

# **WLU Board of Governors**

Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.**

Location: Shaw Hall Board Room

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Quorum and Mission Statement**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Public Comment** Description: Up to 10 individuals may sign in (name, address and a brief description of their chosen topic) to speak in open session for three minutes each. The sign-in sheet will be available from Executive Secretary Mary Ann Edwards fifteen minutes prior to the meeting until the noticed start time.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. Minutes of the Full Board November 30, 2016\*
  - B. Minutes of the Executive Committee January 18, 2017\*
- V. Agenda Order (Board may move to change order of consideration)**
- VI. Rules ("Rule" means any regulation, guideline, directive, standard, statement of policy or interpretation of generation application and future effect that also has institution-wide effect or affects the rights, privileges or interests of employees, students or citizens.) If approved, the following policies shall be presented for a 30-day comment period and if no comments are received forwarded directly to the Chancellor/WVHEPC for approval.**

None
- VII. Board Items**
  - A. Audit Presentation\*

\*Action Items
- VIII. President's Report**
- IX. Finance Report**
- X. Reports**
  - A. Chair of the Board of Governors (DeFelice)
  - B. Provost Update (Crawford)
  - C. Enrollment Update (Cook)
  - D. SGA Update (Boden)
- XI. Information Gathering (Members may ask questions or gather information to prepare for future agenda items without general discussion or action at this meeting.)**
- XII. Possible Executive Session**
- XIII. Actions Emanating From Executive Session**
- XIV. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 5, 2017**
- XV. Adjournment**

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Minutes  
November 30, 2016**

**Attendance:**

Jack Adams, Reid Boden, Les DeFelice, Cindy Fluharty, Patrick Ford, Jim Haizlett,  
Rich Lucas, Jim Stultz, Rhonda Tysk, Kris Williams

**Unable to Attend:**

Joe Carey

**Administration/Faculty/Staff:**

Scott Cook, Brian Crawford, Mary Ann Edwards, John Gompers, Steve Greiner, Jason  
Koegler, Roberta Linger, John McCullough, Sylvia Senften, Ron Witt

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Quorum and Mission Statement**

Chair DeFelice called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and a quorum was established.

**II. Introductions**

None

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. Agenda Order (Board may move to change order of consideration)**

No changes to the agenda order.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes of the Full Board October 5, 2016\***

On motion by Kris Williams and seconded by Patrick Ford, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the full Board of October 5, 2016.

**B. Minutes of the Executive Committee November 16, 2016\***

On motion by Kris Williams and seconded by Patrick Ford, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of November 16, 2016.

**VI. Board Items for Approval**

**A. Honorary Degrees\***

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to confer an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (DHL) degree from West Liberty University at the December 2016 commencement to Christina Fisanick Greer, and an honorary Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology degree from West Liberty University to Kylie D. Clark.

**B. Approval of Proposed Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology\***

Dr. Crawford referenced the proposal contained in the packet, noting this is a sizeable program in terms of credit hours; there are a significant number of hours in clinical necessary for licensure. West Virginia is one of two states to grant a person a license to practice with only a masters.

**On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the proposed Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology program.**

**C. Approval of Proposed BA/BS to BSN\***

Dr. Crawford stated that this is a new major that fits within the current Nursing BSN program. It is a recruiting tool designed to streamline the process for those who have graduated to return to school and become a nurse.

**On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the proposed BA/BS to BSN major.**

**D. Approval of Proposed Human Biology – MSPAS 3+2 Major\***

Dr. Crawford stated that this is a new major within the Biology Program that was put together in collaboration with the Master of Science and PA Study Program. This will enable top quality students to go from entry as a freshmen in the Biology Program to completion of the PA Program in five years. 3+2 programs are becoming very popular and attract very good students. A brief discussion followed with regard to academic requirements.

**On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the proposed Human Biology – MSPAS 3+2 major.**

**VII. Rules**  
None

**VIII. President's Report**

President Greiner noted that the number of Elbin Scholars is at an all-time high of 135 students. There are a record 297 additional students enrolled in the University's Scholars Program, including Presidential Scholars and Foundation Scholars.

Governor Tomblin announced a mid-year 2% budget cut, which will be discussed in the finance report. WLU's required paperwork in regard to the cut has already been submitted.

