

# **WLU Board of Governors**

Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.**

Location: Shaw Hall Board Room

**“...to provide our students with the opportunity for a high quality undergraduate, graduate and professional education.”**

- 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 February 5, 2020\*
  - B. Minutes of the Executive Committee March 18, 2020\*
- V. Agenda Order (Board may move to change order of consideration)**
- VI. Board Items**
  - A. Approval of Program Reviews\*
  - B. Master in Art Therapy and Counseling Proposal\*
  - C. MAEd Leadership Track\*
  - D. Change Name of the Department of Journalism, Communication Studies and Visual Arts\*
  - E. Split the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics\*
  - F. Honorary Degree Approval\*
  - G. Notice of Intent for Board of Governors Policies\*
  - H. FY 2021 Budget / Tuition & Fees\*

\*Action Items
- VII. Reports**
  - A. Provost (Crawford)
  - B. Enrollment (Cook)
  - C. Staff (Baker)
  - D. Faculty (Gall)
  - E. SGA (Yakicic)
- VIII. President's Report**
- IX. Finance Report**
- X. Information Gathering (Members may ask questions or gather information to prepare for future agenda items without general discussion or action at this meeting.)**
- XI. Executive Session – Executive Session under 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) and (b)(12)**
- XII. Actions Emanating from Executive Session**
- XIII. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, June 3, 2020**
- XIV. Adjournment**

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Minutes  
February 5, 2020**

**Attendance:**

Jack Adams, Kelly Baker, Richard Carter, Cindy Fluharty, Robert Gall, Rich Lucas, Kris Williams, Isabella Yakicic

**Unable to Attend:**

Joe Carey, William Mercer

**Administration/Faculty/Staff:**

Stephanie Bradley, Sydney Burkle, Scott Cook, Katie Cooper, Brian Crawford, Mary Ann Edwards, Steve Greiner, Matt Harder, Diana Harto, Angie Hill, Stephanie Hooper, Jason Kogler, Roberta Linger, Cathy Monteroso, Nick Musgrave, Sara Sweeney, Ron Witt

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

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

**II. Introductions**

**A. Sydney Burkle**

Dr. Greiner introduced Sydney Burkle, Philanthropy Vice President of the Epsilon Theta Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta. Ms. Burkle formally invited the Board members to attend the first annual AmaXing Challenge Gala benefiting Autism Speaks on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the White Palace, along with background about the event. Tickets are \$50/person and she will send information to Dr. Greiner to distribute to Board members.

**III. Public Comment**

None.

**IV. Agenda Order**

No changes to the agenda order.

**V. Approval of Minutes\***

**A. Minutes of the Full Board December 11, 2019\***

On motion by Robert Gall and seconded by Jack Adams, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the full Board of December 11, 2019.

**B. Minutes of the Executive Committee January 22, 2020\***

On motion by Rich Lucas and seconded by Jack Adams, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of January 22, 2020.

**VI. Board Items for Approval\***

**A. Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology\***

Dr. Bradley presented information on the proposal to add the MS in Speech-Language Pathology to be offered within the College of Sciences. In order for students to use their bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology and provide therapy to the public they must have a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology. A brief discussion followed, and it was noted we would need an additional full-time faculty member, the Clinical Director, to start the program in the fall of 2022.

On motion by Robert Gall and seconded by Kelly Baker, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add the

**new degree program Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology to be offered within the College of Sciences, Department of Health Sciences.**

**B. Metro Rate – Fayette County, Ohio\***

Mr. Cook distributed information with regard to the metro county expansion proposal for Fayette County, Ohio. There has been no enrollment from this county in the last six years. A brief discussion followed.

**On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by Jack Adams, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to approve the new metro rate county beginning with the 2020-21 academic year as stipulated.**

**VII. President's Report**

Dr. Greiner noted that Dr. Matthew Zdilla is a finalist for the 2019 WV Professor of the Year. In the last five years WLU had two professors named WV Professor of the year.

BestCollegesOnline.org has ranked WLU's MBA program #3 in the Top 50 Affordable Accelerated online 2020 programs.

A partnership to assist students needing one class to graduate has been signed with Bethany and Wheeling University, allowing students to take a needed course at these institutions, paying the cost charged by their home institution.

Bids will be going out for the clinics in Campbell Hall within the next two weeks for the Behavioral Health and Speech Pathology and Audiology areas. Construction should start around April and be completed by August.

