

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY BOARD
OF GOVERNORS

February 17, 2023

The two hundred sixth meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on February 17, 2023 in Morgantown, WV in person and via zoom. Board members in attendance/participating via zoom included Marty Becker, Charles Capito, Bray Cary, Elmer Coppoolse, Kevin Craig, J. Thomas Jones, Dr. Patrice Harris, Chloe Hernandez, Dr. Stanley Hileman, Alan Larrick, Susan Lavenski, Lisa A. Martin, Dr. Ashley Martucci, Paul Mattox, Taunja Willis Miller, Richard Pill, and Benjamin Statler.

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;
Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Rob Alsop;
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 & Inclusion, Meshea Poore;
Chancellor & Executive Dean for Health Sciences, Clay Marsh;
President, WVU Tech, T. Ramon Stuart;
President, Potomac State, Chris Gilbert;
Chief of State, Potomac State, Brady Whipkey;
Vice Provost, Paul Kreider;
Dean of Students, Corey Farris;
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 Weis;
Deputy General Counsel, Gary G. Furbee, II;
Associate General Counsel, Kylie Barnhart;
Director of Internal Audit, Bryan Shaver;
Assistant Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Erin Newmeyer;
Associate Vice President, Institutional Data and Analytics, Office of the
Provost, Lisa Castellino-Gergich;
Executive Director of Academic Personnel, Chris Staples;
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Evan Widders;
Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management, George Zimmerman;
Assistant Vice President for Academic Planning and Implementation,
Amanda DeBastiani;
Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, Tracy Morris;
Interim Associate Provost of Graduate Academic Affairs, Richard Thomas;
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, WVU Health Sciences
Center, Louise Veselicky;
Executive Officer and Assistant Board Secretary, Jennifer Fisher;
Director of News Communications, Shauna Johnson;

Executive Director of Communications, University Relations,
April Kaul; 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 Chairman J. Thomas Jones at 9:00 a.m.
A roll call was taken to determine who was in attendance and a quorum established.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Jones requested a motion to move Executive Session, under authority in West Virginia Code §§ 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; 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; and
- b. Confidential and privileged report by General Counsel

The motion was made by Dr. Stanley Hileman, seconded by Alan Larrick, and passed. Following Executive Session Dr. Ashley Martucci moved that the board rise from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Kevin Craig and passed. Chairman Jones stated that no actions were taken as a result of today's Executive Session discussions.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Provost Maryanne Reed provided the following Academic Affairs Updates:

Welcome to February in Morgantown – where the weather is unpredictable. Monday was spring. Wednesday was summer...and today we are back to winter. But we soldier on no matter what's in the forecast. In today's report I intend to talk about just a few key items.

Awards Season

Regardless of the weather, Spring is always the time in which we celebrate our outstanding students, faculty and staff.

We are currently collecting applications and nominations for the University's top faculty awards in teaching, research and service, and will begin to make those announcements by early April.

Also in April, the Provost's Office will again host our annual Benedum Distinguished Scholars celebration in which the winners of last year's Benedum awards will present "lightning" talks highlighting their research, their methods and their motivation. The event will be held on April 12 at 7PM at the Creative Arts Center, and I encourage all of you to attend if you're available. It is a showcase of the best and brightest faculty and WVU, and it's always entertaining and inspiring.

And once again, we will partner with the Academic Advising Council to host Academic Adviser Appreciation Day on April 25th! We'll have several "appreciation stations" around campus where students can write notes of thanks to their advisers. We'll also honor this year's Nick Evans Advising Award recipients. At a time when student success and retention are key to our future, we can't say thank you enough to these team members who make a difference in students' lives each and every day.

I had the privilege of meeting some of those students at last Friday's Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. Talk about inspiring. These young people are ready to change the world.

Our WVU students are helping to find new treatments for cancer, identifying ways that artificial intelligence can be used to detect mental health challenges, demonstrating the impact of trauma on language development, and building wearable devices to aid patients who suffer from mobility issues — just to name a few of their projects.

Academic Transformation

Undergraduate research is a very important way for students to apply their classroom learning toward solving real world problems. And it is one area we hope to lift up in our student success efforts this year, which is a top priority under Academic Transformation.

In January, we began year three of Academic Transformation, a project that was launched in January 2021, after President Gee challenged my office to lead the campus in transforming our academic programs and practices in a challenging higher education environment.

