

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY BOARD
OF GOVERNORS

February 18, 2022

The one hundred ninety-ninth meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on February 18, 2022 in Morgantown, WV in person and via zoom. Board members in attendance/participating via zoom included David Alvarez, Marty Becker, Charles Capito, Bray Cary, Elmer Coppoolse, Kevin Craig, J. Thomas Jones, Dr. Stanley Hileman, Amaya Jernigan, Alan Larrick, Lisa A. Martin, Dr Ashley Martucci, Taunja Willis Miller, Richard Pill, Ed Robinson, and Benjamin Statler. Board member, Dr. Patrice Harris, was absent and excused.

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 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, Anjali Halabe;
Dean of Students, Corey Farris;
President, WVU Tech, Carolyn Long;
President, Potomac State, Jennifer Orlikoff;
Deputy General Counsel, Gary G. Furbee, II;
Associate Vice President and Executive Director of the Office of Global Affairs,
Amber Brugnoli;
Interim Associate Provost for Graduate Academic Affairs, Richard Thomas;
Director of Communications, Office of the Provost, Kimberly Becker;
Assistant Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Erin Newmeyer;
Associate Vice President, Institutional Data and Analytics, Office of the
Provost, Lisa Castellino;
Assistant Vice President for Academic Planning and Implementation,
Office of the Provost, Amanda DiBastiani;
Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Culture, Melissa Latimer;
Director, Mountaineer Parents Club, Lisa Hanselman;
Administrative Assistant to the Associate Provost for Undergraduate
Education, Shirley Robinson;
Academic Laboratory Manager II, Nikki Byrne-Hoffman;
Academic Specialist, Katrina Klugh Stewart
Executive Officer and Assistant Board Secretary, Jennifer Fisher;

Executive Director of Communications, University Relations,
April Kaull; and,
Special Assistant to the Board of Governors, Valerie Lopez.

From Sodexo

Carty McMullen, Senior Vice President, Sodexo Universities
Merlyn Bowen, CPA CFP, Vice President-Strategic Partnership,
Sodexo Universities

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 David Alvarez, seconded by Kevin Craig, and passed. Following Executive Session Marty Becker moved that the board rise from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Lisa A. Martin 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:

COVID Updates

As it has in many other parts of the country and the world, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 came into our community like a lion and is leaving like a lamb. The number of COVID cases at WVU are very much on a downward trend, with less than 100 known cases in

our system. Most of the cases have been fairly mild with few hospitalizations.

Based on the data, in consultation with our health and safety experts, and in line with many other states, WVU decided earlier this week to lift its ban on masking – on campus in areas outside of the classroom. We know this news was welcome to many of our students who have felt these restrictions most keenly.

We will continue to monitor the data and science and determine if we need to make further changes in the days ahead — either tightening or loosening our restrictions even further.

Academic Transformation

Spring 2022 Priorities

We continue to focus on Academic Transformation with the goal of positioning the University for success now and into the future — in a very competitive higher education landscape.

In January, we announced our Year 2 priorities, which include:

- A focus on improving student success, with the goal of increasing freshmen retention, persistence and graduation rates. This spring, a primary initiative will be to strengthen and professionalize undergraduate academic advising to ensure students are finding their focus and advancing in their degree programs in a timely fashion. (EAB audit)
- A review of graduate education that identifies institutional priorities and aligns resources to support further growth and excellence. This program portfolio review will focus on all non-terminal master's and PhD programs and include an assessment of funding/tuition waivers and stipends to ensure we are best supporting areas that align with our R1 and land-grant missions.
- The creation of a new intercollegiate innovation hub designed to incubate, incentivize and support interdisciplinary academic programs and eliminate barriers to collaboration.
- A review of our online programs portfolio and organizational structure to determine how we can grow our online programs to better reach and engage with current and new audiences.
- Continued efforts to address instructional efficiencies and the University's faculty rewards and recognition structure, with the goal of improving guidelines for promotion and tenure and for faculty workloads.
- A review of the academic budget model as part of a larger University effort to streamline and modernize its budget practices.

Engagement Efforts and Communications

This year, we are making a significant effort to engage as many people as possible in our transformation work. In addition to the Academic Transformation Advisory Council, we are sharing information and seeking input from multiple committees and task forces (with large faculty representation), as well as our academic leaders, the Faculty Senate leadership, and staff and faculty members who are working in these specific areas.

