

**West Liberty University
Board of Governors**

**Minutes
August 12, 2026**

BOG Retreat

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

Others in Attendance: Tim Borchers, Cyndi Galloway, Cathy Monteroso, Lori Hudson, Betsy Delk, Jacob Manning, Brad Forshey, Katie Cooper

Unable to Attend: Jamie Evick

Arrival: 11:45

Lunch: 12-12:25

Tour: 12:30-2:15

Discussion: 2:15-3:45

The meeting was called to order at 11:57AM.

Opening Discussion

The retreat began with a discussion focused on institutional priorities, strategic planning, and future opportunities for growth. The campus tour is intended to provide a firsthand look at current operations, highlight accomplishments, and identify areas for potential improvement.

Participants discussed the Appalachian Aquatic Conservation Center (AACC) as an example of what is possible for the University. It was noted that significant grant writing and external funding efforts contributed to the development of the AACC, making it a strong model for future initiatives. The AACC was viewed as only the beginning of the opportunities available to the institution.

A key theme of the discussion was institutional distinction. Participants considered why students choose West Liberty University and what factors influence the selection of

specific academic programs. The conversation emphasized the importance of identifying and strengthening the University's unique advantages in order to differentiate WLU from competing institutions.

The Board's diverse professional expertise was recognized as an important resource. Members were encouraged to share insights from their respective industries and communities, as well as identify potential partnerships and connections that could benefit the University.

The group also discussed the importance of remaining aware of potential funding opportunities. Board members were asked to keep the University in mind when learning of grants, partnerships, or other resources that could support institutional initiatives.

Additionally, participants emphasized the goal of providing a consistent, high-quality experience for all students across the University.

Discussion Session (2:15 p.m.)

Following the tour, participants shared reactions and observations. Discussion focused on potential future projects that could be pursued as bond funding becomes available. The group also reviewed deferred maintenance needs and discussed the importance of addressing infrastructure improvements as funding opportunities arise.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:47PM on motion by Stephanie Shaw and seconded by Will Turani.