There will be a CMTA meeting next week to try and finalize plans for the summer project involving interior/exterior lighting and low flush toilets and water saving faucets. A complete HVAC renovation of Main Hall will also take place this summer, along with the replacement of some switches. The Marketplace will undergo some renovations this summer with funds provided by Sodexo.

Dr. Greiner congratulated Dr. Cathy Monteroso and the College of Education on their scores released by the National Council on Teach Quality (NCTQ) for its 2020 Teach Prep Review. Based on their criteria, WLU's reading program qualified for an "A," one of a few in the country.

Dr. Greiner thanked Kris Williams for her generous donation that enables us to name WLU's Rollie Williams International Center in memory of her father, Rollie Williams, who was a professor at West Liberty for 37 years.

Dr. Greiner stated that we have been invited back to China, but a week after the invitation the coronavirus was identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. A conference call will be held Tuesday with colleagues in China to get an update.

We are pleased that the Governor has rescinded the mid-year budget cut. WV has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest enrollment decline in the nation. A real concern for us is that funding for FTE has decreased 33% in the last ten years in West Virginia. WLU is very fortunate to have a net enrollment increase of 6.6%.

WLU is the only public masters granting institution to experience enrollment growth.

President's Council has been working with legislators and the legislative agenda for a new funding module. The current module is broken and penalizes institutions for an enrollment increase. With no funding available for capital improvements, they continue to work for a solution.

## **VIII. Finance Report**

Ms. Linger gave a budget update as January 1, 2020. All is trending as expected with no concerns. On the expense side personal services are trending slightly below the benchmark, but overall running at about 51.4%. There are still some issues with the state auditors and getting things paid, but this should be resolved next month.

## **IX. Reports**

### **A. Provost (Crawford)**

Dr. Crawford stated the MS in Speech Language Pathology will be headed to the HEPC in the next few weeks, then onto the HLC in the spring. The MS in Art Therapy and Counseling has passed through Graduate Council and will next move to the Faculty Senate. The program should be on the BOG's April 1<sup>st</sup> agenda, with the MS in Exercise Physiology proposal not far behind. Today the intent to plan was submitted for an Educational Leadership certification MAEd track for Principals and Superintendents. A BA in Music intent to plan is currently in process.

Dr. Crawford noted that he attended a committee meeting in Charleston on Monday, which reauthorizes state institutions to grant degrees. When asked by the committee how WLU manages to stay so strong in enrollment when so many are dropping, he stated a combination of new programs and expanding our geographic range. Two other members of the committee also pointed out WLU's reputation in terms of excellence, sciences getting involved early on in research, etc.; we have a pretty good reputation across the state right now.

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

Mr. Cook distributed enrollment information as of February 3, 2020. Enrollment was finalized this week with a total headcount of 2,203, up 2.1% over last spring. Housing is at 1,035, up 2.3% over last spring. Undergraduate applications received are up 6% and undergraduate applications accepted are up 8% over this period last year. Graduate applications received are slightly down at this time.

Some of the student success measures: WLU in 2019 had the highest 4-year graduation rate in the state for the second year in a row, the second highest 6-year graduation rate, and the third highest retention rate, slipping from number two last year. Historically WLU does well in all the performance indicators.

### **C. Staff (Baker)**

Ms. Baker stated that Staff Council has been working to get a meeting with the Board of Governors, and respectfully asks that the meeting be held in May 2020. This will give the Council time to hold an election for a new chairperson and prepare for the requested meeting.

### **D. Faculty (Gall)**

For the first item Dr. Gall stated that last April the Faculty Senate overwhelmingly passed a policy to reestablish how faculty are evaluated, taking into consideration comments from faculty. Provost Crawford recommended against the changes; Faculty Senate will be coming back to these policy changes in the future.

The second item deals with the College of Business and their requirement to hold faculty hours in excess of what is called for in policy, which Senate will try to address.

The final item, as brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, is the faculty and staff concern about President Greiner serving as consultant on the Presidential Search Committee since he was not evaluated as President. It was stated that someone such as President Emeritus John McCullough would be a better choice as consultant to the committee.

### **E. Student Government (Yakicic)**

Ms. Yakicic stated that SGA has been working on funding with the HEPC and with Sodexo on meal plan selections and renovations. A New York bus trip is planned for the spring, most

likely at the \$50/per student rate. They are looking at River City for the spring fling dance, which has been a good location and successful in recent years. An SGA day will be held on the quad in the spring with food, prizes, and inflatables.

**X. Information Gathering**

Dr. Gall wanted to bring to the Board's attention that with Ms. Hooper now being in the position of General Counsel, university and board policies have fallen behind on changes in State Code. The Board needs to try to do something to regularize review of Board policies to make sure they are up to date. A number of discrepancies have been pointed out, some more than a few years out of date.

