

**WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**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

Chair

Jack Adams

Secretary