Graduate Studies updates included revisions to tracks within both the MBA and Master of Education programs.

B. Student Affairs/Enrollment (Cooper)

Katie Cooper reported total undergraduate and graduate enrollment of 1,556 students as of June 10, 2026. Undergraduate FTE stands at 1,244, not including dual enrollment students.

Enrollment staff continue outreach efforts to students who have not yet completed registration for the fall semester. Graduate credit hours currently total 1,532, largely driven by continuing students, with new graduate student enrollment expected later.

More than 60 families participated in orientation activities on June 10, and orientation programs will continue each Wednesday throughout the summer.

Beginning in Fall 2026, enhancements to EAB recruitment efforts will further target prospective junior and senior high school students through social media initiatives. Additional financial aid communication improvements are also being implemented to better support students and advisors.

C. Fiscal Affairs (Hudson)
Lori Hudson reviewed the FY26 Budget Status Report through May 20.

Revenue categories including undergraduate tuition and fees, graduate tuition and fees, housing and meal plans, and other income all exceeded projections, while state appropriations met budgeted expectations.

Expenses continue to be closely monitored through the end of the fiscal year and remain largely on target, with contract services and certain miscellaneous categories requiring additional attention.

Lori presented the proposed FY27 Operating Budget and Capital Budget. Revenue projections include increases in housing, dining, and appropriations, resulting in a balanced budget. Utility and rental expenses are expected to decrease due to the discontinuation of apartment leases near campus.

The proposed FY27 Capital Budget includes priority projects such as roof replacements for Rogers Hall and Hughes Hall, campus paving and sidewalk improvements, and replacement of the fire panel system in Main Hall. Additional state grant funding will support Main Hall renovations and equipment upgrades.

The proposed salary enhancement plan was also presented. Following the state's appropriation of $343,551 for employee salary increases, the University developed a plan that provides a minimum two percent increase for eligible employees and will invest some out-of-pocket costs above the state appropriation received. Additional market-based adjustments will be implemented for select classifications based on salary comparisons with peer institutions.

Deferred maintenance funding of approximately $2.479 million will support numerous summer projects, including Main Hall renovations, Aviation program classroom improvements, AACC enhancements, residence hall upgrades, HVAC preventative maintenance, and other campus infrastructure projects.

Lori also reviewed functional expense comparisons among seven West Virginia institutions. Based on the analysis, West Liberty University ranked among the lowest in costs associated with student and institutional support, while maintaining the highest investment in the cost for instruction.

D. Athletics (Forshey)
Brad Forshey reported that student-athletes achieved a department-wide GPA of 3.33 during the spring semester, marking the sixteenth consecutive semester with an overall GPA above 3.0.

The third annual WESPY Awards were held on April 14, with Dave Flatley serving as master of ceremonies. Several student-athletes also assisted during the NFL Draft in Pittsburgh, with wages earned directed toward athletic fundraising efforts.

Additional initiatives included ongoing social media campaigns, the "Outside the Lines" video series, and the continued success of the "Timeless Toppers" project. An update was also provided regarding Football Coach Chad Salisbury and kidney donor Craig, both of whom are recovering well following surgery.

E. Foundation (Delk)

Betsy Delk reported Foundation revenue totaling $2,315,051 as of May 11, including $143,872 contributed to the Annual Fund.

Recent gifts included a $250,000 pledge from Marty and Patti Adams to support unpaid internships and enhance their established scholarship endowment, a $100,000 bequest from Theresa Lemasters, a $6,000 grant from the J.B. Chambers Foundation, and a $5,000 grant from the Truist West Virginia Foundation.

Upcoming events include the Larry Loew Hilltopper Golf Scramble on June 26, the Foundation Board Meeting on July 24, Homecoming Weekend on October 16-18, and the Tri-State Tax Institute on October 27. A stewardship mailing is also planned for distribution in late June.

F. Faculty Representative (Kreisberg)

Robert Kreisberg reported no concerns from the faculty.

He discussed proposed federal changes related to NIH grant funding and expressed concern regarding potential impacts on research opportunities and scientific programs. Dr. Kreisberg indicated he would share additional information with Board members regarding the proposed changes.

G. Staff Representative (Karas)

Lou Karas reported that the Higher Education Policy Commission Human Resources office is adding two positions focused on retirement support and compensation services.

She also provided an update on Employee Engagement Committee activities, including the upcoming summer picnic during Professional Development Day and a donation drive supporting children participating in OCS summer programs.

Lou recognized Alexis Shelley, Administrative Assistant in COLCA, for being selected as May Employee of the Month.

Additional Administrative Update: President Borchers provided an update regarding the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program. Ongoing discussions continue with program leadership and external partners to explore alternative operating models and potential partnerships with local healthcare organizations. Multiple options remain under consideration.

VIII. Board Items for Approval*

A. FY27 Capital Budget

Action: 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 FY27 Capital Budget as presented.

B. FY27 Operating Budget

Action: On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Stephanie Shaw, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the FY27 Operating Budget as presented.

C. Salary Enhancement Plan

Action: On motion by Erikka Storch and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the Salary Enhancement Plan as presented.

D. Board Policy 4 Name Change

Action: On motion by Mike Baker and seconded by Will Turani, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the name change from Fiscal Affairs to the Division of Finance and Administration as presented.

E. FY27 Board Meeting Schedule

Action: On motion by Erikka Storch and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the FY27 Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

F. Election of Officers

Action: On motion by Erikka Storch and seconded by Will Turani, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to retain the current slate of officers for the upcoming year.

G. Notice of Intent: BOG Rule 4.3

Action: On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to advance the Notice of Intent for revision of BOG Rule 4.3 regarding tuition waivers for students age 65 and older. The proposed revisions will undergo campus review and comment before returning to the Board for final consideration.

IX. Executive Session

Pursuant to Board of Governors Rule 1.2, W. Va. Code 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), and W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4(b)(3) and –(6), at 5:05PM, a request for a motion to retire to executive session was made by David McKinley. The motion was made by Erikka Storch and seconded by Mike Baker; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session began at 5:05PM

A motion to rise from executive session at 5:20PM was made by Mike Baker and seconded by Erikka Storch; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 5:20PM with no action taken.

Board Items Following Executive Session

A. President's FY27 Goals

Action: On motion by Erikka Storch and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the President's FY27 goals as presented. The Board noted its satisfaction with President Borchers' performance and will submit the required memorandum to HEPC.

B. Student Appeal

Action: On motion by Will Turani and seconded by Katie Kacmarik, it was adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to decline review of the student appeal and uphold the May 8 decision of the President and the April 17 decision of the Judicial Board.

X. Discussion Items:

Board members discussed plans for the August 12 Board Retreat, including a possible student lunch session, tour of the AACC, campus facilities review, enrollment updates, and strategic discussion focused on future priorities. Board materials and pre-reading resources will be distributed in advance.

Several members also expressed appreciation to Rich Lucas for his years of leadership, service, and commitment to West Liberty University.

XI. Adjournment

On motion by Rich Lucas & seconded by Mike Baker, the meeting adjourned at 5:32PM

David McKinley ______________________________ Tom Cervone ______________________________
Chair Secretary

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway