

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

January 27, 2003

The fifteenth meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on January 27, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. in the President's Conference Room in Stewart Hall. Board members in attendance were Stan Cohen, Chris Gregory, Vaughn Kiger and Paul Martinelli. Members joining by phone were Hank Barnette, Betty Chilton, Paul Gates, Steve Goodwin, Terry Jones, Doug Leech, Ted Mattern, Joe Lopez, Parry Petroplus and Tom Potter. Rod Thorn was absent.

A number of WVU officers were also present: President David C. Hardesty, Jr., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, Gerald Lang, Associate General Counsel, Bev Kerr, and Special Assistant to the President and Provost and Assistant Board Secretary, Ginny Petersen.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Hank Barnette. The Assistant Secretary called the roll to ascertain attendance.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Barnette noted that the Board retreat held on January 17, 2003 had been very successful. He thanked the university officers for the excellent preparation that had gone into the retreat, and commented that there were a number of follow-up actions that now need to be taken. He expressed the opinion that such retreats should be held frequently.

Mr. Barnette also reported that he had had a good discussion with Governor Wise on January 24th during which the Governor expressed confidence in the leadership of the University, and Mr. Barnette reiterated the WVU Board of Governor's commitment to working with the Governor. He noted that this is the second time he has had the opportunity to brief the Governor in the past few months.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President David Hardesty focused his report on three topics:

1. Enrollment projections are running ahead of last year, which could mean another record enrollment next Fall.
2. Legislative action: He reported that:
 - a) A bill discussing closure, merger or privatization of two college campuses was causing quite a stir in the state and even among members of West Virginia's national delegation;
 - b) The Budget originates in the House of Delegates this year, and that he has met with the new finance and education chairmen;
 - c) Medical Malpractice legislation is an active issue, and Dr. D'Alessandri continues to play an important role as our representative, and acting as a facilitator in the debates;

- d) Efforts to get some of the flexibility issues through the legislature are still in the early stages of discussion. He feels that legislators understand the need to give the University some help in these areas, but that it is too early in the session for any decisions to be made or action to be taken.

3. Campus reaction to the budget reductions:

The President noted that while some Colleges are using layoff, or talking furloughs, West Virginia University hoped to avoid those strategies. He noted the effect is more severe at the Health Sciences Center than for the general University, although it is bad there too.

The University's strategy is ask the legislature is to allow us the right to raise tuition and fees within the guidelines established by the Policy Commission; to grant us some flexibility measures; and to work to find new revenues or help for the health sciences center; and to fight to keep Potomac State College a viable part of West Virginia University.

Chairman Barnette noted that this was consistent with the four point plan described at the recent retreat: 1.) increase revenues, 2.) decrease expenses, 3.) identify impediments, 4.) eliminate impediments.

Mr. Kiger asked if the University has the representation it needs in Charleston. President Hardesty noted that Mr. Miller is in Charleston daily, and that Mr. Weese, Dr. D'Alessandri, Vice President Kelley, and he are in Charleston frequently, and that more help did not appear to be needed. He also commented that the early flurry of bills passed by the House was not indicative of the final outcome. Bills still need to be approved by the Senate. The President also noted that the University's representatives have briefed the Governor's Chief of Staff, the legislative leaders, alumni leaders, etc., and that they know the University's position on most issues.

Professor Cohen asked if there is synchrony between college presidents, the Chancellor and the Higher Education Policy Commission. President Hardesty responded that there are differences of opinion on some things, but that they are in general agreement on what the top priorities are. He noted that the Chancellor's budget presentation had been made to the Senate, but was being reworked for the House in response to comments from the Presidents.

ACTION ITEM

1. Approval of a Grant Application to the National Institutes of Health.

After a discussion of the \$4 M grant submission being proposed, Betty Chilton moved that adoption of the following resolution: “

“The West Virginia University Board of Governors authorizes the filing on behalf of West Virginia University, of an application for a grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Research Resources, Research Facilities Improvement Program, for a project entitled “New Laboratory Construction for the Sensory Neuroscience Research Center.” In connection with and in furtherance of said application, the Board of Governors further authorizes and directs Fred Butcher, Senior Associate Vice President

for Health Sciences, to act as the official representative of West Virginia University to provide such additional information as may be required, and to provide such understanding and assurances as may be necessary and factually supported.”

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Virginia Petersen
Assistant Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

8:55 a.m.

Chairman Barnette called the Executive Committee Meeting to order with most Board Members staying on the line and in attendance.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Barnette noted that several Board members had not been present for the Strategic Planning Retreat on January 16-17th, and asked that Mr. Potter brief Mrs. Chilton, Mr. Kiger brief Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Jones brief Mr. Leech, and noted that he would brief Mr. Thorn, Mr. Lopez and Mr. Gates.

Mr. Barnette also asked that in each of the committee meetings at the upcoming BOG meeting on February 7, 2003, the committee members review the retreat materials that pertain to that committee.

Chairman Barnette commented that the two most important questions the board should always be cognizant of are: Are we as a Board talking appropriate actions in support of the University? Are we as a Board as effective as we can be in advancing the interests of the University?

REVIEW OF THE FEBRUARY 7TH MEETING AGENDA

The Agenda for the February 7th BOG meeting was reviewed. It was noted that an appropriate agenda for the University Relations Committee would be developed in conjunction with Mr. Jones.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Lopez asked that performance measures be reviewed at each BOG meeting. President Hardesty noted that Dr. Kelley was developing simple measures that would allow the Board to quantitatively evaluate the University's performance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Virginia Petersen
Assistant Secretary