We continue to look at new housing opportunities with focus on two areas; renovating an old facility that is in great condition and structurally sound, Boyd Hall, and also looking at repairs in Rogers Hall, which has plumbing issues, as a building to reuse. There is also the potential for new construction, with a lot of ongoing discussion about building a modern apartment complex on campus through a public/private partnership.

At the last Board meeting, a request was approved for the reallocation of the remaining \$836,000 from the 2012 bond proceeds on Campbell Hall to be used for technology infrastructure. At the November 18, 2016 meeting of the HEPC, attended by Roberta Linger and Dr. Greiner, this request was approved. A bid proposal is being put together to go out, and the rebuilding of the technology infrastructure should begin in the spring.

The newly elected Chair of the WLU Foundation Board is David Croft, who has currently been serving on the Foundation Board.

Fall 2016 commencement will be held Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The guest speaker is Dr. Christina Fisanick Greer.

A special graduation ceremony was held this week for a young lady, a softball player, who has terminal cancer. She was within her final semester of completing a degree in Exercise Physiology at WLU. The ceremony was standing-room only and appreciated by the family of Kylie Clark.

Kathleen Wack was named 2016 Healthy School Hero for her work with area schools on health, fitness, and nutrition. This is a national award with only twelve national Heroes selected.

The WLU women's soccer team came within a penalty-kick shootout of a near-upset in the semifinal round of the Mountain East Conference Tournament.

## **IX. Finance Report**

Ms. Linger noted the mid-year budget cut of 2% announced by Governor Tomblin, giving a dollar amount of \$159,127. WLU anticipated a possible mid-year cut and was prepared. The financial status is still good and a positive number with revenue remains, all while taking into consideration the impact of the FLSA ruling and pay raises proposed for the beginning of January 2017.

Dr. Greiner stated he would like to offer a 1% pay raise effective January 7, 2017, to all employees, with the exception of adjunct and any staff hired after June 30, 2016. In addition, because of the recent FLSA ruling, we moved forward with salary adjustments for some people. Those who received an adjustment, equal or greater than 1%, will not receive the 1% increase. The total cost, including benefits, would be \$139,000. In addition, the intent of this request is to give another 1% pay raise effective July 8, 2017, which is the first day of the full pay period for fiscal year 17-18.

**On motion made by Rich Lucas and seconded by Kris Williams, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the proposed pay raises as stated above.**

## **X. Reports**

### **A. Chair of the Board of Governors (DeFelice)**

None

## **B. Enrollment Update (Cook)**

Mr. Cook stated that a successful campus recruiting program has wrapped up for the fall. There is an 11% increase in new student enrollment and it hasn't slowed down. Attending three separate recruiting events on campus were 84, 100+, and 48 families. Currently there is a 5.7% increase in spring 2017 registration. Summer 2017 registration is up for the first two summer terms; the third summer term is for PA students only.

## **C. SGA Update (Boden)**

Mr. Boden started SGA activities in the summer with two truckloads full of items for flood relief in southern WV. Students from the flooded areas were very appreciative of the efforts. The next challenge was working with Dr. Greiner on the credit-hour overage charge being eliminated for students. Returning students were very excited to hear about the elimination of the charge and thanked the Board and Dr. Greiner for their support.

A very successful Topperfest was held with much appreciation going to Kate Billings, Campus Activities Coordinator. Homecoming on campus was also a huge success with thanks once again going to Dr. Greiner, Ron Witt, Jason Kogler, and Scott Cook for their support. Winterfest, along with men's and women's basketball games, will be held tonight. Winterfest encourages students to participate in holiday activities.

A student section has been established, and ideas for themes will be planned for home basketball games. There is also work being done on creating half-time activities, such as half-court shot competition, etc. Overall student participation so far this year has been up; there seems to be an air of a new era, creating a lot of student enthusiasm.

Next semester, SGA is working on a bus trip to either Washington, DC or New York City. They will also make an effort and reach out to and try to collaborate with Bethany College and their student government organization. The goal is for the two groups to share ideas and see where things go from there. A brief discussion followed regarding campus events during the cold weather.

