

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

November 6, 2015

The one hundred thirty-third meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on November 6, 2015 in Morgantown, WV. Board members in attendance/participating by telephone included David Alvarez, Gregory Babe, George Capel, Ellen Cappellanti, James W. Dailey, II, Thomas Flaherty, Dr. Robert Griffith, J. Thomas Jones; Raymond Lane, Diane Lewis, Dixie Martinelli, William Nutting, J. Robert (J.R.) Rogers, Ed Robinson, Dr. Richard Turton, Dr. Kim Weaver and William Wilmoth.

**WVU officers, divisional campus officers, representatives (and others) present included:**

President, E. Gordon Gee;  
Vice President, Legal, Government and Entrepreneurial Engagement, Rob Alsop;  
Provost, Joyce McConnell;  
Interim General Counsel, Gary Furbee;  
Vice President for Finance and Administration, Narvel Weese;  
Vice President for Student Life, William Schafer;  
Vice Provost, Russell Dean;  
Vice President for University Relations, Sharon Martin;  
Vice President for Research, Fred King;  
Chief Financial Officer for WVU Health Sciences, Paula Congelio;  
Executive Officer and Assistant Board Secretary, Jennifer Fisher;  
Senior Associate Vice President for Finance, Dan Durbin;  
Associate Vice President for Planning & Treasury Operations, Liz Reynolds;  
Associate Vice President for Facilities and Services, Randy Hudak;  
Senior Management Auditor, Internal Auditing, Evan Gatian;  
Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education, Sue Day-Perroots,  
President, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Carolyn Long;  
Campus Provost, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Nigel Clark;  
Assistant Vice President for Strategic Action, Elizabeth Hamilton;  
Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Outreach, University Relations, Ann Berry;  
Dean of Students and Director of Housing, G. Corey Farris;  
Student Affairs Chief Business and Planning Officer, Les Carpenter;  
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Michael Ellington;  
Associate Provost for Information Technology, John Campbell;  
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, WVU Health Sciences Center,  
Louise Veselicky;  
Executive Director of University Events & Liaison to the President, Robin Yorty;  
Professor, World Languages, Literature and Linguistics, Dr. Lisa DiBartolomeo;  
Chair of WVU Classified Staff, Lisa Martin – accompanied by several members  
of the WVU Classified Staff constituency;  
WVU's ACCE representative, Paul Martinelli;  
Director of University Relations/News, John Bolt;

Special Events Coordinator, Kevin Hanks; and,  
Special Assistant to the Board of Governors, Valerie Lopez.

**Members of the Press were also present.**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Thomas V. Flaherty, at 8:30 a.m. A roll call was taken to determine who was in attendance and a quorum established.

## **BOARD PRESENTATIONS**

### **State Budget and Upcoming Legislative Updates**

Vice President, Legal, Government and Entrepreneurial Engagement, Rob Alsop, provided an overview of current matters related to West Virginia's state budget and upcoming WV legislative session that may affect West Virginia University and its divisional campuses. Below are highlights from his presentation:

- Revenues for West Virginia are in a state of significant stress. Through October, tax revenues are \$91 million behind estimates. Severance taxes are down by more than 41% and natural gas severance tax collections are down more than 35%. Severance tax collections make up the biggest part of the revenue shortfall. Officials have predicted a \$250 million shortfall this year (on a \$4 billion budget).
- The Governor has made a mid-year cut of 4% for most agencies (including WVU). For the first time in decades, K-12 education funding was also reduced, as was Medicaid. This cut will not fill in the revenue shortfall for this year.
- The budget for next year will also be difficult. We may be facing another cut.
- With respect to Legislative initiatives, the Legislature during interims has focused largely on a study of the State's tax system, including local taxes by counties and municipalities. The final meeting was last week. We are now waiting on what the Legislative leadership will recommend.
- We have also been discussing with Legislative leaders the move from Montgomery to Beckley, ways in which WVU can better manage its costs and move efficiently, and how we can be a good partner for the State as we develop a set of legislative initiatives.

### **Academic Affairs Updates**

Provost Joyce McConnell provided information and updates on several areas of importance within Academic Affairs – as follows:

1. Student Success
  - The Economist recently did their own ranking of colleges and universities based on alumni earnings versus expectations: measuring the qualifications and

demographics of students upon entering college against those students' salaries 10 years later. WVU ranked 79th out of 1275.