**XI. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 1, 2020.**

**XII. Adjournment**

**On motion by Richard Carter and seconded by Isabella Yakicic, it was unanimously adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m.**

Richard Lucas \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Jack Adams \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

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**Executive Committee  
Minutes  
March 18, 2020**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Jack Adams, Rich Lucas, Kris Williams

**WLU Administrators:** Scott Cook, Brian Crawford, Stephen Greiner, Diana Harto, Stephanie Hooper, Roberta Linger

1. Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
2. Ms. Linger provided a status report on the Energy Performance and Water savings project financing. She expressed a concern with going forward with the project given the current situation related to the spread of COVID-19 and related financial unknowns. She explained that it could be broken up into sub-projects. It was decided to accept an interest-free \$1 million loan from the HEPC that would finance the water and lighting portion of the project and to delay on the portion that would require a bond issue.
3. Ms. Linger recommended postponing the Marketplace renovation project until after the food service contract is re-bid, which could be done during the 2020-21 Academic Year. Once a new vendor contract is awarded the project can be reevaluated.
4. Ms. Linger gave a report on the FY20 budget status as of the end of February. Revenue and expenses are close to budgeted amounts.
5. There was discussion of the expected high-level FY21 budget. The President indicated that enrollment will likely be impacted negatively by the COVID-19 situation, which will reduce revenue and require adjustments to the expense budget. Jack Adams made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Williams. Motion approved.
6. The proposed FY21 Tuition and Fees were presented by Ms. Linger. The list will be taken up by the Finance Committee for recommendation to the full board. (NOTE: Mr. Lucas had to leave the meeting at 8:20 a.m.)
7. Dr. Greiner noted two honorary degrees are recommended for the spring commencement speakers. As of now, the plan is for our two state senators to speak; one at the 10:00 a.m. ceremony and one at the 2:00 p.m. event. These will be considered at the full board meeting.
8. Mr. Cook addressed a recent request to add Crawford County, PA to the list of Metro Rate counties. He recommended not adding Crawford unless also adding Lawrence, Venango, and Mercer counties, which lie between the current northernmost county on the list and Crawford. There is currently one student from each of those counties, which would initially create a loss of tuition revenue. Because of this, the request will not be recommended to the full board.
9. Dr. Greiner introduced the possibility of renaming Main Hall in honor of a major donor. There was some discussion, but no action was taken.
10. Dr. Crawford provided an overview of the following:
  - a. The Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling program, which is ready for board approval.
  - b. The MAEd Leadership Track proposal, which must go to the HEPC and then the WVDoE. If the proposal is approved by the Graduate Council and Faculty Senate, the board will also be

asked for approval.

- c. The request to change the name of the Department of Journalism, Communication Studies and Visual Arts to the Department of Visual and Media Arts.
  - d. The request to split the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics into:
    - i. The Department of Biological Sciences, and
    - ii. The Department of Physical Sciences and Mathematics.
  - e. Five-year program reviews will be submitted for approval in advance of sending those to the HEPC.
  - f. Faculty are receiving assistance from the Office of eLearning, the Provost's Office, and IT Services in preparation for remote instruction beginning on Monday, March 23, 2020.
11. Dr. Greiner gave an update on steps being taken regarding the spread of COVID-19. This is a fluid situation and the President's Cabinet has been meeting multiple times each day this week in response to the HEPC, state, and federal announcements. Daily updates are being provided to faculty, staff, and students.
- a. Ms. Harto joined the group and gave an update on what is being done to keep staff safe. She reported that WLU is following all guidance received from federal and state agencies.
  - b. Mr. Cook reported that about 100 students are still living on campus. These are critical to university operations or are unable to return home for some reason.
  - c. Dr. Greiner reported that a special meeting of the HEPC is scheduled for Friday to address financial aid and other support for students. HEPC is additionally requesting information from all state institutions on the potential financial impact of the virus.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Richard Lucas

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Chair

Jack Adams

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Secretary

## **PROGRAM REVIEW APPROVALS**

### **Action Item**

The Board of Governors is asked to approve West Liberty's 2020 program review. Per HEPC Policy, non-accredited programs provide an external consultant's review, an assessment update, and a summary document for submission to the Higher Education Policy Commission. Accredited programs provide the HEPC summary document along with their accreditation affiliation status. The following programs submitted 2019-20 Program Review documents:

- Biology
- Dental Hygiene
- English
- Nursing
- Speech Pathology and Audiology

All submitted documents are reviewed by the Provost, and the Assessment Updates are reviewed by the Assessment and Accreditation Committee.