## **XI. Information Gathering**

None

## **XII. Possible Executive Session**

None

## **XIII. Actions Emanating From executive Session**

None

## **XIV. Next Meeting Date – February 1, 2017**

**XV. Adjournment**

**On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned  
at 4:36 p.m.**

Leslie DeFelice \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

James R. Stultz \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

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**Executive Committee  
Minutes  
January 18, 2017**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Les DeFelice, Patrick Ford, Jim Stultz

**WLU Administrators:** Scott Cook, Brian Crawford, Stephen Greiner, John McCullough

**Others:** John Gompers, Jim Haizlett

1. Mr. DeFelice called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
2. Dr. Crawford provided a brief overview of outcomes from the recent reorganization discussion.
3. President Greiner provided a report that included the following items:
  - a. A publication by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, entitled “What Will They Learn” was shared. This report gives West Liberty University, and all other regional colleges and universities in the state, a “C” rating.
  - b. A very favorable update from Institutional Advancement was distributed. There was some discussion of the impact of recent gifts on the endowment.
  - c. The proposed soccer/track complex was discussed. Two locations have been considered for construction, including one on leased land and a second on University-owned property. Maps showing the alternatives were presented. Building on the University-owned location would involve removing several older houses. The President reported that a \$1 million pledge has been received for the project. The pledge is contingent upon the Foundation Board providing a loan for the remaining \$1.5 million needed for the project. The item is on the January 27<sup>th</sup> Foundation Board agenda.
  - d. He presented a preliminary idea to construct a student apartment complex next to the softball field and Beta Hall. This would be a 120-bed complex. The plan would be to build the new housing, then take down Beta Hall. The desire is to put out an RFP soon, with funding potentially coming from a low-interest loan through the USDA.
  - e. There was discussion of the return-on-investment for the proposed construction projects. The President provided a handout summarizing anticipated revenue generated. There was discussion of the currently unused 200 acres of land adjacent to the campus and some ideas for how it might be utilized in the future.
  - f. The President provided a summary of facilities upgrades projects that could be addressed with a \$2 million loan. These would include addressing academic



technology needs, safety concerns, student services, athletics, and other campus enhancements.

4. The President provided a budget update as of December 31, 2016. We are anticipating another cut in state appropriation, but amounts and timing are unknown. There was discussion of the future of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.
5. The auditors will be attending the BOG meeting to present their report. A material deficiency was identified because of lack of segregation of duties during a period of reduced staffing. Another less-serious deficiency was reported involving several invoices that were recorded to the incorrect fiscal year. These issues have been resolved.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Leslie DeFelice \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

James R. Stultz \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO WLU BOARD OF GOVERNORS***

### **A Condensed Summary of Accomplishments and Activities**

*February 1, 2017*

- Final enrollment for the 2016-17 Spring Semester is approximately 35 students ahead of a year ago. This equates to close to a 2% increase over last spring and represents the first enrollment increase (in a semester) since 2012. While residential housing occupancy is down by 3.5%, this is less than in some previous semesters and less than the budgeted estimate of 8%.
- Of special note in the final enrollment figures for the current Spring Semester is a 3% increase in new students (freshmen and transfers), a 24% increase in graduate students, and an increase in the number (30) of former students returning to matriculate after being absent from campus for at least one semester. This represents the largest number of returning former students in four years.
- With the start of the new calendar year, the 1% raise in salary for WLU employees went into effect, representing the first salary increase in over four years. President Greiner has proposed an additional 1% raise in the next fiscal year (July), contingent upon continued enrollment growth and financial stability. This proposed second salary increase will be evaluated in light of the impact of any additional budget reductions from the State.
- As a result of the review by the Four-Year Reauthorization Committee of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, WLU will be officially "reauthorized" to function within the State. The Committee found "no concerns" with the University. West Liberty looks very favorable in terms of enrollment and student-retention rates when compared to our sister institutions. Our graduation rate is the highest among the State's four-year regional institutions. The University also compares very favorably in terms of "Financial Health." Provost Brian Crawford serves on the Committee.

- President Griener has signed the Memorandum of Understanding to officially form the Ohio Valley Research Consortium and to recognize West Liberty University's participation in this project, along with seven other area institutions of higher learning. As an initiative of Congressman David McKinley, the Consortium will work to diversify West Virginia's economy through investment in research. Initially, it will focus on drug addiction and opioid abuse, cyber-security, healthcare, and job creation for veterans.
- Focused planning is continuing on the proposed upgrade of the University's technology network infrastructure. Priorities are being finalized regarding the investment of approximately \$836,000 (remaining from the Campbell Hall construction bond) toward improving the overall effectiveness of the digital network in order to provide a seamless student experience in terms of Wi-Fi, thereby allowing students to move from building to building, while remaining on the same Wi-Fi.
- Further planning is being undertaken regarding the fulfilling of additional important priorities that will require the securing of a low-interest loan in the range of \$1-2 million from a local financial institution. These additional priorities would address serious campus needs in the areas of academics, safety, student services, athletics, and other improvements directed toward improving the total collegiate experience for our students.
- Planning is also continuing at a strong pace for a possible 120-bed/60 unit apartment complex as part of the University's investment in improving the housing options for our students and in enhancing our opportunity to recruit and retain students. An RFP will be extended for bids to better determine the level of interest among builders and the cost component of constructing such a complex, which would be located next to Beta Hall on the south end of campus. If the project is undertaken, it would include the razing of Beta Hall.



