

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

July 23, 2025

The two hundred thirty third meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on July 23, 2025 in Morgantown, WV, via zoom. Board members in attendance/participating via zoom included Chair Rusty Hutson and members Charles Capito, Bray Cary, Dr. Lesley Cottrell, Elmer Coppoolse, Scott Crichlow, Kevin Craig, Michael D'Annunzio, Dr. Patrice Harris, Terry Hauser, Susan Lavenski, Oliver Luck, James Martin, Paul Mattox, Steve Ruby, Colin Street, Dianne Stewart and Charles Wilfong. Board member, Robert Reynolds, was absent and excused.

Other participants included:

President Michael Benson;

General Counsel, Stephanie Taylor;

Deputy General Counsel and Associate Vice President. Gary Furbee;

Deputy General Counsel for Innovation and Research, Rossi Wiles;

Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing,

Heather Richardson;

Associate Vice President for Executive Initiatives, Erin Newmeyer;

Executive Officer and Assistant Board Secretary, Jennifer Fisher;

Executive Director of Strategic Communications, Shauna

Johnson; 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 Chair Rusty Hutson at 1:00 p.m. A roll call was taken to determine who was in attendance and a quorum established. Chair Hutson welcomed President Benson to his first board meeting and additionally welcomed other new board members, Oliver Luck, James Martin, Bray Cary (a reappointed board member), Terry Hauser, Paul Mattox, and Charles Wilfong. He also noted that this will be the first full board meeting, for Scott Crichlow, faculty representative, Dianne Stewart, classified staff representative, and Colin Street, student representative.

PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME AND REPORT

President Michael Benson issued a call for collaboration, focusing on the future of West Virginia University. He stated that the university will be actively involved in the area of enrollment management, launching a search for a new Vice President for Enrollment, and the search for a new Provost - as a few of his key initiatives. He announced that a board retreat is being planned to discuss the visionary path forward for the university.

APPROVAL OF BOG COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Charles Capito moved that the board approve the proposed committee structure and other board appointments for the period ending June 30, 2026, as listed on the chart attached to today's board meeting materials. This motion was seconded by Michael D'Annunzio, and passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Hutson called for a motion for the board to move to Executive Session, under authority in West Virginia Code Sections 6-9A-4(b)(9) and (b)(12) to discuss:

- a. Deliberative matters involving or affecting the purchase, sale, or lease of property, including financial and legal matters relating to corporate collaborations and public private partnerships, or other commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University; and
- b. Potential strategic initiatives related to administrative and athletic priorities; and
- c. A confidential and privileged update on pending or anticipated litigation by General Counsel.

The motion was made by Steve Ruby, seconded by Elmer Coppoolse, and passed. At the conclusion of Executive Session, Elmer Coppoolse moved that the board rise from Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Steve Ruby, and passed.

DISCUSSIONS EMANATING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION IF, ANY

Chair Hutson announced that there were no actions arising from today's Executive Session discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board Elmer Coppoolse moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bray Cary and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Paul Mattox, Secretary

