

**West Liberty University  
Board of Governors**

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**Executive Committee  
Minutes  
February 1, 2023**

**In Attendance:** Cathy Monteroso, David McKinley, Richard Carter, Rich Lucas, Stephanie Shaw, Stephanie Hooper

**Unable to Attend:** Arlene Brantley, Jamie Evick, Jack Adams

**Meeting called to order at 3:07 PM**

**President's Update:**

Dr. Monteroso has been more encouraged than discouraged in this first month and we have many opportunities moving forward.

Putting a tuition freeze in place to service our students. Typically, we increase tuition by 3%, so we're looking into how we can cover this. Rich Carter is encouraged that we're focusing on costs so that students can have lower tuition and we can remain competitive in the market with tuition. Dr. Monteroso mentioned that we surpassed Marshall's tuition last year. Marshall is recruiting/expanding athletic teams. Acro & Tumbling was added and worked for us.

Current VP of Enrollment Management is Bill Sliwa. We have a fairly significant summer melt (those students lost over summer...usually when they see the bill)

David McKinley asked when we get an indication of what Fall will look like? Dr. Monteroso responded that it should be somewhere in April or May. Students pay a deposit when they reserve a room on campus, but we don't have a deposit of any sort just for acceptance/commitment alone. We need to work on getting a clear number, sooner.

Dr. Monteroso has worked with Cabinet, Deans, and Program Chairs on return on investment. Every student/parent is also looking at their return on investment. Students are looking at a 20-year loan debt. We need to be clear about their 4-year plans.

Rich Carter asked what percentage of students don't have to borrow? Dr. Monteroso responded that Elbin Scholars (for example) haven't been required to complete a FAFSA. If they would be Pell eligible, we're not collecting the grant. We're going to be looking closer at this and it could help to reduce our scholarship funds. We're still using test scores for our scholarships and NCAA did away with all test scores. Some competing states (PA) aren't requiring test scores for scholarships or admission. WLU is test optional right now, but we do require it for scholarships. All scholarships need to be part of the FA package.

David McKinley asked about the 120-hour protocol. HEPC instituted a few years back that all degrees should be 120 hours. If your degree was created before that, you could be grandfathered in with more hours. We are working on creating degree plans and moving to 120 to get students out in 4 years.

David McKinley asked about thoughts on Marshall possibly beginning a focus more on virtual education. Dr. Monteroso has been looking at their aviation program that's located in Charleston. They seem to have a struggle with General Education requirements, students seem to shy away from the virtual options. WLU needs to go after the market of re-training.

**Highlands Update**

Dr. Monteroso is working on a timeline and has had conversations with the commissioners about the time they would need for an exit. Discussion continued on Highlands cost, need, and exit plan.

**Adjournment**

David McKinley motions to adjourn, Richard Cater seconds the motion.  
Motion to adjourn approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Minutes Submitted by: Cyndi Galloway