- With the aid of a \$1 million anonymous gift, rapid progress is being made in planning for a new artificial-turf soccer field and all-weather track complex. The gift will be combined with a just-approved \$1.5 million low-interest loan (3%--10 years) from the WLU Foundation to complete the project, which would be located on University property adjacent to the baseball field and the natural-turf soccer field. The complex—as an investment in student recruitment and retention—will enable West Liberty to establish a Men's Soccer team and to greatly expand the rosters for our Men's and Women's Track and Cross Country teams. Such actions are projected to produce a significantly positive return on investment.
- The University recently received a \$19,300 grant to purchase state-of-the-art instrumentation (software and hardware) to enhance the Anatomy and Physiology labs. Dr. Natalia Omelchenko, Assistant Professor of Biology, received the grant from WVEPSCoR, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The new equipment will benefit the nearly 300 students who are enrolled in health-science programs and who are involved in the Anatomy and Physiology laboratories.
- The proposed graduate program (MA/MS) in Biology will have a site visitation in late February or early March from the Higher Learning Commission. With an anticipated positive review, the program could commence in January of 2018 at the latest and will serve as WLU's fifth graduate program in meeting the increasing need for post-baccalaureate study in the sciences.
- The proposed on-line Master of Science degree in Dental Hygiene will be on the February agenda of the WV Higher Education Policy Commission. Subsequent to HEPC approval and a positive action on the part of the Higher Learning Commission, the MSDH, which would be the University's second terminal-degree program (along with the PA program) could be launched in 2018. It will represent West Liberty's sixth graduate program.

- The proposed Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology will be presented for approval at the February meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. Subsequently, the program will seek approval from the Higher Learning Commission. Approvals at both levels could result in the program admitting students in 2018. The MA in Clinical Psychology would represent the University's seventh graduate program and is intended to meet an increasing demand for mental health professionals in West Virginia and throughout the nation.
- The recently approved major in Human Biology, which represents a "3+2" program, thereby providing an avenue for top-level students to complete a BS in Biology in 3 years and an MS in Physician Assistant Studies in 2 years, is being readied for launching in the Fall Semester of the 2017-18 academic year. The need for Physician Assistants continues to rise throughout the nation and especially in rural areas such as West Virginia.
- The second recently approved major in the College of Sciences—the BA/BS to BSN (Nursing) program, will be open for our students in August. This new major is tailored for those students holding a non-Nursing degree who wish to earn the BSN and become registered nurses, and it is in direct response to a continuing interest in the area of professional healthcare.
- A number of faculty positions are in the process of being filled for the 2017-18 academic year. Replacements for retirements and resignations are being made in the areas of Sociology, Political Science, Criminal Justice, Mathematics, Nursing, Spanish, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Education, Computer Information Systems, and Biology. With enrollment stabilizing overall and increasing in some programs, these positions are needed in order to maintain quality instructional services for our students.
- A national search is underway to fill the position of Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. In addition to serving in this key leadership role for all faculty and students within Liberal Arts, the Dean is active in promoting the College's programs and in student recruitment and retention and in fund raising. July 1 would be the starting date.