**Proposed Resolution: *Resolved*, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the five-year program reviews as stated.**

**Master in Art Therapy and Counseling Proposal**

**ACTION ITEM**

***Proposed Resolution:*** Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the proposal to add the new degree program Master in Art Therapy and Counseling.

**MAEd Leadership Track**

**ACTION ITEM**

***Proposed Resolution:*** Resolved, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the proposal to add the MAEd Leadership Track.

**Change Name of the Department of  
Journalism, Communication Studies and Visual Arts**

**Action Item**

The Board of Governors is asked to approve the change of name of the Department of Journalism, Communication Studies and Visual Arts to the Department of Visual and Media Arts.

**Proposed Resolution, *Resolved*, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approves the department name change as stated.**

## **Split the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics**

### **Action Item**

The Board of Governors is asked to approve splitting the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics into:

- The Department of Biological Sciences, and
- The Department of Physical Sciences and Mathematics

**Proposed Resolution, *Resolved*, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approves the departmental split as stated.**

## **HONORARY DEGREE**

### **Action Item**

**Proposed Resolution:** *Resolved*, that in affirmation of the recommendation of the Honorary Degrees and Recognition Committee and the President of the University, the West Liberty University Board of Governors authorizes the conferral of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (DHL) degree from West Liberty University at the May 2020 commencement to Ryan W. Weld and William J. Ihlenfeld, II.

**Fiscal Year 2021 Budget/Tuition and Fees**

**Action Item**

**Proposed Resolution: *Resolved*, that the West Liberty University Board of Governors approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget/Tuition and Fees as presented.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO WLU**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**April 1, 2020**

- Alumna Jes Reger has been awarded a 2020 Emerging Artist Fellowship from the [Tamarack Foundation for the Arts](#). The fellowships are presented to thriving, early-career artists across West Virginia.
- West Liberty University men's basketball standout [Dalton Bolon](#) achieved a rare post-season honors "double" when he was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division II All-America Team. Selected and voted on by NCAA Division II NABC member coaches across the country, the 16-man honor roll is the most exclusive of all post-season All-America teams. This honor completed an All-America "double" for the 6-4 junior guard from Gnadenhutten, Ohio, who was honored earlier in March as a first-team NCAA Division II Academic All-American. Bolon is one of just three Academic All-Americans to earn NABC All-America honors and the lone first-team selection. It's the second consecutive NCAA Division II Academic All-America honor for Bolon, an honors graduate with a degree in Biology who is currently serving as a teaching assistant in WLU's College of Sciences while pursuing his master's degree. In addition, he was the only repeat first-team selection when the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) released its nationwide list of All-District awards for the 2019-20 season. Also he has advanced to the Top 25 Watch List for the fifth annual Bevo Francis Award, which will be presented next month to the most outstanding small-college basketball player in America by the Small College Basketball national website.
- West Liberty University was awarded a \$129,000 grant for summer research as West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission renewed its support for the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program across the state.

- Business students enjoyed a chance to learn first-hand from a presentation by international travel leader Dr. Peter Sontag. Hosted by business student club [Phi Beta Lambda](#), the presentation offered tips and advice from Sontag, who was inducted into the Alumni Wall of Honor in 1990. Also an honorary member of the [WLU Foundation](#), he has endowed multiple scholarships for WLU students and is a member of the John P. McCullough Giving Society.
- Three West Liberty University seniors participated in the West Virginia Undergraduate Literary Symposium recently and shared their research with other students and faculty from across the state. Ashley Cole of Terra Alta, W.Va., presented on the topic of “Poverty in Bleak House” during the Society and Morality segment of the symposium. Cole is an English Literature major. Charles Henry, Richmond, Ohio, presented on “A Question on Assessment of English Literature” during the Popular Culture and Academic Studies segment. Henry is an Interdisciplinary Studies major with an emphasis on writing. Maria Matsakis, Shadyside, Ohio, presented on “Harry Potter: An Activist Analysis of the Boy Who Lived” also during the Popular Culture and Academic Studies segment. Matsakis is an English Literature major.
- West Liberty University is now the owner of a one story home, located along Rt. 88, that will enhance the student experience for criminal justice majors. The newly purchased house is not a residential house but a house that will be used as a criminal justice lab.
- The NCAA and MEC have cancelled all spring sports. However, graduating seniors in spring sports only will be allowed a redshirt year if they choose to do so.