Through a series of Campus Conversations, we are also communicating what we're doing with the larger campus community – outlining the process and timeline for addressing each priority; explaining the potential impacts and gains from the work; and reminding faculty, staff and students what is at stake and what we are trying to preserve.

We want to show that our work is in service of the greater University goals, which are:

- to provide our students with a rigorous and relevant education;
- to produce research and make discoveries that improve our society; and
- to engage in impactful outreach that advances the prosperity and well-being of West Virginians.

Our first conversation on January 27th provided a general overview of Academic Transformation including our progress to date and our Year 2 priorities. We had more than 300 people who attended virtually, and President Gee and I (along with members of my leadership team) were able to answer almost every question that was asked.

A curated version of the Q-and-A is located on the Academic Transformation website. The next campus conversation is scheduled for February 24th at 11 a.m. The topic will be Student Success and Academic Advising and will include me, Dr. Evan Widders, our associate provost of undergraduate education, and a representative from EAB (our consultants in this process). The meeting will be in person at the Erickson Alumni Center, and it will be accessible in a virtual format.

Upcoming Academic Events

Speaking of our excellent faculty, I'm pleased that we will be able to hold many of our faculty celebrations this Spring in person. These include:

- The Benedum Distinguished Scholars celebration, which will take place on March 8th at the Creative Arts Center from 7-9 p.m. This event will also offer a live-stream option since in-person attendance will be limited. The three awardees are all from the Eberly College, and all of them happen to be women. They are:

- Cari Carpenter, professor of English;
 - Lisa Holland, professor of analytical chemistry; and
 - Cheryl McNeil, professor of clinical child psychology.
- We are planning an in-person celebration of all long-form scholarship generated in 2021 on April 18th from 4-6 p.m. in the Milano Room of the downtown library. There will also be an update to the existing website to capture all the amazing work created by our colleagues this past year.
 - And on April 20th, we plan to celebrate the 20-22 faculty and staff awards at Blaney House. This year will be the first time we are holding any of these awards and faculty celebrations in-person since Spring 2019.

Campus Food Garden

Finally, as you may recall, in Spring 2020 we launched the first competitive grant opportunity tied to our 2019 strategic transformation efforts. We challenged WVU community members to conceptualize and enact change across the University's campuses. These "Transform This!" Challenge Grants provided up to \$1,500 for projects and initiatives promoting one of the strategic transformation goals.

The first year (2020) focused on strategic transformation goal #5:

- Be a university that advances a culture, climate and organizational structure that promotes sustainability, well-being and an enriched quality of life.

The second year (2021) challenge focused on goal #4:

- Be a model of social equity.

Today, we are excited to share an update from one particular project that I think you will find both impressive and inspiring. Dr. Katrina Stewart, an academic specialist, and Dr. Nikki Byrne-Hoffman, an academic laboratory manager – both of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Biology – are here to share the ongoing success of the WVU Campus Food Garden. Their project in particular is a wonderful example of how – with a little bit funding and the opportunity to take a risk – we are quite literally "seeding innovation" at WVU.

WVU CAMPUS FOOD GARDEN

Dr. Katrina Stewart and Dr. Nikki Byrne-Hoffman made this presentation. Highlights included:

Mission Statement for the WVU Campus Food Garden

- Empowering the WVU community and all West Virginians to end food insecurity through garden-based education, advocacy for food justice and community engagement

Why should we care about food insecurity on the WVU campus

- In a Fall 2019 nationwide survey, 39% of students in CTCs/PUIs had experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days
- 42 million (1 in 7) Americans face food insecurity. There are significant racial and cultural disparities: 1 in 12 non-Hispanic, 1 in 6 Latino, 1 in 5 Black, and 1 in 4 Native American
- West Virginia ranks 47th in food security
- The WVU Campus Garden creates a space for difficult conversations surrounding food insecurity and provides opportunities for engagement

Germinate - Good Things Grow Here:

- April 2021 - Transform This! \$1,500 grant from the Office of the Provost
- Late May and early June - Final site chosen, bed built, crops planted
- Late Summer - Second \$1,500 from the Office of the Provost
- Donation season - June through November in 2021 - hope to extend
- November - Addition to existing bed installed

Special Delivery:

- 43 Harvests
- 31 Food Pantry Deliveries (The Rack at WVU, Community Kitchen, St. Ursula's, Canyon and Rock Forge food pantries)
- 13 direct to individual donations
- 1,013 lbs donated from June to November, 2021

