

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

February 23, 2024

The two hundred seventeenth meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on February 23, 2024 in Morgantown, WV in person and via zoom.. Board members in attendance/participating via zoom included Chair Taunja Willis Miller, and board 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, Robert Reynolds, Shirley Robinson, Frankie Tack, and Madison Santmyer..

**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 and Executive Dean of Health Sciences, Clay Marsh;  
Vice President for Research, Fred King;  
Dean of Students, Corey Farris;  
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Meshea Poore;  
Vice Provost, Paul Kreider;  
Associate Provost for Budget, Facilities and Strategic Initiatives, Mark Gavin;  
Deputy General Counsel, Kevin Cimino;  
Associate General Counsel, Kylie Barnhart;  
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;  
Associate Vice President for HSC Academic Affairs, Louise  
Veselicky;  
Associate Vice President and Executive Director of the Office of Global  
Affairs, Amber Brugnoli;  
Associate Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, Erin Newmeyer;  
Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Culture, Melissa Latimer;  
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Evan Widders;  
Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment, Louis Slimak;  
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.**

February 23, 2024

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Taunja Willis-Miller at 10:00 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. Potential strategic initiatives relating to academic and administrative priorities; personnel matters; corporate collaborations and financial matters relating to public private partnerships; the purchase, sale or lease of property; and other deliberative matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University;
- b. Possible naming opportunities; and
- c. 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 Kevin Craig, seconded by Alan Larrick, and passed. Following Executive Session, Elmer Coppoolse moved that the board rise from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Charles Capito and passed. Chair Willis-Miller stated that a possible naming opportunity was discussed in Executive Session, resulting in one of the items on today's Consent Agenda – otherwise no actions resulted from today's Executive Session discussions.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Enrollment Work Group:** Susan Lavenski, Chair of the Enrollment Work Group, reported as follows:

The Enrollment Working Group, has met with staff in charge of recruitment on several occasions. Additionally, the Enrollment Work Group members have had two meetings with staff to discuss our current recruitment structure and strategies. The goal is to better understand what structure is in place, what has been working and how we can improve the process. The next step will be an in-person strategic planning session to establish goals and new initiatives meant to drive greater enrollment for incoming freshman, transfer students and graduate students.

**January 25, 2024 and February 15, 2024 Ad Hoc Governance Committee**

**Meeting:** Dr. Patrice Harris, Chair of this Committee, reported as follows:

Thank you, Madam Chair. We have had two meetings of the Governance Committee – one on January 25, 2024 and the other on February 15, 2024. We met in Executive Session during both meetings. During these sessions, we began our deliberative and initial conversations relating to the upcoming search for the next President of West Virginia University. The Committee is finalizing the details of that draft board rule.

At a special Board meeting in March, we plan to present that draft Board Rule regarding the process for conducting a presidential search. During that special meeting, we will ask the Board to approve putting the proposed Rule out for a 30-day public comment period. Following that comment period, we will have another special meeting in late April or early May to ask the Board to approve a final version, having had the opportunity to review the public comments.

Also in March, the University will be releasing a Request for Procurement proposal to begin the process to retain a search firm to assist the University with the upcoming presidential search.

At the Board meeting in April, the Governance Committee will make a presentation on the details of the process and timeline.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

**February 22, 2024 Audit Committee Meeting:** Richard Pill, Audit Committee Chairman, reported as follows:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yesterday morning, there was a meeting of the Audit Committee.

First, we heard a report from Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Paula Congelio, who gave an update on our ongoing financial audits. The WV State Single Audit, of which WVU is part, is on track to meet the March 31, 2024 deadline. Next, Paula reported that CLA began an agreed upon procedures engagement (mid- year review) on February 5. This engagement is not an audit, but a review, and an opinion will not be expressed. A January 22, 2024 engagement letter with FORVIS was also provided, for information, for the annual review of WVU Research Corp defined contribution plan and for assistance with filing of employee benefit returns.

