

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

May 1, 2020

The one hundred eighty-first meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on May 1, 2020 in Morgantown, WV via zoom webinar. Board members participating included David Alvarez, Marty Becker, Charles Capito, Elmer Coppoolse, Kevin Craig, Kate Dye, Dr. Stanley Hileman, J. Thomas Jones, Lisa A. Martin, Taunja Willis Miller, Dr. Emily Murphy, Richard Pill, Ed Robinson, J. Robert (J.R.) Rogers, Benjamin Statler, Dr. Kimberly Weaver and William Wilmoth.

Note: With this meeting being conducted via zoom webinar, there was no way to ascertain all other participants but the following WVU officers, divisional campus officers, representatives (and others) participating included:

President, E. Gordon Gee;
Vice President, Legal, Government and Entrepreneurial Engagement, Rob Alsop;
Provost, Maryanne Reed;
General Counsel, Stephanie Taylor;
Vice President and Executive Dean of Health Sciences, Clay Marsh;
Vice President for University Relations, Sharon Martin;
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Paula Congelio;
Dean of Students, Corey Farris;
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Meshea Poore;
Vice Provost for Academic Strategies, Curriculum and Assessment,
Paul Kreider;
Associate Provost for Budget, Facilities and Strategic Initiatives,
Mark Gavin;
Associate Vice President for Finance, Anjali Halabe;
Deputy General Counsel, Gary G. Furbee, II;
American Council on Education Fellow, 2018-19, Lisa M. Di Bartolomeo;
President, WVU Potomac State College, Jennifer Orlikoff;
President, WVU Tech, Carolyn Long;
Director of Internal Audit, Bryan Shaver;
Director of Communications and Marketing for Strategic Initiatives,
Erin Newmeyer;
Executive Director, Design and Construction, Joe Patten;
Executive Officer and Assistant Board Secretary, Jennifer Fisher;
Senior Executive Director, Office of Communications, John Bolt; and,
Special Assistant to the Board of Governors, Valerie Lopez.

Members of the Press also participated.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Alvarez, at 12:05 p.m. A roll call was taken to determine who was in attendance and a quorum established.

Academic Affairs Updates

Provost Maryanne Reed provided the following Academic Affairs Updates:

COVID-19 Academic Response

WVU is wrapping up our spring semester of remote instruction, with Finals “week” beginning today. For the most part, the semester went well, and far better than we expected. We received few complaints from students and faculty, despite the fast turnaround and less-than-ideal circumstances. I’m very proud of our students and faculty for their positive attitudes, as well their ability to adapt quickly to a very difficult situation.

Our colleges and schools also have done an excellent job pivoting to summer, transitioning nearly all on-campus instruction to an online format. Summer enrollments are down from last year, but not as low as we expected.

As of April 27, summer enrollments were down 8 percent from last year. However, this was prior to doing any major marketing. A three-week marketing campaign just launched this week, including social media, direct mail and targeted emails. And we anticipate that our enrollments will grow.

We are now engaged in our deep-dive contingency planning for Fall. And while we are considering all possibilities, our first focus is on how to bring our students back to campus this fall — while taking all necessary public health and safety measures.

The scenario we are planning for will likely involve moving some instruction online to reduce human density, providing protective gear to faculty and students, conducting regular cleanings of classrooms and labs, as well as widespread testing to avoid exposing our students and faculty to individuals who are infected.

But we also know that the COVID-19 pandemic will still be with us through the fall – and possibly next Spring – and so we also preparing to respond should there be another surge of the virus that interrupts instruction and other campus activities.

Fall Registration

We were concerned that that COVID-19 crisis would result in fewer students coming back to campus this Fall. While the number of Fall registrations *is* down, the gap between this year and last year is shrinking. Despite moving registration back two weeks, as of April 29, the gap between Fall 2019 and 2020 had already fallen to 290 undergraduate students, less than 3 percent of the number of students who have already registered.

We see parallel results in other metrics. The number of freshmen and sophomores who requested transcripts be sent to other institutions – a key indicator of the desire to transfer – was 20 percent lower than last year (down from 448 to 356). The number of students who withdrew from the Spring semester altogether and have not registered for Fall was down 50 percent (from 332 to 168).

Although these numbers are favorable, we understand that maintaining our momentum in these uncertain times will require even greater effort. This week the academic units began outreach campaigns to “not-registered” students, including text messaging and phone calls. This outreach will intensify as final exams come to an end, and students have more time to dedicate to scheduling and registration.

Dean Hires and Appointments

Despite our major focus on responding to the COVID-19 crisis, we’ve continued to move important business forward, and that includes hiring and appointing deans to run our colleges. Since our last regularly scheduled Board meeting, we have hired two new deans. They include Dr. Jorge Atilas, as the new dean of Extension and engagement, and Dr. Darrell Donahue as the new dean of the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.

