

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

September 12, 2025

The two hundred thirty fourth meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on September 12, 2025 in Morgantown, WV, in person and via zoom webinar. 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, Robert Rekynolds, Steve Ruby, Colin Street, Dianne Stewart and Charles Wilfong.

Other participants included:

President Michael Benson;

WV Governor Patrick Morrisey and the First Lady;

General Counsel, Stephanie Taylor;

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Paul Kreider;

Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing, Heather Richardson;

Vice President and Executive Dean of Health Sciences, Clay Marsh;

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Paula Congelio;

Senior Associate Vice President for Finance, Barbara Weiss;

Associate Vice President of Talent and Culture, Mario Barge;

Senior Deputy General Counsel, Kevin Cimino'

Associate General Counsel, Kylie Barnhart;

Vice President of Enrollment Management, Fabrizio D'Aloisio;

Associate Vice President, Government Relations and Collaboration,

Travis Mollohan;

Associate Provost for Budget, Facilities and Strategic Initiatives,

Mark Gavin;

Vice President, Student Life, Gary G. Furbee, II;

Director of Internal Audit, Bryan Shaver;

Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment, Louis Slimak;

Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Evan Widders;

Associate Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, Erin Newmeyer;

WVU Foundation Chair, J. Wayne Richards;

Executive Director of Strategic Communications, Shauna Johnson;  
Executive Officer and Assistant Board Secretary, Jennifer Fisher;  
and Special Assistant to the Board of Governors, Valerie Lopez.

Members of the Press also attended.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rusty Hutson at 8:48 a.m. A roll call was taken to determine who was in attendance and a quorum established.

President Benson addressed the full board, stating that he sees many reasons for optimism and stated that as he travels throughout the campus and across the Mountain State, he is seeing and hearing how much WVU means to so many people — to our students, our faculty and staff, and also our alumni and the many others who proudly don gold and blue to cheer on the Mountaineers,

Governor Morrisey also addressed the full board, stating it was an honor do so, and stating that he looks forward to working with the board to help WVU excel. Gov. Morrisey advised that he is excited to be a part of the bright future ahead for the University and the Mountain State.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kevin Craig moved that the board approve the minutes for June 13, 2025 and July 23, 2025 board meetings. This motion was seconded by Steve Ruby and passed.

### **PROPOSED BOARD RESOLUTION ON WVU ATHLETICS**

Chair Hutson briefed the board on the proposed Resolution. The explained that the landscape of intercollegiate athletics has undergone profound transformation in recent years, particularly within the Power 4 conferences, requiring member institutions to adapt strategically to remain competitive.

Further, the WVU Board of Governors recognizes the imperative of positioning the WVU Athletics programs to compete at the highest level, thereby ensuring continued success and stability in this evolving environment.

Further, a strong and visible Athletics program is essential to advance student enrollment, enriches the student experience, strengthens alumni and donor engagement, supports recruitment of talented faculty and staff and provides a source of pride and connection for Mountaineer fans in West Virginia and those around the world.

Further, the WVU Board reaffirms that West Virginia University is first and foremost an academic institution, dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities, attracting and retaining a highly qualified and respected faculty, maintaining and enhancing the university's R1 research designation and academic medical center, and preparing students to be leaders in their professions and communities,

In light of the above, the West Virginia University Board of Governors hereby directs University and Athletics leadership, in regular collaboration with the WVU Board, to develop and present to the Board, at its February 2026 meeting, a financial and operational plan that positions WVU Athletics in the top funding tier among Big 12 institutions, while simultaneously strengthening the University's paramount core academic mission, and to report to the Board on the development of that plan.

There being no questions regarding this Resolution, Elmer Coppoolse moved that the board approve the Resolution, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Patrice Harris and passed.

## **REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

Vice President of Enrollment Management Fabrizio D'Aloisio provided his vision for WVU Enrollment, touching on the following topics:

- The narrative for WVU's enrollment vision;

- Key Pillars for Success – including “Win” West Virginia; Strategic Enrollment Plan; Broadening Our Reach; Brand & Reputation; Financial Responsibility; and Enhanced Campus-Wide Partnerships.