Educate

- Students and community volunteers are our gardeners
- Hungry Workshops and Seminars - Food insecurity focused: In spring, 2022: Holy Ground with Rev. Zac Morton; Plant and Seed Propagation with Dr. Sven Verlinden; 2-Day Foraging and Appalachian Cooking Workshop with Chef Donnie Orr; and High-Impact/Small-Space Gardening workshops

Advocate - The WVU Food Security Collaborative

- WVU Campus Food Garden (Katrina and Nikki)
- WVU Center for Resilient Communities/Food Justice Lab (Brad Wilson and Joshua Lohnes)
- First Presbyterian Church (Rev. Zac Morton)
- David College Division of Plant and Soil Sciences/Abundant Life Greenhouse (Sven Verlinder)

A Future of a Hunger-Free West Virginia and WVU

- Production is expected to increase by over five-fold for 2022
- Awarded nearly \$20,000 in grants
- Partnering with Abundant Life Greenhouse
- Recruit more students, faculty, and staff volunteers

Partners in Food Security

- WVU Office of the Provost
- Eberly College Departments of Biology and Geology and Geography
- First Presbyterian Church
- Davis College Division of Plant and Soil Sciences
- WVU Center for Resilient Communities
- WVU Greenhouse
- Abundant Life Greenhouse and Recovery Program
- The Rack at WVU
- Trinity Episcopal Community Kitchen
- St. Ursulas, Rock Forge, Canyon partners
- Bee Run Botanicals
- Breakiron Hill Greenhouse
- Mockingbird Hill Farm

WVU DINING AND SODEXO UPDATE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Rob Alsop; began this presentation by stating that the health, safety and well-being of West Virginia University students is our top priority within WVU Dining Services. Our goal, in partnership with Sodexo, is to provide an exceptional dining experience for our students and guests. In response to recent incidents we are working with Sodexo and are implementing several additional measures focused on proper food handling and safety.

Vice President Alsop made a presentation entitled WVU Dining Services: A Commitment to Providing Exceptional Dining Experiences. Highlights include the following:

WVU DINING SERVICES: A COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL DINING EXPERIENCES

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on WVU Dining Services. As you may know, we have had some recent challenges within WVU Dining Services – serving raw and/or under cooked chicken and moldy fruit and bread. Additionally, students and parents have shared concerns with us regarding food quality and the lack of variety at some of our dining hall locations. And in the interest of constant improvement and ensuring we are meeting or exceeding customer expectations on quality and service, we appreciate this feedback and take these concerns very seriously. Our goal is to provide an exceptional dining experience for our campus community. But based on recent comments, we recognize we are not always achieving this goal. The safety, health and well-being of students and guests is our top priority, and we are working closely with Sodexo to implement several additional measures focused on proper food handling and safety across our locations. These measures include increased training for our supervisors, culinary team members and frontline employees, as well as expanded audits and inspections of the food we prepare and serve. We will share more details on these actions as part of today's discussion.

PARTENSHIP WITH SODEXO

First, we thought it would be helpful to provide some background on the University's partnership with Sodexo and efforts to date aimed at enhancing our venues and service offerings and promoting greater engagement with our campus community.

Following an extensive review of potential food service industry vendors, WVU partnered with Sodexo in spring 2018 to operate the University's dining services. Sodexo is a global leader in the food services space, and the company currently operates in 56 countries and serves 100 million consumers each day. Sodexo also is a leading provider of dining services for colleges and universities across the U.S., and they focus on leveraging consumer insights and a range of innovative services to meet the needs of a modern college campus.

The goal of our partnership with Sodexo was to transform the food-services experience at WVU by:

- Increasing the number and quality of food options for students and guests;
- Creating social environments where food is served as opposed to a traditional dining hall atmosphere;
- Using technology to enhance the dining experience;
- Increasing the number of student hours available for those wishing to work; and
- Creating more attractive food offerings for faculty and staff.

Since 2018, WVU and Sodexo have implemented several enhancements to our venues and service offerings to better meet the dining needs of our campus community — even amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

DINING VENUE UPDATES AND ENHANCEMENTS

We also have completed multiple renovations of existing dining venues and provided several new locations across our campuses since 2018. It should be noted that some of these venues have since undergone changes since they were first introduced based on feedback from our campus community and the evolving needs of our students, faculty, staff and guests.

