

**WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Executive Committee
Minutes
March 30, 2022**

Executive Committee Members Present: Jack Adams, Richard Carter, Rich Lucas, David McKinley, Stephanie Shaw

WLU Administrators: W. Franklin Evans, Monique Akassi, Stephanie Hooper, Lori Hudson

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.

2. President's Update

- West Liberty University received a grant from the Governor for \$924,000. The grant will be for four semesters and go towards nursing majors. The grant will be divided and distributed to nursing majors, which will receive \$25,000 each.
- Lori Hudson stated that she conducted an analysis of West Liberty University's leased properties and there is evidence that WLU is losing money, including from the Highlands and the Gary West Event Center. Students are allowed to use the facilities now, for it was sitting dormant previously.

3. Honorary Degree

- Dr. Jim Denova, former Vice President of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. He has given \$2.5 million in Benedum Foundation programmatic grants since 2002. A vote was taken unanimously to grant him an Honorary degree.

4. Board of Governor's Self-Evaluation Outcome

- The BOG Self Evaluation is in the packet. The President will go through and highlight, including strengths, areas of improvement, and what areas of improvement are needed, moving forward.

5. Program Reviews

- There are six programs needed to be reviewed; reports have been done and submitted.

6. Post-Degree Audits

- Post degree audits have been completed and received along with extensions.
- The MA in Clinical Psychology, Art, Science, and Dental Hygiene have been submitted for approval to the Board of Governors.
- Trustee David McKinley asked what did we do wrong?
- President Evans stated that the staff made presentations about reviews every five years. President Evans further stated that we need to do a review each year so that we do an internal review now but previously it was not done.
- An extension was given, and so now West Liberty University is doing what they previously should have been doing.

7. Early Childhood Education Minor Non-Certification

- The Early Childhood education offers a minor to those who want skills to open up a day care or start up a business, but it does not lead to licensure, but one can still acquire a skill set. The minor will only take 12 credit hours to complete.
- Trustee David McKinley asked is there a study review and does this involve hiring new staff?
- President Evans reassured that the minor will not require new staff. In addition, previously the minor was only available for Education majors; however, it will now be available to non-majors as well.

8. **FY 2023 Budget/Tuition & Fees**

- VP Lori Hudson shared that there is a \$2.7 million deficit. Requests this year came even higher, involving many hours of meeting with the Cabinet.
- Based on conversations with Mr. Cook, the Interim Dean and Interim Provost project enrollment, state appropriation, royalty income are looking at \$44.3 million dollars, trying to balance and come under or balanced. This upcoming 2023-2024 academic year we are expected to have a \$43.4 million.
- Enrollment applications are up so we are looking to increase the numbers.
- There is \$845,000 greater next year and \$43.3 revenue.
- There are \$46 million expenses, and the CARE fund helped balance the budget previously. However, the CARE fund will not be an option soon.
- Trustee Richard Carter stated that \$2.3 million deferred cost before looking for \$1.8 million, which is not provided by state and governor.
- VP Hudson explained that there is a need for roof repairing in Main Hall. Furthermore, we always have a revised budget, no revisions of revised budget. We have a revised budget.
- VP Hudson and President Evans are not to blame because the debt happened on an annual basis prior to their arrival.
- VP Hudson shared that once we have enrollment firmed up, we will have a clearer picture.
- Trustee McKinley stated that there is a need to be more intentional, for there has been very little in the governance. There is also a need for more transparency in the budget.
- President Evans shared that the Deans have been upset because the charge has not been compliant. Every year previously there were discussions about cuts, but it did not happen in the past.
- President Evans further stated that it is unlikely for tenured faculty to be terminated because there is a lack of due process afforded; we do not evaluate, record, or put things in writing. Deans and Chairs have to be more pro-active. Furthermore, according to Interim Provost Monteroso, if a faculty is tenured, they do not currently evaluate faculty post tenure.
- President Evans suggested that we focus on those non-tenured faculty first in regard to layoffs.
- President Evans stated there are new guidelines, including increasing the minimum class size to hold a class. Moving forward, there should be a minimum of 10 students for undergraduate classes and five for graduate courses.
- President Evans said there has to be a reason for tenured faculty to be let go.
- The West Virginia's Higher Education Policy says reviews are a process that need to be submitted on an ongoing basis by the deadlines.
- President Evans said we need to evolve and put everything in writing. People have not been held accountable.
- President Evans said a student to faculty ration at 11:1, which is currently what WLU has—is not good. Instead, we should aim for a 15:1 student to faculty ratio.
- Trustee Adams concurred, stating there is no need to have a class with only three students in class.
- President Evans stated that Dr. Monteroso is currently eliminating duplicate courses.
- Currently the student to faculty ratio is 11:1 because we have too many faculty. We hire adjuncts in advance before we even schedule classes for full time faculty; this must end. Full time faculty should be assigned courses first before adjuncts.
- Currently we have 151 full time faculty, and we are spending \$680,000 per year on adjuncts.
- VP Hudson stated the 2023 Fiscal year has been discussed with the Finance Subcommittee.
- The HEPC needs to be submitted by May 13, 2022.
- By increasing tuition and keep the metro rate as is, we can bring in \$970,000. Analyses are being conducted on leasing facilities and losses with an increase by 10% and negotiate rewards.
- Projected enrollment for 2023 will bring in revenue and keep the metro rate as is with no increase. By doing this, we can bring in an extra \$970,000.
- Currently the analyses on leased facilities and losses, VP Hudson would like to decrease with rates instead of an increase.

- President Evans stated with tuition and fees, there are fees and additional fees.
- VP Hudson also shared a differential created and amount established. Fees on top of that; fees need to be absorbed through differentials.
- Trustee Stephanie Shaw gave kudos to VP Hudson for ushering change.
- VP Hudson stated that she was very conservative with the numbers.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Richard Lucas

Chair

Jamie Evick

Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Monique L. Akassi