Vice President D’Aloisio’s presentation is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Vice President and CFO Paula Congelio, provided a brief Financial Update, as follows:

- The financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and are currently under audit by our external auditors, CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA). The audited financials will be presented at the November Audit Committee meeting. CLA representatives will also attend to address any questions.
- The first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 concludes on September 30, 2025. Preliminary financial statements and updated dashboard metrics will be shared at the November Finance Committee meeting.
- Fall 2025 enrollment results are encouraging. Not only are we ahead of last year's numbers, but preliminary figures also exceed budget projections. This positive variance provides the university with added financial flexibility as we begin the new fiscal year.

## **DIVISIONAL CAMPUS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Chair Paul Mattox presented the following report:

The Divisional Campus Committee met via Zoom on September 4, 2025.

We met in Executive Session to discuss potential strategic initiatives relating to academic, strategic, and enrollment priorities for the divisional campuses and other deliberative matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University.

No actions or votes were taken during Executive Session.

The committee reviewed potential goals and priorities for the divisional campuses for the current academic year, with particular attention to strengthening enrollment and retention. Members also engaged in a broader discussion to brainstorm ideas for future strategies that could support recruitment efforts and enhance student success across the campuses. The Members then discussed a variety of potential metrics for monitoring the success of the divisional campuses. The committee emphasized the importance of maintaining and further enhancing the strong foundations of our divisional campuses at Potomac State College and WVU Tech.

Again, no actions were taken during the Executive Session. After the session, the meeting was adjourned.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Chair Charles Capito presented the following report:

The Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee met via Zoom on September 8, 2025.

We met in Executive Session to discuss potential strategic initiatives relating to academic and strategic priorities for the University; personnel matters; and other deliberative matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University.

No actions or votes were taken during Executive Session.

The committee reviewed potential goals and priorities for the current academic year with a continued emphasis on maintaining a strong academic mission. The Provost also outlined potential new initiatives and opportunities under

consideration that could strengthen existing programs and expand offerings for future students. In addition, the committee received updates on the progress of ongoing leadership searches within academic affairs.

Again, no actions were taken during the Executive Session. After the session, the meeting was adjourned.

### **JOINT FINANCE AND STRATEGIC PLANS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Finance Committee Chair Steve Ruby presented the following report:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Monday, September 8, the Finance and Facilities and Revitalization Committee met in joint session with the Strategic Plans and Initiatives Committee.

We met in Executive Session to discuss potential strategic initiatives relating to financial, administrative, and strategic priorities for the University; personnel matters; potential corporate collaborations; and other deliberative matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University.

No actions or votes were taken during Executive Session.

Both committees continue to prioritize opportunities and resources that support students, faculty, and staff by advancing critical and purposeful work that strengthens the University. The joint committee discussed a range of potential goals and priorities for the current academic year. We are encouraged by the positive enrollment increase for Fall 2025, as noted in President Benson's report, and recognize the importance of building on this momentum through new strategies and sustained efforts. The committees also emphasized maintaining a balanced budget for the current fiscal year, while carefully reviewing financial priorities to identify areas where additional investment may be most impactful, all while ensuring a strong and sustainable financial foundation.

After a productive session, the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Facilities and Revitalization Committee and the Strategic Plans and Initiatives Committee adjourned.

That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Chair Robert Reynolds presented the following report:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Wednesday, September 10, there was a meeting of the Audit Committee.

First, we heard from the WVU VP of Finance, Paula Congelio. Paula reported that WVU is part of the state single audit conducted by CLA for FY 2025. There are two major programs that will be audited: Federal Student Financial Aid and the Research and Development Cluster. Fieldwork is underway for the Financial Aid review, but no timeline has been finalized for the R&D cluster.

Also, WVU Research Corporation is part of the Single Audit for FY 2025. Three programs having more than \$3 million in expenditures will be audited (R&D cluster, Opioid program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed).

Paula then reported that the fiscal year 2025 Year end audit for WVU and WVURC conducted by CLA has begun. The final statements will be issued by the deadline of October 15, 2025.

Other activities included the WVU Research Corporation 403(b) Plan and Form 5500 December 31, 2024 audits by Forvis Mazars which was completed, and the Form 5500 was submitted to the IRS by the filing deadline of July 31, 2025.