Highlights of our 2018 location updates at the Mountainlair included:

- Blue Tomato and Burgershop;
- A Chick-fil-A expansion and a renovation of the Hatfields dining hall; and
- Tres Habaneros.

In 2019, we primarily focused on creating new offerings at our Evansdale and Health Sciences campuses, including:

- Chick-fil-A at Health Sciences; and
- A full remodel of Café Evansdale at the Evansdale Residential Complex.
- We also added a new coffee shop — called Jazzmans — at the Mountainlair.

Updates in 2020 included:

- Bit & Bytes at the Engineering Sciences Building;
- Jazzmans at Cavanaugh's at Health Sciences;
- The Market @ UPlace / Starbucks, which is located in University Place; and
- Which Which at Health Sciences.

Our most recent updates included:

- Grab & Go locations at Evansdale Crossing and the Mountainlair;
- Hissho Sushi at Health Sciences;

- I Love Juice Bar, which recently opened at Evansdale Crossing;
- A renovation of the Lyon's Den located at Lyon Tower;
- Panda Express at the Mountainlair; and
- World of Wings Café, which will open soon at Evansdale Crossing.

INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT WITH CAMPUS

WVU Dining Services, in partnership with Sodexo, has rolled out several new service offerings to promote engagement with our campus community, including:

- WVU Dining Services offers a full-time registered dietitian to engage with students and help them achieve their nutritional and wellness goals, address allergy concerns and overcome any dietary challenges.
- In partnership with the Office of Sustainability, WVU Dining Services launched a Reusable Dining To-Go Box program in fall 2021.
 - The program is designed to support the University's sustainability goals and to reduce single-use plastics in dining halls.
 - Through the program, students, faculty and staff with a dining plan can receive a sectioned, microwave-friendly polypropylene box at the dining halls to take their meals to-go.
- And this semester, WVU Dining Services launched a Tips To-Go program, which is a collaborative effort with the Office of Sustainability and WELLWVU.
 - The program will introduce a new healthy meal topic each month during the spring semester. These bite-sized tips are featured on carabiner tags used in the Reusable Dining To-Go Box program.

INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT WITH CAMPUS

In support of our goal of using technology to enhance the dining experience, we have implemented several initiatives, including.

- A biometric scanner program, which allows students, faculty and staff with dining plans on the Morgantown campus to use unique biometric data to quickly gain access to Hatfields in the Mountainlair and charge meals to their dining account.

- The Bite app, which shows daily menus for residential dining locations, as well as the Grubhub app, which allows users to order from select on-campus locations ahead of time and pick up their order when it's ready.
- We also completed a complete overhaul of the WVU Dining Services website to make it easier for students, parents and guests to access the information and services they need, when they need it.

INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT WITH CAMPUS

Sodexo has made several recent strategic hires and personnel changes to ensure the right team is in place to serve our campus and deliver on our commitments. These updates include:

- Michael Dahl, district manager, who is working to ensure all operations are running smoothly and partnering with WVU on current goals and future progress.
- Aaron Banks, retail general manager, who oversees the retail restaurant locations and managers on campus.
- Christopher Duke, residential dining general manager, who oversees the residential dining locations and managers on campus.
- Rene Jorge, catering executive chef, who was brought on for her expertise as a chef in catering.
- Jason McMullen, executive chef, who was hired to guide the cuisine being prepared at Hatfields and help train the cooks on staff.
- Michael Contrado, executive chef, who is helping increase efficiency with signage across locations and putting menus in the Bite app and on the WVU Dining Services website.

Sodexo has also have made several other personnel changes across management, marketing and culinary teams to optimize our operations and improve our services.

CURRENT CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

We now would like to spend a few minutes talking about some of the recent challenges we have faced, our response and planned next steps.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

As we shared at the beginning of today's discussion, there have been several students and parents who have shared concerns with us regarding food quality and the lack of variety at some of our dining hall locations.

Reports of raw or undercooked food and limited options — particularly in the evening hours — at some of our dining halls are deeply concerning and reflect neither who we are nor what we aspire to be as an organization. We are actively working to address these concerns and provide the best possible dining experience for our campus community. It should be noted that like many others in the food service industry, WVU Dining Services has felt the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic regarding staffing at several of our locations across campus. We also continue to face supply chain challenges as a result of the pandemic.