- We've appointed Joe Seiaman as the Interim Executive Director of Academic Advising and Student Success under Sue Day-Perroots.
- Student profiles are up on all three campuses.
- Main campus, the incoming freshman ACT is actually up to 24.
- Retention is up on both main campus and at WVU Tech (2% and 3.9% respectively.)
- Honors College enrollment on main campus is up nearly 30% from last year.
- The Office of Undergraduate Research is fully operational.

## 2. Administrative Search Updates

- Four candidates for the position of Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences came to campus in October. These were very impressive candidates. I have the Screening Committee's report and am confident that we will have a dean of Eberly named before the end of 2015.
- We are being very proactive in soliciting nominations for the next Dean of the College of Business and Economics. Greg Bowman and I have both contacted various campus constituencies—Greg even sent an email to every college visiting committee last week—and we've been working very closely with Greenwood-Asher to bring those nominations to fruition.
- The Office of the Vice President for Research is hiring an Associate Vice President for Research and Development.
- The Office of Enrollment Management is hiring an Executive Director of Recruitment.
- Sue Day-Perroots in Undergraduate Education and Academic Innovation has started a search for the Dean of WVU Online, Continuing and Professional Education.

## 3. Accreditation Updates

- We brought our HLC Liaison, Dr. Stephanie Brzuzy to Morgantown and then took her down to Montgomery and Beckley in September to show her the plans for the new campus and for the new Tech offerings there. She was tremendously impressed.
- Both the Reed College of Media and the Statler College had accreditation teams on campus last month. We do not have final reports yet, but the visits went very well in both cases.

## 4. Facilities

- The Evansdale Crossing Building - housing integrated student services, an upscale food court, and soon the Media Innovation Center - is open for business! The food court is open now, the Registrar and other offices will move in soon . . . it is a beautiful building and very exciting. I've been over there and talked to students and the verdict is: They Love It!
- The Potomac State College recently closed on a real estate transaction that will have a transformational impact on their Agriculture and Forestry program. The

gift includes a 364-acre farm valued at \$1.315M and a monetary donation of \$2.89M that will create three endowments; farm operations endowment; student scholarship endowment; faculty and student development endowment. Potomac State received \$1.107M for the sale of their 380 acre lower farm; all the revenue will be put back into the agriculture program for farm enhancements and academic program support. Total value of the deal; \$5,315,000.

5. Faculty and Student achievements

- Clara Beth Novotny, a senior pursuing a dual degree in Biochemistry and Spanish has been named a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship.
- We launched the WV FOODLINK website this October. FOODLINK spurs conversations with the wider public about food access issues in our state and works with anti-hunger networks throughout the state to develop resources that connect food assistance agencies. The project is housed in the Food Justice Laboratory in the Department of Geology and Geography.
- We just hired our first Wikipedian in Residence in the University Libraries. She is tasked with helping Wikipedia address its gender gap in posters while also increasing the presence of Mountain State natives in the online encyclopedia.
- We were recently awarded \$1 million as part of a university consortium with Texas Tech and George Washington University to support USAID's Geocenter on advanced geographic analysis for international development programming.
- We are pursuing a new APLU Designation as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University, which recognizes universities that are leaders in spurring and promoting regional economic development.
- Our student-run record label, Mon Hills Records, just released its first album, a bluegrass record called "West Virginia Hills."

6. Report on Campus Updates recently submitted to HEPC:

**2014-15 Compact Highlights: WVU Main Campus**

**Access**

- Since the fall of 2012 there has been an average of 575 high school students enrolled in WVU coursework each semester, with an average matriculation rate of 51%. Six additional high school partnerships were established in 2014 to bring the total number to 32 across West Virginia.
- The Osher scholarship grant funded the third year of the Osher Reentry Scholarship Program to aid undergraduate students, aged 25 to 50 years, to secure an undergraduate degree at WVU. In September 2014, the Osher Foundation permanently funded the Scholarship Program with a \$1,000,000 endowment grant.

**Success**

- WVU has purchased a new highly sophisticated tracking system, the Student Success Collaborative (SSC), which includes an alert system, as well as individualized predictive models. The system was piloted in the Summer of 2015, with a staff member partly funded via a grant from the Gates Foundation.