We also met in Executive Session. During Executive Session, we received a report from the Director of Internal Audit discussing confidential and ongoing

audit investigations and reports. We also received a report from the General Counsel on legal matters relevant to the Audit Committee. No votes or actions were taken during Executive Session.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

**PROPOSED FINAL AMENDED RULE  
AND OFFICIAL COMMENTS  
SUMMARY FOR AMENDMENTS TO  
THE FOLLOWING RULE: WEST  
VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS TALENT & CULTURE  
RULE 3.5 – EMPLOYEE LEAVE**

Associate General Counsel Kylie Barnhart presented this agenda item.

At the Board's June 13, 2025 meeting, it issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for amendment of BOG Talent & Culture Rule 3.5 – Employee Leave. The proposed changes provide the University with more flexibility and reduce administrative burden and cost, which was detailed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and in the redline attached to this agenda item in the board meeting materials.

The proposed changes to the Rule were posted for the required thirty (30) day public comment period. Eight (8) comments were received. Those comments and the University's responses were posted on the University's website for at least ten (10) days in advance of this Board meeting. It was determined that one change was needed as a result of the comments received. As outlined in the comment chart and redline contained in the board meeting materials, the 90-day time limit to use transferred leave that exceeds the University's leave accrual limit has been removed. Additionally, after further review, the definition of University Affiliated Entities was updated to add the WVU Innovation Corporation and Gold & Blue, Inc.

Accordingly, the Board of Governors is asked to approve the final amended Rule as presented. If approved, the amended Rule will be effective in 15 business days, in accordance with our rulemaking procedures.

There being no questions regarding this agenda item, Kevin Craig moved that the board approve the final amended rule, as presented, pursuant to BOG Governance Rule 1.1. The motion was seconded by Robert Reynolds and passed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Hutson called for any discussion of today's Consent Agenda items and asked whether any items needed to be pulled for a separate discussion/vote. It was noted that in reference to the agenda item – Approval of New Program: MS in Cybersecurity – the date the new degree will be available to students is beginning in the Fall of 2026 (not 2025 as contained in the agenda item.)

There being no such request made, Kevin Craig moved that today's Consent Agenda be approved. This motion was seconded by Paul Mattox and passed.

Thereupon, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

### **1. Entry of Institutional Undergraduate Fee Waivers and Institutional Graduate and Professional Fee Waivers**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors enter the attached report of the Institutional Undergraduate Fee Waivers for FY 2024-2025, at West Virginia University – Morgantown, West Virginia University – Beckley (West Virginia University Institute of Technology – Beckley), and West Virginia University – Keyser (Potomac State College of West Virginia University), into its minutes.

AND

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors enter the attached report of the Institutional Graduate and Professional Fee Waivers for Fall, 2024 Spring, 2025, and Summer, 2025 at West Virginia University into its minutes.

**(NOTE: Both of these documents are attached hereto, and made a part hereof, by reference)**

**2. Approval of New Program: MS in Cybersecurity**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the creation of a new program in Cybersecurity WVU, as presented, noting that the date the new degree will be available to students is beginning in the Fall of 2026 (not 2025 as contained in the agenda item.)

**3. Approval of New Program: AA Medica Studies**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the creation of a new AA degree program in Media Studies.

**4. Deactivation and or termination of the following programs from WVU Main Campus, and WVU Potomac State: Certificate Early Childhood Development, Certificate Early Childhood Administration, Certificate Infant/Toddler Education, BS Early Childhood Special Education, BS Child, Youth, and Family Sciences, AS Aerospace Engineering, AS Biometric Systems, AS Civil Engineering, AS Computer Engineering, AS Electrical Engineering, AS Exercise Physiology, AS Industrial Engineering, AS Mechanical Engineering, AS Pre Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics, AS Pre Occupational Therapy, and BAS Sustainable Agricultural Entrepreneurship**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the deactivation/termination of the aforementioned.

**5. Jackson's Mill Lodge Renovation with Visitor's Center**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the project budget for Jackson 's Mill Lodge Renovation project, as presented.

