

WLU Board of Governors

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Shaw Hall Board Room

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/249468069097147?p=qD5mqlwGKlGkbAYW8d>

Meeting ID: 249 468 069 097 147

Passcode: 4oS9k6yj

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Quorum and Mission Statement**
- II. Introductions**
- 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 June 10, 2026* (pgs. 3-8)
- VI. President's Report** (pg. 9)
- VII. Reports**
 - A.** Academic Affairs (Monteroso, pg. 10-11)
 - B.** Student Affairs/Enrollment (Cooper, pg. 12)
 - C.** Fiscal Affairs/Facilities (Hudson, pg. 13)
 - D.** Athletics (Forshey, pg. 14)
 - E.** Foundation (Delk, pg. 15)
 - F.** Faculty (Kreisberg)
 - G.** SGA (Sweat)
 - H.** Staff (Karas)
- VIII. Board Items for Approval***
 - A.** Notice of Intent-Rule 1.6, Ethics (pg. 16)
 - B.** Fall 2026 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree (pg. 17)
- 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. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, October 14, 2026**
- XII. Adjournment**

**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

Chair

Tom Cervone

Secretary

Minutes submitted by: Cyndi Galloway

**President's Report to Board of Governors
August 12, 2026**

1. Key Updates Since April Meeting

- We held a professional development day for staff and faculty on June 11.
- We submitted our application for the \$463,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending that was appropriated earlier this year. This funding would support our Police and other security upgrades on campus.
- We have launched a new marketing initiative designed to improve our rankings on AI platforms.
- The Homecoming schedule has been sent out. There will be opportunities for alums to come to campus, but also to celebrate some of accomplishments during the past year.
- We will host a student-employer event on Sept 30, including a Chamber Business After Hours.
- We'll host another Nonprofit Opportunity Fair on October 8.

2. 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 August 12, 2026

I. 1 New Program Development

- Bachelor of Applied Science BAS – Fall 2026
- Master's in Mental Health Counseling – Fall 2026
- Construction Management – projected start date Fall 2027
- Early Education and Special Education online – projected start date Fall 2027

II. Experiential Major Maps (EMM)

As part of West Liberty University's Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Quality Initiative and Career Ready Campus vision, the Academic Affairs Division is developing Experiential Major Maps (EMM) to provide students with a clear pathway from major selection to experiential learning opportunities and career outcomes. The maps will serve as a comprehensive guide from acceptance through graduation, helping students understand academic milestones, co-curricular and extracurricular experiences, internships, undergraduate research opportunities, and career preparation activities.

EMMs are designed to strengthen faculty advising, support student success, and enhance career readiness by making expectations and opportunities visible throughout the student journey. A sample map has been developed, and department chairs participated in a planning retreat on August 4 to advance implementation. The initiative is scheduled to be rolled out to incoming freshmen in Fall 2026 and will also serve as a valuable student recruitment tool, highlighting the distinctive experiences and career pathways available through a West Liberty University education.

III. New Faculty

West Liberty University will welcome its newest faculty members during New Faculty Orientation on August 17-18, 2026. The two-day program is designed to introduce faculty to the University's mission, culture, academic priorities, and student-centered approach to teaching and learning.

- Biology Tyler Hill
- Construction Management - Open
- Mental Health Counseling - Misty Gibson
- Social Work - Open
- Band – Visiting Faculty Carmilo Jauregui
- Physician Assistant – Interim Program Director, Associate Professor Cynthia Spencer, Assistant Professor Ryan Rafa
- Nursing – Instructor Angeline Robertson
- Philosophy – Visiting Faculty Charles Hayes
- Business – Instructor Stacey Creely

IV. Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaffirmation of Accreditation Update

West Liberty University's next comprehensive Higher Learning Commission (HLC) site visit is scheduled for **November 15-16, 2027**. Institutional preparation is underway through the development of a comprehensive self-study that will evaluate the University's performance against HLC accreditation requirements and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, student success, and educational quality.