OUR RESPONSE

Receiving feedback from students and parents is critical to learning how we can enhance our services and improve our guest experiences. And we have communicated directly with those who shared concerns with us. We also are working with Sodexo to implement several additional measures focused on proper food handling and safety, including:

- Increased training for our supervisors, culinary team members and frontline employees; and
- Expanded audits and inspections of the food we prepare and serve.

These measures are in addition to those safety protocols already in place to ensure proper food handling and preparation, which include regular inspections by WVU Environmental Health and Safety and the Monongalia County Health Department. We take the findings of each inspection very seriously and respond to each observation — regardless of seriousness — with the same degree of urgency. To increase communication among students and WVU Dining Services leadership, we are hosting weekly meet-and-greet events — called “Dinner with the GMs” — to provide students an open forum to ask questions and share concerns. We held our first “Dinner with the GMs” event last week. We appreciate the feedback we have received so far and look forward to gaining additional insights on how we can better serve our campus through future sessions.

NEXT STEPS

We are committed to addressing the concerns of students, parents and guests, operating with transparency and providing the best possible service. To promote transparency,

we plan to launch a dashboard on the WVU Dining Services website in the coming days to share the results of all WVU Environmental Health and Safety inspections of our dining halls.

And as part of efforts aimed at increasing the number and quality of food options, pending Board approval we are planning to make the following updates to our dining venues:

- The renovation of the Summit Café dining hall in Morgantown;
- The renovation of the Bears Den dining hall at WVU Tech; and
- The addition of Jazzmans Coffee Cart at WVU Potomac State.

In the meantime, we appreciate the continued support of our campus community.

THANK YOU and COMMENTS FROM SODEXO REPRESENTTIVES

Before we open the floor to Sodexo and questions, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge our Dining Services employees who have worked so tirelessly every day to serve our campuses. This team has gone above and beyond to support students, faculty, staff and guests while at the same time facing the challenges we have shared with you today. We truly appreciate their efforts.

Next, Carty McMullen, Senior Vice President, Sodexo Universities, and Merlyn Bowen, CPA CFP, Vice President-Strategic Partnership, Sodexo Universities, addressed the full board and answered questions posed by board members.

APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Vice President Alsop advised that the following Sodexo Dining projects are proposed for 2022 to continue to enhance the student dining experience:

Summit Hall Service Area: Renovate and modernize the dining area in the Summit Café Dining Hall including the server area, the Grab and Go area and the Point of Sale

Beckley Dining Hall: Renovate and modernize the dining area in the Beckley Dining Hall. This does not include the kitchen area.

Potomac State Coffee Cart and Dining Hall Countertops: Renovate and modernize the existing Jazzman's Coffee Shop

Following a brief discussion , Ed Robinson moved that these three capital projects be approved, as presented. The motion was seconded by Elmer Coppoolse and passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Stanley Hileman moved that the minutes of the December 17, 2021 Regular Board meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ashley Martucci and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

February 17, 2022 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 Paula Congelio, who gave an update on the ongoing state single audit. In addition, she informed us that CLA will begin their mid-year review on February 21. We received several audit engagement letters to be signed prior to the beginning of field work. Paula also gave an update on the transition of Alumni Association employees to the University on January 3, 2021. Second, Bryan Shaver, the Director of Internal Audit, in conjunction with myself and Stephanie Taylor, the General Counsel, gave a presentation to the Audit Committee discussing a brief overview of the mission, responsibilities, and best practices for members of the Audit Committee to consider in fulfilling their obligations. The presentation overviewed a brief history of the evolution of Audit Committees and their responsibilities for Boards and then reviewed the responsibilities for our Audit Committee members in accordance with the WVU Audit Committee Charter. This was part of our regular efforts associated with continual education and training for our Board members. 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. Additionally, we received a confidential and privileged report regarding legal matters from the University's General Counsel. No votes or actions were taken during Executive Session. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

February 17, 2022 Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee Meeting: David Alvarez, on behalf of Dr. Kimberly Weaver, chair of this committee, reported as follows: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday afternoon, the Academic Affairs and Accreditation committee met. Much of our meeting occurred in Executive Session where the Provost and her team briefed us on strategic initiatives relating to academic priorities, 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 votes or actions were taken during Executive Session After we rose from Executive Session, the committee adjourned. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report. Thank you.