Second, we met in Executive Session. During Executive Session, we received a confidential and privileged report regarding legal matters from the University's General Counsel. As part of the legal report, we also heard a confidential and privileged report regarding some of the University's compliance and risk assessment efforts associated with ransomware and IT services. Next, we received a report from the Director of Internal Audit discussing confidential and ongoing audit investigations and reports. No votes or actions were taken during Executive Session.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

**February 22, 2024 Joint Finance and Facilities and Revitalization/Strategic Plans and Initiatives Committee Meeting:** Kevin Craig, who chaired this joint committee meeting, reported as follows:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yesterday afternoon, your committee on Strategic Initiatives met in joint session with the Finance and Facilities and Revitalization Committee.

We met in Executive Session. During Executive Session, we discussed potential strategic initiatives relating to academic, health sciences, and administrative priorities; personnel matters; corporate collaborations and financial matters relating to public private partnerships; matters relating to construction planning; and/or matters relating to the purchase, sale, or lease of property, or 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; and, confidential and preliminary matters involving or affecting the University's budget for the current and upcoming academic year, including retention and enrollment.

No actions or votes were taken during Executive Session. After a productive afternoon the Joint Committee adjourned.

That concludes my report, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**February 23, 2024 Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee Meeting:** Charles Capito, Committee Chairman, reported as follows:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Your committee on Academic Affairs held a public session this morning during which Provost Reed shared updates on Academic Transformation and other initiatives within Academic Affairs.

Provost Reed provided a recap of the latest results of the Academic Support Unit reviews and academic restructuring efforts, as well as an update on the regional campus program portfolio review and the development of a more rigorous annual program review process.

The Provost also highlighted the recent change in leadership at our Potomac State College campus, recent successes of WVU's Nursing program, and a new fund to support undergraduate research.

Following the Provost's report was a presentation by faculty and students highlighting the impact of the University's undergraduate research program.

Madam Chair, we had a busy morning and productive conversation, and this concludes my report. Thank you.

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATION ON CAMPUS SAFETY AND CAMPUS CARRY UPDATES**

Vice President for University Relations, Sharon Martin, and Dean of Students, Corey Farris, presented this agenda item.

Passed by the West Virginia Legislature in 2023, the Campus Self-Defense Act allows a person to carry a concealed pistol or revolver on the grounds of an institution of higher education, with some exceptions, if that person has a current and valid license to carry a concealed deadly weapon.

Although the Campus Self-Defense Act includes several exceptions to the campus carry requirement, those exceptions are not automatically required by law. The Board must decide which, if any, exceptions it will adopt and must do this through its rulemaking process.

A web page has been established for those who want to learn more about the law and follow updates about how it will be implemented across the WVU System. FAQs and other pertinent information can be found there, with more to be added in the weeks and months ahead.

We want to help our campus understand the law and will provide access to the legislation stated Sharon Martin, Vice President for University Engagement and co-chair of the Campus Safety Steering Group.

Martin and fellow co-chair Dean of Students Corey Farris added that in addition to the web page, information will be shared in various ways including through emails, a Campus Conversation this spring and events such as New Student Orientation.

The public presentation listed above is detailed in the slides attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

Associate General Counsel, Kylie Barnhart, presented a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the adoption of new proposed Rule and amendments to a current Board Rule as follows:

- a. West Virginia University Board of Governors Finance & Administration Rule 5.14 – Deadly Weapons, Dangerous Objects, & W. Va. Campus Self-defense Act; and,
- b. West Virginia University Board of Governors Talent & Culture Rule 3.5 – Employee Leave

First, BOG Finance & Administration Rule 5.14, which is a new Rule, provides guidelines regarding deadly weapons and dangerous objects on University Property, as well as the University's implementation of the West Virginia Campus Self-defense Act.

Second, changes are proposed BOG Talent & Culture Rule 3.5 – Employee Leave to ensure consistency with the University's current practices and compliance with federal laws. The Rule has been modified to provide that the University will grant leave in accordance

with the FMLA, ADA, and other relevant federal and state laws. Also, the Rule was modified to provide that employees who do not return from leave or fail to comply with reasonable requests of the University for medical documentation will be considered to have resigned from their position rather than terminated.

Substantively, the new proposed Rule and changes to the current Rule are set forth in detail in the table located in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking attached to today's board meeting materials. Following the issuance of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the new proposed Rule and proposed changes to the current Rule will be posted for the required thirty (30) day public comment period from February 26, 2024 through March 27, 2024. The Board of Governors is asked to approve the issuance of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as presented.

