

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY BOARD
OF GOVERNORS

December 15, 2023

The two hundred sixteenth meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on December 15, 2023 in Morgantown, WV in person and via zoom. Board members in attendance/participating via zoom included Chair Taunja Willis-Miller and members Charles Capito, Bray Cary, Elmer Coppoolse, Kevin Craig, Michael D’Annunzio, Dr. Patrice Harris, J. Thomas Jones, Dr. Stanley Hileman, Alan Larrick, Susan Lavenski, Paul Mattox, Richard Pill, Shirley Robinson, Madison Santmyer, Frances E. “Frankie” Tack, and Robert Reynolds.

Note: With this meeting being conducted in person and via zoom, there was no way to ascertain all attendees but the following WVU officers, divisional campus officers, representatives (and others) participated:

President, E. Gordon Gee;
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Maryanne Reed;
General Counsel, Stephanie Taylor;
Vice President for University Relations, Sharon Martin;
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Meshea Poore;
Vice Provost, Paul Kreider;
Associate Provost for Budget, Facilities and Strategic Initiatives, Mark Gavin;
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Paula Congelio;
Senior Associate Vice President for Finance, Barbara Weiss;
Associate Vice President for HSC Academic Affairs, Louise Veselicky;
Associate Vice President and Executive Director of the Office of Global Affairs, Amber Brugnoli;
Chief Information Officer, Brice Knotts;
Associate Vice President and Lead Government Relations and Collaborations, Travis Mollohan ;
Deputy General Counsel, Gary G. Furbee, II;
Director of Internal Audit, Bryan Shaver;
Assistant Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Erin Newmeyer;
Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, Tracy Morris;
Associate Provost for Graduate Academic Affairs, Richard Thomas;
Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Culture, Melissa Latimer;
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Evan Widders;
Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment, Louis Slimak;
Director of Communications, Office of the Provost, Kimberly Becker;
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 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken to determine who was in attendance and a quorum established.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Willis-Miller requested a motion to move Executive Session, under authority in West Virginia Code §§6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), (b)(9), (b)(10), and (b)(12) to discuss:

- a. Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates;
- b. Potential strategic initiatives relating to academic and administrative priorities; personnel matters; corporate collaborations and financial matters relating to public private partnerships; and other deliberative matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University;
- c. Possible naming opportunity; and
- d. Confidential and preliminary matters involving or affecting the University's budget for the current and upcoming academic year, including retention and enrollment.

The motion was made by Dr. Patrice Harris, seconded by Susan Lavenski, and passed. Following Executive Session, Kevin Craig moved that the board rise from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Charles Capito and passed.

Chair Willis-Miller stated that no actions resulted from today's Executive Session discussions with the exception that a possible naming opportunity was discussed, resulting in one of the items on today's Consent Agenda, and also during today's Executive Session the board reviewed names of individuals submitted for Honorary Degrees from West Virginia University. Each year nominations are received and reviewed by a committee of faculty, staff and students. Those selected by the committee are then forwarded to the Faculty Senate for approval, and then to the governing board. The WVU Faculty Senate has endorsed the names discussed during today's Executive Session, as required by University policy. Chair Willis-Miller also noted, for the record, that board members J. Thomas Jones, Madison Santmyer, Frankie Tack and Shirley Robinson abstained from the vote on today's Honorary Degree Candidates – since they were members of the Honorary Degree Selection Committee involved in this process. Chair Willis-Miller requested a motion for approval of the Honorary Degree Candidates discussed during today's Executive Session - with a notation that the persons to be honored will be announced at a later date. Robert Reynolds so moved and the motion was seconded by Bray Cary and passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Capito moved that the minutes for the November 17, 2023 regular board meeting and December 1, 2023 special board meeting be approved. This motion was seconded by Frankie Tack and passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no questions or concerns expressed by any board member pertaining to the Information Items contained within today's agenda.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Gee offered the following remarks:

As this semester comes to a close, we prepare to celebrate the most important milestone in University life—Commencement.

Nearly 2,700 students will receive their hard-earned degrees, and those of us taking part in the two ceremonies will once again enjoy honoring our graduates' accomplishments and wishing them well for the future.

For the second year in a row, we will also reinforce the importance of education by giving an outstanding West Virginia teacher a presidential honorary degree. This year, we honor Jessica Weaver, a teacher at Morgantown's South Middle School, for cultivating interest and understanding among her students.

While celebrating Commencement, we are also celebrating the holiday season.

And I am proud that West Virginia University is represented in Washington, D.C., through the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, an evergreen with many connections to the Mountain State and WVU Extension.

When it was announced that this year's U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree would hail from the Monongahela National Forest, the Forest Service reached out to WVU Extension to enlist the helping hands of 4-H members and other Extension volunteers.

The tree, along with more than 65 companion trees, would need ornaments — approximately 14,000 of them. WVU Extension, with offices in all 55 counties, had the people and expertise to help with this effort.

Working with the Forest Service, WVU Extension 4-H created a service project which would be carried out at state and county camps, giving young people and volunteers opportunities to use their creativity and love of the state for the displays on the West Lawn and at Capitol buildings.

In all, 4-H members made nearly 5,400 ornaments at camps and other events, contributing 2,500 service hours to the project.

As another year ends, this project symbolizes hope and renewal for West Virginia and our University.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Willis-Miller 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 Bray Cary moved that today's Consent Agenda be approved. This motion was seconded by J. Thomas Jones and passed.

Thereupon, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

- 1. Approval of New Program: BS in Robotics Engineering in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources**
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a new BS degree in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.
- 2. Approval of the Personal Rapid Transit Agency Safety Plan (PRTASP).**
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the Personal Rapid Transit Agency Safety Plan (PRTASP), as presented.
- 3. Approval and execution of one Statements of Work ("SOW") under such MSA for audit, assurance, and other services provided by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP ("CLA"), WVU's external auditor, to West Virginia University**
Resolved, that the following SOW will be executed under the MSA by the Audit Committee Chair, Richard Pill. The SOW describes the scope of the specific professional services to be provided by CLA -
 - SOW – Agreed Upon Procedures ("AUP") for WVU as of December 31, 2023
- 4. Approval of Naming Opportunity**
Resolved: That pursuant to BOG Governance Rule 2.2, the West Virginia University Board of Governors hereby approves the naming opportunity as discussed during today's Executive Session.

5. Approval of BOG Committee Changes

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves two proposed committee changes, one being the formation of an Ad Hoc Governance Committee and the second changing the Chair of the Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee from Dr. Patrice Harris to Charles Capito, which changes will be incorporated into the existing committee assignments listed on the WVU Board of Governors website

**GENERAL DISCUSSION AND
ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Willis-Miller announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2024. There being no further business to come before the board, Charles Capito moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kevin Craig and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Dr. Patrice Harris, Secretary