**6. Naming of Don Wilcox Field at the Pride Practice Facility**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors Approve the naming of Don Wilcox Field, as presented.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Hutson requested a motion to move into Executive Session, under authority in West Virginia Code, Section -9A-46-9A-4 (b)(12) to discuss potential strategic initiatives relating to strategic and legislative priorities for the University; and a legal update from the General Counsel. Kevin Craig so moved, which motion was seconded by Steve Ruby and passed. Following the discussions in Executive Session, Paul Mattox moved that the board rise from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Scott Crichlow and passed.

Chair Hutson stated that several items were discussed in Executive Session, but that no actions originated from these discussions.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hutson announced that the next planned board meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2025. There being no further business to come before the board Kevin Craig moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Elmer Coppoolse and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Paul Mattox, Secretary

# VISION FOR WVU ENROLLMENT

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September 12, 2025



# ENROLLMENT VISION

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Our vision is to build a **vibrant student body** rich with varied perspectives and backgrounds, committed to **academic excellence** and **purposeful engagement**. We will strategically enroll students whose ambitions align with WVU's mission as a **premier R1 research institution**.

Through a seamless and personalized enrollment journey, we will attract **future leaders** prepared to innovate and contribute to the **economic prosperity of West Virginia** and the wider world. Our efforts will be **data-driven**, creating a supportive environment where every student can **find their purpose and thrive**.

# KEY PILLARS FOR SUCCESS

1

*"Win" West  
Virginia*

2

*Strategic  
Enrollment  
Plan*

3

*Broadening  
Our Reach*

4

*Brand &  
Reputation*

5

*Financial  
Responsibility*

6

*Enhanced  
Campus-  
Wide  
Partnerships*

## 1. “WIN” WEST VIRGINIA

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As the Public Flagship Land-Grant University, a key part of this strategy is our unwavering commitment to the students of West Virginia. We will ensure that every academically prepared student in the state has a clear path to an education at WVU, providing them with access and opportunity.

By educating our state's youth, we are investing directly in the future of West Virginia. This will not only improve the state's economy by creating a more skilled workforce but will also enhance the quality of life for all West Virginians, ultimately leading to a more prosperous and vibrant state.

## **2. STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT PLAN**

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The aim is to establish an aligned enrollment strategy that offers a consistent long-term framework for the University. This includes creating an enrollment plan that addresses shifts in enrollment trends by adopting a stable and varied approach that aligns with institutional priorities and capacity constraints across campus.

The plan will include enhanced market segmentation, personalized recruitment, and efforts to improve an already strong student experience while promoting the depth and breadth of our academic programs. These measures are intended to support enrollment goals with an appropriate balance of in-state, out-of-state, international, and online students.

### **3. BROADENING OUR REACH**

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A thriving campus community requires a mosaic of perspectives and backgrounds. We are committed to intentionally recruiting students from all levels of academic preparation and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Our efforts will span all disciplines—from STEM and health sciences to the arts and humanities—with a special focus on attracting first-generation students, rural students, veterans, and individuals with unique life experiences. This approach ensures we build a campus that truly reflects and serves the people of West Virginia.

## **4. BRAND & REPUTATION**

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The enrollment strategy influences the reputation of the institution. Recruiting students with high academic performance and showcasing their achievements can enhance the perceived value of a WVU degree.

WVU's strong academic programs are central to building its reputation, offering rigorous curricula and diverse opportunities that attract talented students and faculty. The University will promote its research, athletics, and sense of community to strengthen its brand identity.

## **5. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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Enrollment goals will be rooted in sound financial planning, ensuring that recruitment targets align thoughtfully with tuition revenue and scholarship budgets to maintain the University's fiscal stability. The aim is to foster enrollment growth that supports, rather than strains, available resources while growing enrollment. Moreover, particular attention will be given to West Virginia students who face financial barriers.

Through expanded scholarship opportunities, targeted financial aid, and dedicated support services, WVU will empower these students to pursue their educational aspirations. By removing financial obstacles, we are not only opening doors for West Virginia's youth but also investing in the potential of our state's future leaders.

## **6. ENHANCED CAMPUS-WIDE PARTNERSHIPS**

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A successful enrollment strategy is a collaborative, campus-wide effort. We will forge strong, effective partnerships with key University units—including Strategic Communications & Marketing, academic colleges, Division of Student Life, Center for Learning, Advising, and Student Success, Extension, and Athletics—to create a seamless and compelling student experience.