Under Student Success, we have several key initiatives under way right now — that are designed to improve student success outcomes, such as freshmen retention, persistence and graduation rates. These include a completion grants program, designed to help seniors who are struggling, get across the finish line; another new program designed to provide wrap-around support for our most vulnerable students, including Pell-eligible and first-generation students; and a new program in the Eberly College, focused on improving undergraduate student outcomes in their introductory STEM courses, including MATH.

This year we will also focus on the improving the success outcomes of our graduates, by (1) ensuring that students have access and get credit for experiential learning opportunities that give them real-world skills that supplement their classroom learning and (2) by enhancing career

readiness programs across campus, to ensure that all students have access to quality and relevant career counseling.

We will continue work on reviewing and recommending changes to the University's academic program portfolio. Our primary work this Spring will be focused on the University's graduate programs — both master's and doctoral degree programs. As was the case with our review of undergraduate programs, we conducted a deep dive into the data for each graduate program, looking at things like enrollment trends, time to graduate, as well as each program's contribution to the University's research and land-grant missions.

We met with our college leaders multiple times, along with the Office of Research, to share the data and ask questions to determine what we may have been missing. Based on all of the information gathered, we are very close to sharing our preliminary recommendations with the colleges — which will trigger the formal review process that ends with our final recommendations to the Board.

By the way, the Higher Learning Policy Commission has asked WVU's team to share our process for program review with representatives of all of the state's public institutions at a two-day summit that is taking place today and tomorrow. HEPC is reviewing its own program review practices and sees us as a model.

It will be another busy but exciting year, as we help to shape the future of our academic portfolio and practices at WVU.

Accreditation

Believe it or not, we are also beginning to gear up for the University's re-accreditation review. In just over a year – in April 2024 – WVU will have its ten-year comprehensive re-affirmation of accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission.

Since 2014, WVU has had two multi-site visits which were met without concerns (the best possible outcome) and a comprehensive visit in 2018 in which all areas were also met without concerns.

Welcoming New Presidents

Provost Reed also welcomed new presidents from the WVU Keyser Campus and WVU Beckley Campus.

Dr. Chris Gilmer is the new campus president of WVU Potomac State College. He provided background on his educational pursuits and stated that to be able to have that small town college experience but be still a part of a tier one research university is Potomac State's real strength and that it is really the best of both worlds. He concluded that Potomac State is the first choice for community service, we're the first choice for educating students, and that we mean to be a good and committed community partner.

Dr. T. Ramon Stuart has returned to his native southern West Virginia to lead a new chapter in WVU Tech's history. After detailing his high education history, he advised that he wants to make sure that we leverage the expertise and world-renowned knowledge of our faculty and the ambition and aspiration of our students. His remarks included the plans for WVU Tech to make sure that we're preparing students for the careers of the future, not just the jobs of today. He concluded that his passion, and love for this state gave him so much, and he is just so thankful these country roads have brought him home to the place where he belongs.

President Gee also welcomed Drs. Stuart and Gilmer. He acknowledged this is a tumultuous time in higher education, and universities everywhere are facing strong headwinds such as inflation, fewer students choosing to continue their education and increasing financial pressures. WVU has outlined short-term actions with an eye on long-term strategies to manage its financials.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED
RULEMAKING FOR BOG
GOVERNANCE RULE 1.2, ACADEMICS
RULES, AND TALENT AND CULTURE
RULE 3.5**

Associate General Counsel Kylie Barnhart presented this agenda item for a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for amendments to the following: West Virginia University Board of Governors Governance Rule 1.2, Academics Rules, and Talent and Culture Rule 3.5.

The proposed changes are to amend current BOG Rules to clarify certain provisions and update the Rules to reflect changes and situations that have occurred since their adoption. First, the change to BOG Governance Rule 1.2 seeks to document the current practices between the University management and the Foundation in the Foundation recommending a naming opportunity for a facility or academic unit in exchange for a monetary donation.

Second, changes are proposed to the BOG Academics Rules to expand upon the test optional policies available in the Rules, update academic criteria necessary for admission, and give the University discretion to recalculate GPAs to ensure academic consistency across the applicant pool. Additionally, changes are proposed to add additional categories of international students that may be eligible to receive in-state tuition if they have already established domicile in West Virginia. Finally, a change is proposed to BOG Talent & Culture Rule 3.5 – Employee Leave to provide that residents and fellows will receive leave in accordance with any applicable accreditation requirements.

