

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Academic Affairs & Student Life Committee
Minutes
May 26, 2026**

In Attendance: Tom Cervone, Stephanie Shaw, Will Turani, Lou Karas, Robert Kreisberg, Katie Kacmarik

Unable to Attend: Luke Sweat, Jamie Evick

Others in Attendance: Tim Borchers, Katie Cooper, Brad Forshey, Cathy Monteroso, Cyndi Galloway

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 31, 2026 meeting were approved following a motion by Stephanie Shaw and a second by Will Turani.

Academic Updates

Cathy Monteroso provided an update on academic affairs initiatives. She reported that the Intent to Plan for a new Construction Management program has been approved by the Faculty Senate and also reviewed by the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), which raised no concerns. The full proposal is expected to be presented to the Faculty Senate in September, with program development activities continuing throughout 2026. A position has already been posted to support implementation efforts, and the University is targeting a Fall 2027 launch date for the program.

Cathy also discussed the ongoing review of the Medical Laboratory Science program. Following a program review conducted in February 2024, the University continues to evaluate options to improve the program's sustainability. The current cohort-based model is not financially sustainable in its present form. Since the recent Board of Governors meeting, additional conversations with Neil and other stakeholders have identified new possibilities, including exploring hospital-based programs in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Admissions for Fall 2026 have been suspended while these options are being reviewed. Cathy noted that a recommendation will be brought forward to the committee and Board in the future and noted the University's commitment to maintaining pathways into this critical workforce area while ensuring responsible use of resources.

Cathy concluded her report with a commencement update. Commencement was held on May 9, 2026, and marked the graduation of the University's first doctoral cohort, consisting of eight students. She also recognized Stephanie Shaw for delivering the commencement address. Degree certifications are still being finalized, and the PA commencement ceremony is scheduled for June 12, 2026, with 18 students expected to graduate.

Student Affairs and Enrollment Report

Katie Cooper provided an enrollment update, reporting a Fall 2026 headcount of 1,342 students as of that morning. She noted growth in both housing occupancy and graduate student enrollment.

Katie reviewed several student engagement activities from the spring semester, including the annual Late-Night Breakfast, which was once again well received by students. She also highlighted a successful Spring Week that included activities such as Build-a-Topper and a Chicken Nugget Bar, along with other events that attracted student participation.

Katie shared that 17 camps are scheduled to begin on June 8. She noted that these camps serve as valuable recruitment opportunities for the University. She also reported that 342 incoming students are registered for summer orientation. The virtual orientation program has recently launched, and the timing is intentional in order to encourage students to attend in-person orientation sessions whenever possible. Staff are currently working with students on registration, and enrollment projections for the upcoming academic year should become clearer by the next Board of Governors meeting.

In response to a question from Robert Kreisberg regarding the apartments across the street from campus, Katie reported that all residents are expected to move out by June 15. Minor repairs, including wall patching and other maintenance work, will be completed before the properties are returned to their owners. Security measures will remain in place until all students have moved, and the University must hand the properties over by June 30. Furniture and appliances, including washer and dryer units, are currently being relocated, with some items designated for use elsewhere on campus.

Athletics Report

Brad Forshey shared several updates from Athletics. He reported that the annual WESPY Awards event was once again a major success. He also highlighted the football and volleyball programs' participation in the "Get in the Game" Donor Drive, which focused on recruiting blood stem cell and bone marrow donors. A total of 207 individuals registered as potential donors through the initiative.

Brad provided an update on Chad Salisbury's kidney donation, noting that Chad returned to campus within four days of the procedure and that reports indicate the recipient is doing well, with strong kidney function. He also shared that student-athletes participated in activities associated with the NFL Draft and earned funds that supported various fundraising efforts. Additional updates were provided on the track and field, baseball, tennis, and golf programs. Brad also reported that the Athletics Department achieved its 16th consecutive semester with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and that 106 student-athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA during the semester.

Community Connections

Tim Borchers provided an update on Community Connections, including plans for an event scheduled for September 30. The event will feature panel presentations and employment opportunities designed to connect participants with regional employers and community partners.

Financial Aid Review

Katie Cooper presented a financial aid overview and shared supporting documents through Teams. She reviewed the various types of financial assistance available to students, including federal, state, institutional, and private aid programs. Katie discussed the eligibility requirements, renewal criteria, and time limitations associated with each funding source.

She also reviewed a second document that outlined four student financial aid scenarios. Katie explained each scenario and how aid eligibility and funding sources may vary depending on individual student circumstances.

Adjournment

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m. following a motion by Stephanie Shaw and a second by Will Turani.