This collaboration is crucial for ensuring our messaging is cohesive, our program information is accurate, and we highlight all the opportunities WVU offers. Our goal is to act as a central hub, aligning every office on campus behind the shared goal of enrollment success.

# THANK YOU!

*Fabrizio D'Aloisio*

Vice President of Enrollment Management

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Undergraduate Tuition Waiver Summary 2024-25

West Virginia University - All Campuses

Award Category	Number of Students Awarded		Total	Amount Waived		Total
	In-State	Out-of-State & International		In-State	Out-of-State & International	
Academic Ability	1	10	11	\$343	\$8,620	\$8,963
Student Government	4	0	4	\$19,886		\$19,886
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$20,229</b>	<b>\$8,620</b>	<b>\$28,849</b>

Legislatively Mandated by the State of West Virginia

	Number of Students Awarded			Amount Waived		
	In-State	Out-of-State & International	Total	In-State	Out-of-State & International	Grand Total
American Legion	1	0	1	\$6,188	\$0	\$6,188
AmeriCorps	10	3	13	\$79,012	\$13,034	\$92,046
Child of Slain Officer	1	0	1	\$8,688	\$0	\$8,688
Foster Care	29	0	29	\$187,653	\$0	\$187,653
Health Science & Tech. Academy (HSTA)	164	0	164	\$1,057,353	\$0	\$1,057,353
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>\$1,338,894</b>	<b>\$13,034</b>	<b>\$1,351,928</b>

Combined Total      \$1,380,777

## West Virginia University 2024-25 Waiver Report

	Fall 2024									
	Number of Students			Number of Credit Hours			Dollar Value			
	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Resident	Non-resident	Total	
Employees	130	34	164	558	151	709	\$ 330,858	\$ 160,639	\$ 491,497	
Graduate Assistants (RA/SA/TA)	304	1,162	1,466	2,656	10,171	12,827	\$ 1,477,721	\$ 15,572,091	\$ 17,049,812	
Graduate Student Merit Waivers	108	173	281	458	469	927	\$ 275,158	\$ 1,080,787	\$ 1,355,945	
Fellowships	54	56	110	412	477	889	\$ 229,484	\$ 715,390	\$ 944,874	
<b>Total</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>4,084</b>	<b>11,268</b>	<b>15,352</b>	<b>\$ 2,313,221</b>	<b>\$ 17,528,907</b>	<b>\$ 19,842,128</b>	

	Spring 2025									
	Number of Students			Number of Credit Hours			Dollar Value			
	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Resident	Non-resident	Total	
Employees	106	28	134	488	122	610	\$ 275,994	\$ 127,046	\$ 403,040	
Graduate Assistants (RA/SA/TA)	289	1,073	1,362	2,547	9,540	12,087	\$ 1,419,793	\$ 14,667,117	\$ 16,086,910	
Graduate Student Merit Waivers	119	175	294	499	701	1,200	\$ 300,502	\$ 1,055,612	\$ 1,356,114	
Fellowships	52	62	114	443	530	973	\$ 246,751	\$ 779,706	\$ 1,026,457	
<b>Total</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>3,977</b>	<b>10,893</b>	<b>14,870</b>	<b>\$ 2,243,039</b>	<b>\$ 16,629,481</b>	<b>\$ 18,872,520</b>	

	Summer 2025									
	Number of Students			Number of Credit Hours			Dollar Value			
	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Resident	Non-resident	Total	
Employees	62	14	76	243	52	295	\$ 133,680	\$ 57,160	\$ 190,840	
Graduate Assistants (RA/SA/TA)	165	730	895	472	1,523	1,995	\$ 259,562	\$ 2,337,000	\$ 2,596,562	
Graduate Student Merit Waivers	21	40	61	136	174	310	\$ 46,788	\$ 95,061	\$ 141,849	
Fellowships	39	36	75	159	81	240	\$ 91,348	\$ 129,919	\$ 221,267	
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>2,840</b>	<b>\$ 531,378</b>	<b>\$ 2,619,140</b>	<b>\$ 3,150,518</b>	

Number of Credit Hours			Dollar Value		
Resident	Non Resident	Total	Resident	Non Resident	Total
9,071	23,991	33,062	\$ 5,087,638	\$ 36,777,528	\$ 41,865,166