Dr. Atilas, comes to us from Oklahoma State University and is a nationally recognized leader in extension education and engagement, and he’s extremely dynamic and likeable. Dr. Donahue is a food-systems engineer from Michigan State University — with a very successful research record, as well as a reputation for being a thoughtful, creative and entrepreneurial leader. (Eagle scout, serves on the national board of the BSA)

We’ve also reappointed two interim deans, who have been doing an excellent job of leading their units during uncertain times. We have given a two-year contract to Dr. Tracy Morris, the current “interim” dean of the College of Education and Human Services, and Dr. Jack Watson, the current “interim” dean of the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences.

Even though they have time-limited contracts, we've removed the word "interim" from the titles — because as Gordon says, these two people are, in fact, leading their colleges, making tough decisions and not simply idling in place.

New Academic Programs

Most of the academic programs we are asking you to approve today are not, in fact, "new" programs. Most are simply the result of curriculum being repackaged to more closely adhere to institutional definitions of what constitutes a major or a separate academic program.

This year, we piloted a planning process that uses external data to validate program need and viability; through that process, we have turned away more than two dozen proposals for new programs; this process will be formally adopted beginning next fall for all new programs.

In addition, five programs were recommended for discontinuance in this year's Board of Governors' program reviews, and we're in the final stages of launching an annual program "health check" that will enable us to more proactively intervene with failing programs. This will allow us to either sunset those programs faster than we would have previously or invest in programs where we see their potential to evolve and grow.

Faculty Awards and Recognition

During the COVID-crisis, we have continued to recognize and reward our outstanding faculty across all three critical mission areas.

The Long-form scholarship recognition program was moved online with a virtual celebration of faculty in 2019 who have written books, produced documentaries, exhibitions, and other examples of creative scholarship. This year 35 percent of participants were STEM faculty) and overall 71 percent of this year's honorees are located in disciplines outside of the arts and humanities. Faculty work is highlighted in a "virtual showcase" on the Provost's office website. All of these awards and recipients live on WVU's faculty website at faculty.wvu.edu.

Finally, in light of the particular challenges, faculty have faced this semester, my office has created the "Teaching MVP" Awards. We've asked students to identify the professors who have gone "above and beyond" to deliver a quality learning experience for the semester - and we will recognize those faculty at the end of the semester as our Most Valuable Players. The nomination process opened on Monday, and to date, we have received more than 600 nominations.

Proposed Final Amended Rules Submitted for Adoption of: West Virginia University Board of Governors Faculty Rule 4.2 – Appointment, Promotion, Tenure, and Dismissal for Cause; and West Virginia University Board of Governors Faculty Rule 4.7 – Reduction in Force

Chairman Alvarez called upon Deputy General Counsel, Gary G. Furbee, II, who provided an overview related to this agenda item. He stated that at the Board's February 28, 2020 meeting, it issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Amendment of the Rules identified above. Substantively, the proposed changes to the Rules above will result in additions or amendments as set forth in detail in the table located in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The proposed changes to the Rules were posted for the required thirty (30) day public comment period. No comments were received. If approved, the amended Rules will be effective in 15 business days. The proposed changes are to amend and approve current BOG Faculty Rules to add service-track faculty classifications in a manner that is consistent with teaching-track faculty classifications.

William Wilmoth therefore moved that the Board of Governors approve the Proposed Final Amended Rules Submitted for Adoption of the West Virginia University Board of Governors Faculty Rule 4.2 – Appointment, Promotion, Tenure, and Dismissal for Cause; and West Virginia University Board of Governors Faculty Rule 4.7 – Reduction in Force, as presented. Said motion was seconded by Taunja Willis Miller and passed.

**Board Presentation and Potential Discussions or Action
Related to Tuition and Fees for the 2020-2021 Academic Year**

Vice President, Legal, Government and Entrepreneurial Engagement, Rob Alsop, provided an overview related to this agenda item, from an operational perspective of the university. He indicated that while the university is facing financial challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the interest of our students and their families during these difficult times our board has chosen not to increase tuition for the 2020-2021 school year.

Dr. Emily Murphy therefore moved that the Board of Governors support the recommendation of management to move forward with a budget plan to keep tuition and related fees at the same levels as our current academic year and that management prepare a budget for the University for consideration at our June Board meeting assuming those tuition and fee levels, noting that there will be no more than a 3% adjustment for room and board fees, as previously contemplated. Said motion was seconded by Lisa A. Martin and passed.

**Board Presentation and Potential Discussions or Action
Related to Personnel Actions, Including Reductions to
Force on a Temporary Basis**

Vice President, Legal, Government and Entrepreneurial Engagement, Rob Alsop, provided an overview related to this agenda item. He stated that as part of the university's overall financial planning management continues to carefully monitor revenues, expenses and cash flow. In fact, a campus conversation has taken place regarding a temporary reduction in the university's work force. Vice President Alsop noted that the board is not at this time ready to make any decisions today regarding these issues and that management will continue its review of the same.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Craig moved that the minutes of the February 28, 2020 Regular Meeting, the March 18, 2020 Emergency Meeting, the April 2, 2020 Special Meeting and the April 17, 2020 Special Board Meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by J. Thomas Jones and passed

Committee Report

May 1, 2020 Joint Finance and Facilities and Revitalization Committee/Strategic Plans and Initiatives Committee Meeting: Marty Becker, Finance Committee Chairman, reported that during this joint committee meeting most discussions dealt with the ramifications of the pandemic and its effects upon West Virginia University. He advised that no actions were taken as part of this committee meeting and he publicly stated how impressed he is with the university teams' planning and actions.