- New Student Orientation (NSO) was re-structured to include an academic session prior to the advising and registration sessions in the afternoon. The academic session allows for discussion of the importance and the role of a plan of study.

#### **Impact**

- WVU reports approximately 1888 peer reviewed publications by faculty annually. These do not include other scholarship such as books, conferences and proceedings, exhibitions, etc.
- In 2014, WVU Extension faculty and staff had 624,111 direct contacts with youth and adults and 1,982,674 total contacts (direct and indirect).
- The Financial Aid Office has created an Outreach and Communication Unit to assist with default prevention. This unit will work with students to make informed financial decisions while in or out of school which will lead students to better financial health and the ability to repay good debt and avoid bad debt.

### **2014-15 Compact Highlights: Potomac State College of WVU**

#### **Access**

- Potomac State College developed 2 articulation agreements with area high schools, submitted one for WVU, and submitted three new degree programs for approval.

#### **Success**

- PSC developed and piloted "The Catamount Success Academy" for out-of-state, first-time students with low high school grade point averages. Academy students were assigned faculty/staff mentors, enrolled in four cohort courses, and required to attend math and English tutoring sessions. Retention rates for the Academy cohort and comparison groups were 59% and 48%, respectively.

#### **Impact**

- As part of a financial wellness initiative, new and transfer students are required to take EverFi's on-line financial education course as part of their WVUe101 course. Student Life collaborated with WVU on the EverFi contract.
- In 2014-15, PSC staff conducted FAFSA workshops in 11 schools.

### **2014-15 Compact Highlights: WVUIT**

#### **Access**

- WVU Tech has focused on the state-wide need of increasing the number of people with a post-secondary degree to fill health sciences career vacancies by creating online health services related areas of emphasis in the RBA program.

#### **Success**

- WVU Tech has improved the understanding and enhanced the development of online courses among the faculty by providing opportunities to become Quality Matters certified. As of Fall, 2015, 39 percent of the faculty are Quality Matters nationally certified.

#### **Impact**

- To provide a richer understanding of the research interests of the WVU Tech faculty, a Faculty Research Interest Survey was developed and delivered. With a 77 percent response rate, the survey provided a strong interest among the faculty for multidisciplinary, collaborative research projects.

7. Report on Textbook affordability HEPC Report recently submitted:
  - For both Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, the University met the deadline for faculty to be assigned to courses by 94.2 percent and 99 percent, respectively.
  - In addition, the viability of more affordable options, such as textbook rentals and used books, continues to grow for students looking to save money on textbook purchases. In Spring 2015, these options grew to 24 percent of all textbook sales, saving students an average of 50 percent or more over new textbooks when choosing to rent or buy used.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Flaherty requested a motion that the Board go into Executive Session, under authority in West Virginia Code §§6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), (b)(9), and (b)(12) to discuss legal, personnel, and deliberative matters; matters not considered public records; matters related to construction planning, commercial competition matters, the purchase, sale or lease of property, and/or the investment of public funds. The motion was made by Ed Robinson, seconded by J. Robert (J.R.) Rogers, and passed. Following the conclusion of Executive Session, Dixie Martinelli moved that the Board reconvene into regular session. This motion was seconded by David Alvarez and passed.

## **BOARD PRESENTATION**

### **Annual Report of the Classified Staff Representative to the Board of Governors**

Classified Staff Representative on the WVU Board of Governors, Dixie Martinelli, along with Classified Staff President, Lisa Martin, presented an annual report/update to the full board. Highlights included the following:

Ms. Martinelli provided information categorized as “A Year of Change” related to classified staff employees, including mandatory performance reviews in August, 2015; pay increases based on merit in October, 2015; a new salary structure in October, 2015; Bi-weekly pay transition anticipated for January, 2016 (which is currently on hold); and a 40-hour work week implementation anticipated in Spring, 2016. She also pointed out that since 2012, the number of classified positions has declined from 3,064 to 2,679, a reduction of 385 positions. She detailed the expansive types of services provided by members of WVU’s classified staff, citing statistics from Facilities Management and Dining Services. She then introduced the following six members of classified staff - representing WVU and its divisional campuses – each of whom shared their job description, personal history and ties to WVU.