Substantively, the proposed changes to the Rules above will result in amendments as set forth in detail in the table located in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and the attached redlines, as part of today's meeting materials. Following the issuance of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the proposed changes to the Rules will be posted for the required thirty (30) day public comment period from February 20, 2023 through March 21, 2023. The Board of Governors is asked to approve the issuance of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as presented.

Accordingly, Dr. Patrice Harris moved that the board approves the issuance of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as presented, pursuant to BOG Governance Rule 1.1. This motion was seconded by Bray Cary, and passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kevin Craig moved that the minutes of the December 16, 2022 Regular Board meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Elmer Coppoolse and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

February 16, 2023 Audit Committee Meeting: Taunja Willis Miller, Audit Committee Chairman, reported as follows:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday afternoon, 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, 2023 deadline. Next, Paula reported that CLA began an agreed upon procedures engagement (mid-year review) on February 6. This engagement is not an audit, but a review, and an opinion will not be expressed. Engagement letters with FORVIS were also provided 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 procurement and payment 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.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

February 16, 2023 Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee Meeting: Dr. Patrice Harris, chair of this committee, reported as follows:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your committee on Academic Affairs met yesterday afternoon.

After approving the minutes of the last meeting, we met in Executive Session. During Executive Session we discussed deliberative, preliminary and confidential information relating to academic priorities. No votes or actions were taken during Executive Session.

Following our Executive Session, we held a public session during which Provost Reed provided an update on Academic Transformation priorities and Year 3 initiatives, highlighting specific programs to increase undergraduate student retention, persistence and graduation rates, as well as efforts to improve the graduate student experience. Initiatives also include plans to focus on enhancing student career readiness programs across campus, including support services, curriculum and experiential learning opportunities, and taking a deeper look at expanding compressed courses and parts-of-term course offerings.

Provost Reed then introduced guest speaker Lisa Castellino-Gergich, associate vice president for institutional data and analytics, who provided a fantastic and more in-depth look at the growth and success of WVU's popular Winter Intersession over the last five years.

Mr. Chairman, we had a productive afternoon, and this concludes my report. Thank you.

February 16, 2023 Joint Finance and Facilities and Revitalization/Strategic Plans and Initiatives Committee Meeting: Elmer Coppoolse, who chaired this joint committee meeting, reported as follows:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 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 deliberative, preliminary, and confidential information relating to academic, health sciences, and administrative priorities; personnel matters; matters relating to construction planning; computing, telecommunications, and network and data security programs; and/or matters relating to the purchase, sale, or lease of property, or the investment of public funds and other deliberative and proprietary matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University. While in Executive Sessions, the joint committee also discussed confidential and preliminary matters involving or affecting the University's budget for the current and upcoming academic year, including retention and enrollment were also discussed. No actions or votes were taken during executive session.

After a productive afternoon the Joint Committee adjourned.

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

RESIDENT'S REPORT

President Gee offered the following remarks:

Service to the state

It is no secret that West Virginians are a humble lot. But today, I want to take a few minutes to acknowledge some of the wonderful ways in which our University provides service to the State. Service is not only one of our WVU Values, it also reflects our commitment to the people of West Virginia as an R1, land-grant institution. For example, service is the driving force for our Health Sciences enterprise. Promoting well-being in a state with many health challenges is the purpose of several initiatives, such as the West Virginia Area Health Education Centers. With a central office located in Charleston and an extended reach into 50 counties, the goal of these centers is to develop an interprofessional workforce that addresses the health needs of rural and underserved communities. Throughout the University, faculty and students are working to strengthen West Virginia communities. In the College of Applied Human Sciences, the Center for ActiveWV is focused on creating a healthier state by improving physical activity levels among residents of all ages through collaboration, research, policy and practice. In the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, the Fulcrum Project brings together students and a faculty partner with communities to improve local economies. Upcoming projects include a therapeutic landscape design in Martinsburg, a miners' memorial in Matewan and a fairground in Durbin.