Over the coming year, criterion teams comprised of faculty and staff will be established to gather evidence, assess institutional effectiveness, and prepare the self-study narrative. This collaborative process will engage stakeholders across campus and provide an opportunity to highlight strengths, identify areas for enhancement, and align institutional priorities with accreditation expectations.

Overview of HLC Criteria for Accreditation

Criterion 1: Mission

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operation.

Criterion 2: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

In fulfilling its mission, the institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

Criterion 3: Teaching and Learning for Student Success

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness in fulfilling its mission. The rigor and quality of each educational program is consistent regardless of modality, location or other differentiating factors.

Criterion 4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

The institution's resources, structures, policies, procedures and planning enable it to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational programs, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

Federal Compliance Review

As part of the reaffirmation process, HLC also conducts a **Federal Compliance Review** to ensure the University meets all federal requirements related to areas such as student financial aid administration, credit hour assignment, transfer policies, student complaints, and transparency in reporting institutional information.

Preparation for the 2027 review represents an important opportunity to demonstrate West Liberty University's commitment to academic excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement while supporting the institution's strategic priorities and student-centered mission.

V. Honorary Degree

Recommendation from the Honorary Degree Committee

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

**Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Report to Board of Governors
August 12, 2026**

1. Enrollment
 - a. Current Fall 2026
 - i. TOTAL Headcount – 1800
 1. Prior to any Dual enrollment registration (Estimate 400 students)
 - ii. Undergraduate FTE – 1445
 - iii. Graduate Hours – 2116 for Fall semester
 - iv. Housing – 837 projected to live in housing for Fall semester
2. FY27 Budget Projection
 - a. Total Undergraduate Headcount – 1420
 - b. Undergraduate FTE – 1391
 - c. Graduate Hours – 5010 Full Year projections
 - i. Does not include Physician Assistant hours.
 - d. Housing – 933 for full year projection.
 - i. Prior to TV/UP discontinuation
3. Fall 2027
 - a. We already have 58 applications for Fall 2027. Our Admissions Counselors start on the road August 26, 2026.
 - b. Due to decreased engagement at our larger on campus events and as prospective students begin their college search earlier, West Liberty is reimagining campus visit experiences to focus less on traditional admissions presentations and more on meaningful engagement. New visit opportunities will emphasize career exploration, faculty interaction, student connections, and hands-on experiences that help students determine fit while building relationships with the University throughout a longer recruitment cycle.
4. Marketing and Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Updates
 - a. EAB
 - i. We've launched next year's campaign which includes a chat bot called "Ask Topper" that will help keep students engaged throughout the recruitment process.
 - b. Direct Admit
 - i. We are piloting a direct admit campaign with our dual enrolled students hoping to increase applications.
 - c. Orientation
 - i. We hosted over 450 new students and their families (over 750 guests) on campus throughout the summer during our Orientation events where students received their schedules, see their rooms, finalize any other needs and meet other incoming students. This is an all-hands-on deck program from Admissions, Student Services, Faculty, Maintenance, Athletics to Dining and Housekeeping. We are thankful for everyone's willingness to step up week to week to offer a welcoming environment across campus.
5. Student Affairs
 - a. Topperfest schedule is being finalized – which is two weeks of events across campus to engage and welcome students to campus in various ways. We focus on offering a wide range of events to acclimate students to campus while also ensuring they are informative and entertaining. Some of the favorites are Topper Wars, Build a Topper, Dessert at the President's House, Tie Dying and this year we're ending with a free shuttle and tickets to a Wildthings game.
6. Staffing
 - a. Vacant Positions
 - i. Campus Police Officers

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

**WLU Fiscal Affairs & Facilities Report to Board of Governors
August 12, 2026**

I. Update of Division/Area

FY26 Budget Status Report through June 30, 2026:

- Revenue
 - Undergraduate tuition & fee revenue exceeded projection
 - Graduate tuition & fee revenue exceeded projection
 - Housing & meal plan revenue exceeded projection
 - Appropriation met projection
 - Other income exceeded projection
- Expenses
 - Exceeded budget in Contract Services and Other
- Ended year with surplus of \$368k (revenue-expenses)