- Renee Anderson, a program assistant, and Debi Cruse, a writer/editor, both from Potomac State College of WVU in Keyser, who reviewed the classified staff operations there.
- Barbara Boyd, a senior database administrator from WVU Tech, who noted that while some current Tech staffers are concerned about the shift to Beckley, “the chance to thrive is Beckley. This is what will save us. The opportunities to grow are exponential.”
- Kent Hastings, an electronic specialist with the Personal Rapid Transit system in Morgantown, who discussed the challenges of maintaining a 40-year-old system,

including the need to make replacement parts, as well as finding qualified workers at WVU's current compensation levels.

- Bob Driscoll, forest manager – the only one in West Virginia higher education – from the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. He is credited with saving the University \$2.6 million over the years through timber sales.
- Nancy Bremer, a nutrition outreach instructor with the WVU Extension Service in Calhoun, Wirt and Gilmer counties. She noted that the nutrition outreach program, led by classified staff, has received \$27 million in grant funding, mostly from federal sources.

Ms. Martinelli presented statistics showing that Morgantown, while considered a Top Ten Most Livable City by Kiplinger, presents economic challenges, especially to classified staff, with a 10.2 percent higher cost of living than locations of peer institutions, including 9.2 percent higher than other Big 12 schools. She also reported that the housing market is also 14.2 percent higher than many major cities. Noting those economic facts, Martinelli concluded that WVU needs to strive to grant our classified staff a cost-of-living increase every year.

President Gee praised the classified staff at WVU as people who have loyalty, passion, and are very committed. He encouraged the staff to come forward with suggestions to make the kind of changes they believe can help.

## **DISCUSSIONS EMANATING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Flaherty announced that nothing discussed in today's Executive Session required Board action.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Gregory Babe moved that the minutes of the September 25, 2015 regular meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Diane Lewis, and passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

William Wilmoth, Audit Committee Chairman, reported on the November 5, 2015 Audit Committee meeting, during which Vice President Weese provided an update on the status of the FY 2015 Financial Statements and Audit Report, and in Executive Session reports were given by Interim General Counsel, Gary Furbee, and the Director of Internal Audit, Bryan Shaver.

David Alvarez, Chair of the Finance and Facilities and Revitalization Committee, and Thomas Flaherty, Chair of the Strategic Plans and Initiatives Committee, reported that meetings were held yesterday afternoon, during which Executive Session discussions took place – and there was no Board action to report as a result of these committee meetings.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

During his report, President Gee highlighted some of the focus areas in the Center for Big Ideas, which includes working with communities in Charleston, Weirton and Harpers Ferry. He also reiterated the priority of working with the community of Montgomery as WVU Tech transitions to its new campus location. Dr. Gee updated the board on several recent key personnel hires, including Alumni Association Executive Director and Vice President of Alumni Relations Sean Frisbee.

## **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 Flaherty 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 none, Chairman Flaherty announced that he would entertain a motion to approve today's Consent Agenda – including Consent Agenda Item 3 listed below “Executive Summary of West Virginia University's HEPC Leading the Way: Compact Update 2014-2015” revised to include all three completed reports, namely: “Leading the Way: Access, Success, Impact – 2015 Institutional Compact Update for West Virginia University”; “Leading the Way: Access, Success, Impact – 2015 Institutional Compact Update for West Virginia University Institute of Technology”; and “Leading the Way: Access, Success, Impact – 2015 Institutional Compact Update for Potomac State College of West Virginia University” – all of which completed reports were provided to board members in advance of today's meeting. David Alvarez therefore moved that the Board approve all Consent Agenda items (including the revised agenda item as described above.) This motion was seconded by J. Robert (J.R.) Rogers, and passed

Thereupon, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

- 1. Re-development of WVU Reedsville Farm Project**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the re-development of the WVU Reedsville Farm project, as presented.
- 2. Addition of Aviation Management Tuition to the FY15-16 Tuition and Fees schedule**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves a program tuition charge for students enrolled in Aviation Management at WVUIT, as presented.
- 3. Executive Summary of West Virginia University's HEPC Leading the Way: Compact Update 2014-2015**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the Executive Summary Report titled “West Virginia University's HEPC Leading the Way: Compact



Update” - as presented - that will be submitted to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission once approved by the Board.

**4. 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.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Flaherty announced that the Board will conduct its next regular meeting in Morgantown the morning of graduation, namely December 18, 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ellen Cappellanti moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kim Weaver, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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Diane Lewis, Secretary