February 17, 2022 Joint Finance and Facilities and Revitalization/Strategic Plans and Initiatives Committee Meeting: Elmer Coppoolse, Chairman of this committee, 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. In public session, we heard an update on the WVU Modernization Project. Mr. Chairman, we then heard from Rob on an update our efforts to modernize our Information Technology systems through what has been dubbed the WVU Modernization Project. Management has developed a multi-year plan to overhaul our finance, human resources, and student information systems and beyond. The goal is to move from our current on-campus, customized legacy systems to state-of-the-art cloud-based systems in a common platform that will drive transformation in business applications across the campus and allow us to meet the needs of our faculty, staff, and students in a new and very exciting manner. This WVU Modernization Project will also allow the University to make much better use of its data. We will have a system that will be scalable with optionality, will provide financial stability, provide more flexibility to our students, and will allow for proactive portfolio management. The team has started moving forward on 12 identified foundational projects. These projects include a new budget model, a new chart of accounts, new data management and governance, document digitization, and a new knowledge base and digital assistant, among others. Several kickoff meetings were held this week. Additionally, these foundational projects also include student facing projects, including improvements relating to our student workflow, student onboarding, student engagement, and student data analytics. We also now have in place a project director and a number of technical and functional leads, as well as a communications strategy going forward to engage the campus. It is exciting to see us continue to move forward on this project. We also met in Executive Session. During Executive Session, we discussed deliberative, preliminary, and confidential information relating to university strategic priorities, including matters involving or affecting the University's budget for the current and upcoming academic year and retention and enrollment initiatives. No votes or actions were taken during Executive Session. After we rose from Executive Session, the Joint Committee adjourned.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Gee offered the following remarks:

This year is off to a wonderful start at West Virginia University, and research excellence is one of our proudest points of distinction.

We remain one of the top research institutions in the nation, according to just-released 2021 rankings by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Earning Research 1 status for the first time in 2016 was an incredible honor, and staying on top validates that we are a powerhouse when it comes to research. Notably, we have more than doubled our sponsored research over the past five years. The goal is to double it again in the next five years with the hope that we can come close to \$500 million in sponsored research within that timeframe. The result is that we are now solidly an R-1 institution.

Some may be surprised to hear me brag about a ranking because I have not been shy about disparaging many higher education rankings. As far as I am concerned, Carnegie classifications are the only legitimate ranking of universities and colleges in this country. Reputational rankings are exactly that, and big public universities—particularly ones in rural states such as ours—will never ever receive the kind of recognition they should because these reputational rankings are controlled from the coasts. But, when you are ranked by productivity, that is undeniably bias-free. The bottom line is that of 4,500 colleges and universities in this country, we now find ourselves among those 146 major research universities called R-1. And our climb within the R-1 category has been equally dramatic. We have hired a cadre of very bright people who are bringing a balanced research portfolio to the institution, and we have also invested heavily in our academic medical center.

I would like to thank Fred King, our vice president for research, as well as his leadership team and our entire team of researchers across the University. The innovations, dedication and perseverance of our West Virginia University family have made our consistent, highly-revered status as a research leader possible.

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 Taunja Willis Miller 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 a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Art and Design within the College of Creative Arts**
Resolved: The West Virginia University Board of Governors approves a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree program in Art and Design within the College of Creative Arts.
- 2. Approval for a name change. Change the name of the College of Creative Arts' Master of Arts in Music Industry to a Master of Arts in Music Business and Industry**
Resolved: The West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the change of the name of the current Master of Arts in Music Industry to Music Business and Industry within the College of Creative Arts.

3. Termination of graduate certificates in Post-MSN Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) and Post-MSN within the School of Nursing.

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the termination of two graduate certificates in (1) Post-MSN Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) and (2) Post-MSN within the School of Nursing.

4. Termination of graduate certificates in Public School Administration Principal Preparation, Public School Administration Instructional Supervision Preparation, and Public School Administration Superintendent Preparation within the College of Education and Human Services.

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the termination of three graduate certificates in Public School Administration (1) Principal Preparation, (2) Instructional Supervision Preparation, and (3) Superintendent Preparation within the College of Education and Human Services.

5. CAC Clay Theatre Lighting Upgrade Phase 2

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves construction services for the CAC Clay Theatre Lighting Phase 2 project, as presented.

6. 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

7. BOG Representative Appointment

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the appointment of Kevin Craig as a representative serving on the West Virginia United Health System's Board of Directors.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION AND
ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Jones announced that the Board will conduct its next regular meeting on April 22, 2022. There being no further business to come before the board, Ed Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by David Alvarez and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Richard Pill, Secretary