Cash Position at Year End

- Unrestricted cash \$3.2M (approximately 82 days)

Facilities & Assets placed into service in FY26 (\$4.1M):

- Security Camera Project (spanning 4 years)
- Hughes Hall brick façade
- Main Hall brick façade
- Aviation Center
- Main Hall Restrooms
- Windows / Doors acquired by the state DM grant
- Arnett Lab Renovation
- Blatnik Gym Floor
- Blatnik Fire Panel
- Trail system

Respectfully submitted by: Lori Hudson, VP of Fiscal Affairs

**Athletics Report to Board of Governors
August 12, 2026**

Athletic Updates:

Baseball received ABCA team academic excellence award.

Volleyball earned their 12th straight team AVCA academic award.

Women's basketball special mention recognition by WBCA for academics for 3rd straight year and the 8th time in 9 seasons by Coach Cooper. This marks the 11th appearance of all time.

Men's and Women's track team earned USTFCCCA All-Academic team honors. 5 Athletes were recognized for individual academic awards, Robert Allen, Timber Huysmans, Francis Toohey, Zachary Workman, and Ky'Ara Ross.

8 Hilltoppers's earned CSC academic honors, Men's Golfers Justin Doerr and Brandon Lawhon. Men's Wrestler Parker Bentley. Women's Golfer Reese Ward. Women's Wrestler's Nila Bland, Trinity Howard, Grace O'Korn, Cassia Zammit. Cassia Zammit was also named academic All-American Finalist.

2026-27 will mark the 100th season of Men's Basketball.

West Liberty Athletics finished 5th in the MEC Commissioner's Cup. Highlighted by:

Volleyball North Division Champions

Men's Basketball Regular season and Tournament Champions

Men's Wrestling Tournament Champions

We will be adding promotional games to our schedules. Visit Hilltoppersports.com for more.

This summer we have created 2 social media series to retain viewership through the summer, *Outside the Lines* and *25-26 Rewind*. These series have created a total of over 133 thousand total viewers across Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and X. These numbers will continue to grow as we have 10 more *Outside the Lines* interviews to be released and 8 more Sport Rewinds.

Respectfully submitted by: Brad Forshey, Athletic Director

**WLU Foundation Report to Board of Governors
August 12, 2026**

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Total Revenue Received from fundraising through 6/30/26 = \$2,611,446.19

Annual Fund: \$170,724.81

Significant Gifts:

\$25,000 from Thomas Pannett and Janet Pannett to establish the Pannett Family Physical Education Scholarship

\$5,000 grant from the Truist Foundation for the AI Literacy Lab

\$6,000 grant from the J.B. Chambers Foundation to support scholarships for the Hilltop Summer Music Camp

To date: \$26,600 in memorial gifts to the Clyde D. Campbell Scholarship

Recent Events and Activities:

Lary Loew Hilltopper Scramble
Stewardship Mailing

Upcoming Events:

Homecoming Weekend – October 16-18
Tri-State Tax Institute – Tuesday, October 27

Respectfully submitted by: Betsy Delk, Executive Director WLUF

NOTICE OF INTENT – RULE 1.6, ETHICS

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Action Item

A Notice of Intent to review and update BOG Rule 1.6 as presented. Once updated, Rule 1.6 will be sent to campus for a 30-day comment period and BOG approval will be requested at the October 14 Full Board Meeting.

Proposed Resolution: Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the Notice of Intent as presented.

FALL 2026 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Pursuant to WLU Procedure 238: Guidelines for Honorary Degrees and Recognition, the Honorary Degrees and Recognition Committee and the President of the University recommend that the West Liberty University Board of Governors authorizes the conferral of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (DHL) degree from West Liberty University at the December 2026 commencement as presented and approve the resolution as presented.

Action Item: Approve the preceding resolution and authorize the President of the University to confer the Doctor of Humane Letters degree as presented at its December 12, 2026, Commencement ceremony.