The "My Hometown is Cool" project through WVU Extension helps young people learn about community development and use their ideas, creativity and energy to help drive change with the help of mini grants.

The Lane Innovation Hub, located at the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, is a resource for state businesses with a student-focused maker space and a fully staffed manufacturing service center offering rapid prototyping, electronics prototyping, advanced manufacturing and 3D printing services. Recently, the Hub partnered with Industrial Extension and began working with companies and small businesses throughout the state offering solutions to manufacturing needs.

To showcase programs like these, faculty, staff, students and volunteers traveled to Charleston last month for West Virginia University Day at the Legislature and offered hands-on activities highlighting areas such as STEM, law, literacy, outdoor adventure, health care, safety and more.

I was pleased to have our two new campus presidents, President Gilmer from Potomac State and President Stewart from WVU Tech on hand at the Capitol, and it was wonderful to see their energy and enthusiasm for increasing educational access and providing service in their respective regions.

Last week, young scholars took center stage at the Capitol during Undergraduate Research Day. Our students connected with lawmakers to provide an overview of important work being done in such areas as dental care, mental health and substance use, as well as children's health care. This event showcases the high-impact research our University is doing while providing student researchers a chance to learn about the legislative process and the role of research in policy-making.

Engaging with Students

Educating students is our highest priority, and I have been engaging with as many students as possible to learn how we can better serve their needs. I have had the chance to talk with students at events such as WVUp All Night and the College of Creative Arts' Dance Now! Concert.

I also hosted Honors College students at Blaney House for a discussion that focused on a wide-range of topics. I will continue this outreach in the weeks ahead and, during my spring State of the University Address, I will be sharing what I have learned and how we must ensure that we are providing the best student experience – from academics to student life to mentoring on a new job. Every one of us plays a tremendous role in developing our young people and I want to be sure that we are creating an environment for them to be successful

Budget update

Creating and delivering the programs and initiatives needed to help a student develop their path is our number one priority. And in the months ahead, we will be taking a hard look at what we are doing well and where we can improve. This need for innovation – for thinking forward as a University – will be critical as we face challenging financial circumstances. It is a tumultuous time in higher education. Universities everywhere are facing strong headwinds such as inflation, fewer students choosing to continue their education and increasing financial pressures. West Virginia University is not immune to these challenges. Over the past few weeks, we have outlined immediate actions we need to take to manage our financials. In the future, we will need to make serious decisions on where we invest to move this university and our students forward. I have asked our vice presidents and deans to lean into our land-grant mission and our values, and to be laser-focused on serving our students and the people of our state. Higher education is changing. We must change with it or be left behind. And we will not be left behind. We must adapt – and we will – through innovative thinking, by working together and by always putting students first.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Jones 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 Lisa A. Martin and passed.

Thereupon, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

- 1. Approval of new Master of Science (MS) in Psychology: Behavior Analysis degree program in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences**
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a Master of Science (MS) in Psychology: Behavior Analysis degree program within the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.
- 2. Approval of a new Master of Science (MS) in Neuroscience degree program in the School of Medicine**
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a Master of Science (MS) in Neuroscience degree program in the School of Medicine.
- 3. Approval of New Program: BS in Engineering Technology, 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 Engineering Technology, in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.
- 4. Approval of New Program: BS in Scientific and Technical Writing, in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences**
Resolved: Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a new BS degree in Scientific and Technical Writing, in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- 5. Approval of New Program: BA in Professional Writing and Editing, in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences**
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of a new BA degree in Professional Writing and Editing, in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.
- 6. Café Evansdale Kitchen Renovation (Sodexo)**
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the Project Price Increase, as presented.
- 7. Reconfiguring Intersection of First Street and Beechurst Avenue**
Resolved: That pursuant to BOG Governance Rule 5.1, the West Virginia University Board of Governors authorizes the transfer of necessary real property interests to City of Morgantown (“Morgantown”) or the West Virginia Department of Transportation (“WV DOT”) for purposes of reconfiguring the intersection of First Street and Beechurst Avenue.

8. Appointment to County Extension Committees

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the nominees and alternates for positions on the County Extension Service Committees in West Virginia, as presented.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION AND
ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Jones announced that the Board will conduct its next regular meeting on April 21, 2023. There being no further business to come before the board, Paul Mattox moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kevin Craig and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Richard Pill, Secretary