President's Report

President Gee offered the following comments:

COVID-19 Response

As difficult and disruptive as the COVID-19 pandemic has been across the country, I think we will look back with pride on our response. I am immensely proud of everything our faculty and staff has done to keep our campuses and communities safe and healthy.

Faculty members and students had to convert rapidly to new teaching, research and communication models, and they have done so with creativity, flexibility and goodwill. True to our land-grant mission, we have shared our expertise to ease suffering. We have designed protective medical face shields to assist our healthcare workers.

We also loaned Dr. Clay Marsh to state government as the Coronavirus Czar, and he has done a wonderful job shaping public policy. West Virginia University alumnus Dr. Brian Caveney, now head of diagnostics for LabCorp, recently praised our state as a model of quick action and effective containment. Dr. Marsh has played a huge role in that effort, and our University is deeply grateful.

Moving forward

As you well know, this public health crisis has triggered an economic crisis that will spare no sector of society, including higher education. While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us, that impact has not been even across income levels. That means those who can most benefit from higher education are more likely than others to be affected by the financial difficulties. At the core of our land-grant mission is providing as many people as possible access to affordable higher education. For that reason alone, I believe it was imperative that we hold tuition and fees flat. I want to thank the Board for their wisdom in making this decision.

Everyone wants to get back to “normal,” but many recognize that this crisis will culminate in a “new normal.” The real question for me and for all of us is: What will should our University look like as we face this new world? I believe we should move toward an in-person opening of our University as soon as possible, while taking appropriate precautions. Moving forward means gleaning what we have learned from this moment and applying it immediately to our educational enterprise. We have every hope and expectation of safely resuming in-person education on all of our campuses. The safety and well-being of students, faculty and staff, as well as the community, will drive decisions, but we believe it will be possible to restart classes on campus in the fall, albeit with new measures, guidelines and precautions to inhibit the spread of COVID-19.

Mountaineers, with characteristic grit and determination, must move toward swift change. And we can. If anyone had told me months ago that we could move to a totally online institution within two weeks, I would have bet against that. But we did it, quite successfully. That was because we all recognized our stake in the University’s ongoing success. This attitude will also propel us into our new normal and fuel our fearless

inquiry on every issue: Where are our strengths and how do we enhance them? How do we attract new students and ensure that our retention and graduation rates soar? Has bureaucracy slowed our progress? How do we enhance and accelerate our land-grant calling? We may have to make tough choices in the weeks and months ahead to remain nimble and responsive in this unprecedented situation.

Come what may, we will always provide our students with a world-class education. And we will always innovate to keep our faculty, staff and students healthy. There will be a new normal, and we will navigate it together as Mountaineers.

Information Items

There were no questions or concerns expressed by any Board members pertaining to the Information Items contained within the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Alvarez called for any discussion of today's Consent Agenda items and asked whether any items needed to be pulled for a separate discussion/vote. There being no such request made Lisa A. Martin moved that today's Consent Agenda be approved. This motion was seconded by Taunja Willis Millker and passed.

Thereupon, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Approval of New Graduate Certificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care in the School of Nursing

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a new graduate certificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care within the School of Nursing.

2. Approval of New Graduate Certificate in Health Data Science in the School of Public Health

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a new graduate certificate in Health Data Science within the School of Public Health.

3. Approval of New Graduate Certificate in Linguistics, Spanish, and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of three new graduate certificates in Linguistics, Spanish, and TESOL within the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.

4. Approval of Change in Name of Degree Program and Major: Change the title of the current Master of Science Degree Program and Major in Industrial Relations to Human Resource Management

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the change in the name of the Master of Science degree program and major in Industrial Relations to the Master of Science degree program and major in Human Resource Management in the John Chambers College of Business and Economics by terminating the Industrial Relations degree program and major and initiating the Human Resource Management degree program and major.

5. Approval of New Major: Youth and Family Sciences

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a BS in Youth and Family Sciences in Human Resources and Education.

6. Approval of New Degree Program: Integrated Marketing Communications

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a BS in Integrated Marketing Communications in the Chambers College of Business and Economics and Reed College of Media.

7. Appointment to County Extension Committees

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the nominees and alternates for positions on the County Extension Service Committees in West Virginia, as presented.

Nominating Committee

Chairman Alvarez stated that he would like to appoint the following board members to serve on a nominating committee to prepare and present a slate of officers during the June, 2020 board meeting: Chairman – J. R. Rogers and members – William Wilmoth, Lisa A. Martin and Dr. Stanley Hileman. Accordingly, a motion was made by Taunja Willis Miller, seconded by Marty Becker, and passed.,

General Discussion and Adjournment

Chairman Alvarez announced that the Board will conduct its next regular meeting on June 19, 2020, and that this meeting will likewise be conducted via zoom webinar. There being no further business to come before the Board, Kevin Craig moved to

adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by William Wilmoth and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Tanjia Willis Miller, Secretary