

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

May 29, 2024

The two hundred twenty first meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on May 29, 2024 in Morgantown, WV via zoom webinar. Board members in attendance/participating via zoom included Chair Taunja Willis-Miller and members Bray Cary, Elmer Coppoolse, Kevin Craig, Michael D’Annunzio, Dr. Patrice Harris, Dr. Stanley Hileman, Alan Larrick, Susan Lavenski, Paul Mattox, Richard Pill, Shirley Robinson, Madison Santmyer, Frankie Tack, and Robert Reynolds. Board members Charles Capito and J. Thomas Jones were absent and excused.

President, E. Gordon Gee;
General Counsel, Stephanie Taylor;
Vice President for University Relations, Sharon Martin;
Provost, Maryanne Reed;
Associate Provost for Budget, Facilities and Strategic Initiatives,
Mark Gavin;
Vice President for Enrollment Management, Steven Hahn;
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Paula Congelio;
Senior Associate Vice President for Finance, Barbara Weiss;
Associate Vice President, Government Relations and Collaboration,
Travis Mollohan;
Deputy General Counsel, Gary G. Furbee, II;
Associate General Counsel, Kylie Barnhart;
Executive Officer and Assistant Board Secretary, Jennifer Fisher;
Director of News Communications, Shauna Johnson;
Executive Director of Communications, University Relations,
April Kaull; 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 Chair Taunja Willis-Miller at 10:32 a.m. A roll call was taken to determine who was in attendance and a quorum established.

UPDATE ON MAY SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Associate Vice President, Government Relations and Collaboration, Travis Mollohan provided this update. Highlights included:

Earlier this month, Gov. Jim Justice declared a state of emergency for state colleges and universities, stemming from the federal government's delayed and failed rollout of FAFSA. Following up on his efforts to assist State institutions with managing the FAFSA fallout, the Governor called the Legislature into special session on Sunday and proposed two bills to make it easier for State institutions to weather the storm and for students and their families to afford and access higher education.

Senate Bill 1007 establishes three new funds, totaling \$83.2 million, in the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC). HEPC is directed to spend \$32 million of the new, one-time funding to help State institutions with operational costs, which have been greatly affected by inflation, enrollment and ever-rising health insurance rates, like the recent increases to the Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIA).

HEPC is also directed to spend \$40 million to enhance the Higher Education Grant Program and \$11.2 million to create the College Access Grant, both of which will directly help students and their families.

Senate Bill 1011 moves \$83.2 million in one-time funding currently sitting in the old, expired PEIA Rainy Day Fund to HEPC for these efforts. Last year, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill to make major reforms to PEIA. These changes resulted in the Rainy Day Fund becoming dormant and unavailable for spending on PEIA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Willis-Miller requested a motion to move Executive Session, under authority in West Virginia Code Sections 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), (b)(9) and (b)(12) to discuss:

- a. Potential strategic initiatives relating to academic and administrative priorities; personnel matters; confidential, preliminary, and

deliberative matters regarding Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, including retention and enrollment; matters relating to the investment of public funds; and other deliberative matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University; confidential and privileged report by General Counsel; and

- b. Potential discussion of confidential, preliminary, and deliberative matters relating to internal Board of Governors operations and institutional succession planning.

The motion was made by Dr. Stanley Hileman, seconded by Kevin Craig, and passed. Following Executive Session, Elmer Coppoolse moved that the board rise from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Kevin Craig and passed.

Chair Willis-Miller stated that no actions resulted from today's Executive Session discussions.

UPDATE ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Dr. Patrice Harris, Chair of the Board's Ad Hoc Governance Committee, provided the following update:

It is my pleasure to provide an update from the Ad Hoc Governance Committee. Updates will address the presidential search firm and the presidential search timeline.

Over the past several weeks, a selection committee consisting of BOG members and WVU staff reviewed 11 proposals from executive search firms submitted through the RFP process. We interviewed four of the firms and after thorough review and deliberation, we are pleased to announce WittKieffer as our partner.

With more than 50 years of experience, WittKieffer has conducted more than 145 presidential and chancellor searches over the past 5 years and brings a wealth of insight to the process. The Committee was particularly impressed with the expertise/experience of the personnel, their demonstration of deep knowledge and understanding of WVU, their plan of execution including focus on the importance of strategic communication. We look forward to a collaborative and productive partnership with the WittKieffer team.

Now regarding the timeline, the Governance committee has reviewed the presidential search timeline and is making the following adjustments.

Reviewing and vetting the nominees requires 2 meetings. The first meeting occurred on May 14th and the second meeting is scheduled for June 6. We will subsequently present the slate of nominees to the Board of Governors for review and endorsement at the June BOG meeting. At that same meeting, WittKieffer will present on the next steps in the process.

The committee also reflected on feedback received regarding the listening sessions. We want to maximize opportunities for faculty, staff and students to participate and provide their input. Therefore, the timeline for the listening sessions will now begin in July and be extended through mid-September.

These items will be updated on the presidential search website found at presidentalsearch.wvu.edu. The remainder of the timeline remains unchanged. I encourage everyone to stay informed by visiting the presidential search website often.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT

. There being no further business to come before the board, Kevin Craig moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Patrice Harris and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Dr. Patrice Harris, Secretary