Accordingly, Bray Cary moved that the board approve, as presented, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the adoption of new proposed Rule and amendments to a current Board Rule as follows:

- c. West Virginia University Board of Governors Finance & Administration Rule 5.14 – Deadly Weapons, Dangerous Objects, & W. Va. Campus Self-defense Act; and,
- d. West Virginia University Board of Governors Talent & Culture Rule 3.5 – Employee Leave

The motion was seconded by Paul Mattox and passed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kevin Craig moved that the minutes for the December 15, 2023 regular board meeting be approved. This motion was seconded by Charles Capito 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.

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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Gee offered the following remarks:

This year is off to an exciting start at West Virginia University. Last month, our Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute announced a potential advancement in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease announced by the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute. The next phase of this clinical trial will begin this year, offering hope to the 6 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and all those who love them.

In related news, “60 Minutes” aired a report about RNI’s work using focused ultrasound to treat substance abuse disorder. An intense global response to the “60 Minutes” segment shows just how welcome new treatment methods are. According to RNI Vice President Kathryn Wallace, within five days of the broadcast alone, the Institute received more than 3,600 inquiries from people in all 50 states and 14 other countries. This includes researchers who want to collaborate, as well as many people seeking treatment or to participate in future trials. A team is working to connect all those who inquire with appropriate resources. RNI’s work, led by Director Dr. Ali Rezai, is elevating West Virginia University’s research stature and demonstrating our land-grant commitment to promoting health and saving lives.

Another kind of impact reverberates from the daily inspiration faculty mentors provide to our students. Tomorrow, we will remember one of these beloved educators and role models with the dedication of Kittie Blakemore Drive, formerly Rec Center Drive. The ceremony will take place before the women's basketball game against Baylor. Blakemore joined our faculty in 1960 as an instructor in what was then the School of Physical Education. While rising through the ranks as an assistant and then associate professor, she oversaw the women's intramural program on campus and tirelessly advocated the adoption of intercollegiate women's sports long before the passage of Title IX. In 1973, she became our first women's basketball coach and grew the program from its infancy. I had the privilege of knowing her during my first term as president, and her leadership and passion for student success left a lasting impression on me. After stepping down from coaching, she served as assistant athletic director for sports development until her retirement in 1997. Coach Blakemore, who died in 2020, played a pivotal role in the history of our University. Her determination to implement Title IX, her status as a beloved coach of women's basketball, and her mentorship through many decades of service made our campus a better place for countless students and colleagues. Each of us can follow in her footsteps by engaging with this University that we love—and, in doing so, extend its impact even further.

March 20th marks the seventh West Virginia University Day of Giving, organized by the West Virginia University Foundation. Since 2017, the 24-hour event has raised \$66 million from more than 28,000 gifts. The funding benefits all areas of the University, including life-changing scholarships, health care, groundbreaking research and improvements to campus. Scholarships are one of the top fundraising priorities. We want to remove as many barriers as possible to allow students access to higher education. Gifts to support scholarships will help move us toward our goal of helping each student achieve their degree and graduate from West Virginia University with little to no student debt.

Then, on April 20, the WVU Alumni Association is sponsoring a Day of Service. Through chapters nationwide, alumni will demonstrate the Mountaineer value of service in their local communities. I encourage everyone to learn more about these events and engage with the University through them and other means. West Virginia University’s impact on the world is growing, and I am grateful to all Mountaineers for making this possible.

## 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 Madison Santmyer moved that today's Consent Agenda be approved. This motion was seconded by Frankie Tack and passed.

Thereupon, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

**1. Approval of New Program: BS in Respiratory Therapy in the School of Medicine**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a new BS degree in the School of Medicine.

**2. Café Evansdale Kitchen Renovation (Sodexo)**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves this project, price increase, as presented.

**3. Milan Puskar Stadium – Sports Lighting Upgrades**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves this project, as presented.

**4. Deactivation of Career Technical Education at WVU Institute of Technology**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the deactivation of Career Technical Education at WVUIT.

**5. Naming Opportunity**

Resolved: That pursuant to BOG Governance Rule 2.2, the West Virginia University Board of Governors hereby approves the naming opportunity discussed during today's Executive Session.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Chair Willis-Miller announced that the next planned board meeting is scheduled for April 12, 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 12:35 p.m.