- After an extensive review of a possible academic reorganization, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Arts and Communication, and the School of Professional Studies will retain their autonomy as academic units. Only limited financial savings would have been produced through the combining of these programs. Subsequently, the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Communication will be filled via an internal search process.
- The Spring Semester kicked off with the annual Art Faculty Exhibition, entitled “The Toy Show.” Each year, the Exhibition features a unique theme, and this year the Art faculty chose toys as a source of inspiration. The Art faculty members—Sarah Davis, Brian Fencl, Jim Haizlett, Martyna Matusiak, Moon Jung Kang, Nancy Tirone, and Robert Villamagna—approached the subject of toys in their own artistic way and in a wide variety of media.
- Dr. Joseph Horzempa, Associate Professor of Biology, has been selected as one of five finalists for the West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia. He joined the faculty in 2011, and the student body named him WLU’s “Professor of the Year” in 2016. He has received over \$1.7 million in grants during his tenure at the University. These grants support the laboratory and research activities of him and his students. He is the second finalist for this prestigious award within the past three years. Dr. Zachary Loughman, also an Associate Professor of Biology, won the award in 2014.
- Lindsey Fenwick, a senior Sports Management student and member of the Women’s Basketball team, has been instrumental in starting the first chapter of Net Impact in the state of West Virginia. Net Impact is a global community of students and professionals who seek to become effective change agents by utilizing social entrepreneurship—using business skills to address social problems while still making money. The WLU chapter is open to students in all majors.



- West Liberty University's Hilltop Players commenced the New Year in the spotlight as their production of "Poe: Master of the Macabre" was selected for performance at the Region Two Festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The production was one of eight selected from a total of 66 eligible productions from the region. According to Prof. Michael Aulick, WLU's Theater Director, the Hilltop Players (13 students in this production) could be selected to eventually perform for a national audience.
- As the invited guests of West Virginia Congressman David McKinley, President and Mrs. Greiner recently toured the Congressman's new office in the Rayburn Building and were able to spend time in discussing issues related to West Virginia and higher education.
- Treasure Fields is joining WLU as the first Head Coach of our new Acrobatics and Tumbling program. A former A&T standout at Concordia (WI) University, she most recently has been serving as a graduate assistant at Concordia. Her initial major duties will involve assembling a roster for the Hilltoppers' inaugural season in the spring of 2018. This new athletics program for women is reflective of the ever-growing interest in the sport on a nationwide basis. West Liberty's will be the only such program in West Virginia.
- Justin Simpson has been hired as the University's Head Coach for Men's and Women's Track and Cross Country teams. He is a graduate of Oak Glen High School and holds his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from West Virginia University. Since 2007, he has been serving as the Boys Track Head Coach for the West Virginia Flyers Track Club in Morgantown and as a Volunteer Assistant Coach for the WVU Women's Cross Country and Track teams. His focus will be on building the roster strength for all of these programs in anticipation of the new track and field complex at the University.
- A search is underway for a Men's Soccer Coach for the 2017 season, during which the newly formed team will function on a "club" basis, prior to moving to an NCAA competitive level in 2018. This new sport, along with Acrobatics and Tumbling, will have a positive impact on enrollment and finances, along with providing an excellent opportunity for student-athletes to participate in a sport that continues to increase in popularity.



- A national search is being undertaken to fill the position of Athletic Director, which is presently being assumed by Co-Interim ADs Lynn Ullom (Women's Basketball Head Coach) and Roger Waialae (Football Head Coach). The position represents the primary leadership role—internal and external—for all athletic programs, as well as serving on the President's Cabinet as a key administrator for the University as a whole. The successful candidate will assume duties on July 1.
- With twelve consecutive wins, Coach Jim Crutchfield's nationally ranked Number Three Men's Basketball Team continues to move toward the defense of last year's Mountain East Conference title, the seventh consecutive league title won by the Hilltoppers. Additionally, the program reached more milestones in becoming the first team in the history of NCAA Division II Basketball to be ranked in 107 consecutive "Top 25" national polls and in 86 consecutive "Top 10" national polls.
- Coach Eric Burkle's rising WLU Baseball program cracked the Top 10 when the National College Baseball Writers Association released its annual NCAA Division II Atlantic Region preseason poll. Coming off a 29-win season, capped by a run in the MEC Tournament that came up just shy of a berth in the championship round, the Black and Gold checked in at No. 10 in the regional voting—the first such ranking for the Toppers in many years.
- WLU's outstanding senior standout lineman Darnell Vickers (Akron) earned his second consecutive All-Super Region One Team honor when the Don Hansen Football Gazette Selection Committee released its 2016 NCAA Division II All-Super Region Team. The 6-2, 295-pound defensive tackle wrapped up his stellar career with the Hilltoppers as a four-time All-Conference honoree.

*Disclaimer: This condensed summary report is intended to provide a relatively comprehensive overview of the contemporary accomplishments and activities associated with WLU; it is not intended to include each and every one of the multiple achievements and events that are part of the University.*