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Dr. Patrice Harris, Secretary





**WVU BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**CAMPUS SAFETY**  
**COMMITTEE UPDATE**

February 23, 2024

# STEERING COMMITTEE

## THIS GROUP:

/ identifies safety concerns for all campuses and works with sub-groups to develop best practices and solutions.

/ makes recommendations to the University based on the input provided by the sub-groups.

/ communicates with the campus community on a frequent basis to share goals, action plans and results.

## MEMBERS:

### CO-CHAIRS:

**Corey Farris**  
**Sharon Martin**

Amy Alton  
Ann Berry  
Trish Gendana  
Diana Davis  
Jen Fisher  
Lisa Hanselman  
Ron Justice  
April Kaull  
Paul Kreider  
April Messerly

Travis Mollohan  
Erin Newmeyer  
Meshea Poore  
Madison Santmyer  
Tara Scatterday  
Carrie Showalter  
Chief Sherry St Clair  
Ted Svhelik  
Stephanie Taylor

# CAMPUS SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEES

## CAMPUS CARRY

**TRAVIS MOLLOHAN, CHAIR**

This sub-group will make recommendations to the Campus Safety Steering Group regarding safety provisions, requirements and communications needed to implement Campus Carry on all WVU campuses by July 1, 2024. Meets monthly or as circumstances dictate.

## MORGANTOWN PARTNERSHIP

**RON JUSTICE, CO-CHAIR**

**ERIN NEWMAYER, CO-CHAIR**

This group will work with the City of Morgantown to identify safety concerns for the downtown area, as well as other areas in Morgantown, and work in partnership with various Morgantown leaders and agencies to develop solutions and assist with community development projects. Meets every six weeks or as circumstances dictate.

# CAMPUS SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEES

## CAMPUS SAFETY

CARRIE SHOWALTER, CHAIR

This group will identify safety concerns on WVU's campuses and develop solutions and best practices to address those concerns. This group will communicate frequently with the campus community on projects. Meets monthly or as circumstances dictate.

## COMMUNICATION

APRIL KAULL, CHAIR

This sub-group will develop strategic communications to educate the campus community on progress of the Campus Safety groups, as well as develop campus safety messaging to be shared throughout the academic year. This group also will work with the city's communication team to create shared messaging when appropriate. Meets monthly or as circumstances dictate.

# CAMPUS CARRY SUBCOMMITTEE

**The Campus Carry Subcommittee will meet regularly through July 1, 2024, which is the date Senate Bill 10 becomes law.**

It is reviewing a wide variety of topics, including:

- / How to implement for the WVU System
- / Project costs
- / Timeline
- / Communication plan
- / Provide final recommendations to Steering Committee

# CAMPUS CARRY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Campus Carry Subcommittee is represented by a cross-section of our campuses and our programs including:

- |                        |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| / Students             | / Government Relations | / Talent & Culture     |
| / Faculty              | / Health Sciences      | / University Relations |
| / Staff                | / Hospital System      | / UPD                  |
| / Carruth Center       | / Libraries            | / Visitors Center      |
| / Creative Arts Center | / Provost's Office     | / WVU Beckley          |
| / Extension            | / Research             | / WVU Keyser           |
| / Facilities           | / Student Life         |                        |
| / General Counsel      | / Student Housing      |                        |

# KEY COMPONENTS OF THE LAW

**The following provisions and exceptions are included in the law:**

- / Requires institutions to permit concealed carry of pistols or revolvers by those with a license in non-exempt areas.
- / Only applies to areas under custodial possession, not areas rented, leased or under exclusive agreement for occupant and use of a private entity.
- / WVU is permitted to prohibit concealed carry in select areas defined in the legislation such as patient care, mental health counseling, high hazardous and animal laboratories, organized events at a stadium or arena with 1,000 or greater spectator capacity, student and employee disciplinary proceedings, and where “adequate security measures,” as defined by statute, are in place.
- / WVU may also prohibit concealed carry at primary or secondary education school-sponsored functions, and in “sole occupancy” offices as defined by statute.
- / WVU may restrict concealed carry in on-campus residence halls except common areas such as lounges, dining areas and study areas and by employees whose responsibilities require them to be in on-campus residence halls.
- / Pistols or revolvers remain restricted from areas where already prohibited by federal or state law.

# PROGRESS TO DATE

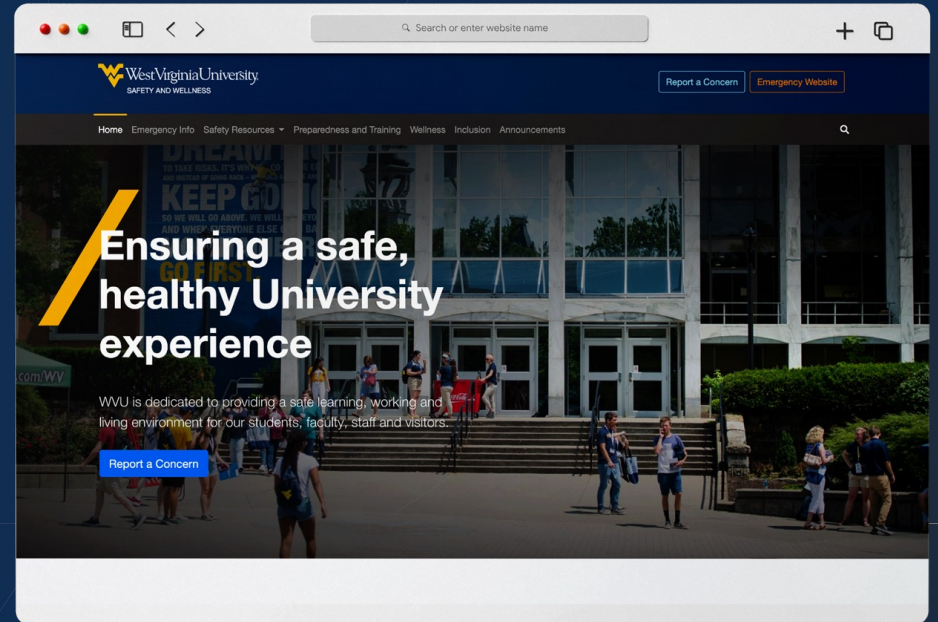
- / Recently completed UPD survey on campus safety (**1,000+ responses**).
- / **Campus Carry website** went live on Monday, February 19.
- / **Campus Carry presentations** to Faculty Senate and Student Government Association (SGA). Additional presentations scheduled for Staff Council, Front Line Professionals, Key Communicators/Alumni Relations teams.
- / Participated in **demonstrations** of metal detectors/weapons detection systems.
- / Spearheaded by HEPC, WVU is participating in **regular meetings with WV higher education attorneys** on Campus Carry implementation.
- / **Communications timeline** developed with a special emphasis on the implementation of Campus Carry.
- / **Connected with universities** in other campus carry states (Kansas University, Kansas State University, Colorado University and Colorado State University) to learn best practices.
- / Campus Carry **Board of Governors Rule** on today's agenda.



# COMMUNICATION

## CAMPUS SAFETY

- / regularly provide safety information and updates to the campus community through E-News and U-News
- / maintain [safety.wvu.edu](https://safety.wvu.edu)
- / work closely with UPD, Student Life and Legal



# COMMUNICATION

## CAMPUS CARRY

Communications will focus on four key messages:

- / What is the law?
- / How will it affect me?
- / What resources are available to me?
- / Where can I learn more?

We will work with campus communicators and key constituents to share information.

Timeline began this month and will carry through the fall.

[safety.wvu.edu/campus-carry](https://safety.wvu.edu/campus-carry)

## COMMUNICATION PLANS

- / Campus Carry webpages
- / Social Media
- / Direct Emails
- / Vanity email account (to direct questions)
- / Campus signage
- / Guide for communicators: talking points, social posts, email blasts, graphics
- / Info Station graphics
- / FAQs
- / Campus Conversation
- / NSO (module, in-person programming)
- / Welcome Week and other fall communications
- / **Training for key teams:** Residence Life, Visitors Center teams, Admissions staff, Graduate Admissions staff, Recruiters, Mountaineer Parents Club, WVU Extension, WVU Athletics

**THANK YOU.**