

**WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Executive Committee
Minutes
June 1, 2022**

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

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

Others: Ryan Quinn

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. President's Update

- President Evans met with Dr. Hardy about the HLC Insurance Review and sent documents regarding the University, Communications and the Strategic Plan—citing she inquired about the Strategic Plan at West Liberty University.
- Nursing has been reaffirmed.
- West Liberty University is moving forward with the Doctorate degree, and there are currently no issues.
- West Virginia State is now trying to put a Doctor of Education degree together by January 1, 2023
- Starting an aviation program at WLU has been discussed with members of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and RED. Marshall University already has a program.
- Ohio County airport is wanting to partner with West Liberty University. During the nineties, West Liberty University offered an Aviation degree.
- The Governor is providing \$400,000 to West Liberty University for salary enhancements. The administration is asking for the Board of Governors' approval for approximately \$186,000 and \$200,000 to be distributed to faculty and staff, respectively.
- Chairman Lucas asked if this is a one-time bonus. The state does not recognize bonuses, but it has a surplus, and are to be used for matters such as merit and equity. Several institutions are increasing the minimum hourly wage on campuses.
- The University's audit will commence soon, and initial calls from the auditors will be made to both Chairman Lucas and President Evans about the process.
- West Liberty University is currently putting a new roof on Main Hall.
- ASRC currently has a roof leak. And the underground pipes not only in the city but across campus have had issues. An estimate of \$1 million has been offered as what it would take to replace the underground pipes. Currently, West Liberty University is losing water underground. Trustee Adams mentioned that there has been water and roof issues with Liberty Oaks in the past. Trustee McKinley stated that according to Mr. Joe Rodella, the University is losing a couple \$100,000 per year due to water leaking underground. Trustee Adams reiterated that there has been a problem with the water for years.
- President Evans shared it has been reported that at 3:00 a.m. the number of gallons of water used are high. This supports the idea that the underground pipes are leaking significantly.
- HEPC has money to assist institutions with conducting a study on deferred maintenance and is piloting this work on three campuses. WLU has been invited to participate in the pilot. The cost is about \$150,000, but HEPC will cover that amount. In the future, each institution would have to cover approximately \$17,000 to maintain services on its campus generated by the pilot study.
- Graduate degree report indicates there were 262 new applications and 163 accepted. There are currently 249 in Graduate School: 171 continuing students; 98 MBA students; 41 in Biology; 35 in Education; 21 in Psychology; 17 in Exercises Physiology; 17 in Speech; and 18 in Physician Assistants programs.
- Graduation for the Physician Assistant's program is next week.

- Interim Provost Monteroso handles the approval of undergraduate programs, including the Marine and Aquatic track programs that are scheduled to commence in the fall.
- The IEDA has been approved as a minor.
- West Liberty University offers a certificate in Medical Laboratory discipline.
- Academic Affairs will terminate the Bachelor of Science in Digital Media, Video, Film, and Multimedia due to declining enrollment numbers.
- Trustee David McKinley recommended looking at the ADH program at Marshall, Fairmount, and West Virginia Northern in the mix with aviation. Trustee McKinley inquired if there is a demand currently for digital media. President Evans stated that currently there is not really a demand but when enrollment and graduation numbers are down for a particular program, HEPC begins to question the viability of such programs.
- Communication and Computer Science are areas for minors and concentrations that can still be attached to other majors currently being offered.
- Chairman Lucas stated that the spring commencement was “cool.”

3. Election of Officers

- **Chairman Lucas stated that elections are coming up for Board of Governors and a vote was taken to re-elect Chairman Lucas. Trustee Adams made the motion, and Trustee Jamie Evick seconded it.** Trustees Adams and Evick’s terms are through 2024. Although Chairman Rich Lucas’ term on the Board ends, a request will be made to Governor Justice asking that his term be extended.
- Trustee Adams stated that approvals for terms on the Board are made by the Governor.
- Mrs. Edwards checked and stated that Chairman Lucas can serve additional years, pending Governor’s approval.
- Chairman Lucas stated that there are rules about serving consecutive full terms, and that when an individual has served the maximum number of terms, one is able to sit off a term and return later.

4. Salary Enhancements

- Chairman Lucas stated that Governor’s salary enhancements action item would be discussed before the full board for a decision to be made. Trustees Adams and McKinley were considering the money to be a bonus, but clarification was provided by Ms. Diana Harto. Trustee Adams suggested fixing the wording for the motion to address any concerns about the amount reoccurring on the backs of the institution.
- Chairman Lucas stated there could be issues when the funding stops. And Trustee Adams stated that we must be careful how we proceed.

5. Glass/NJS Properties

- President Evans stated there are early discussions about the Dollar General request to purchase land. Attorney Hooper stated that VP Lori Hudson brought the inquiry to the attention of the Finance Committee, but additional information is being discussed and more feedback on selling the property or long-term leasing will be gathered. The question was raised to the BOG if there were any objections to moving forward with this preliminary work and discussion?
- Trustee Adams stated that he believes the land purchase opportunity is a great idea. A reexamination of the purchase of the property may be necessary, including the possibility to lease the property instead of selling the property.
- Attorney Hooper stated that West Liberty University paid \$624,000 for the property, and the property includes a house on the land. West Liberty University paid for the value of the land—not the house.
- Chairman Lucas called on Item 7 and asked if there is any open reason to object? Attorney Hooper stated that it is a general discussion, but the matter is not yet on the full board agenda. Attorney Hooper will be calling on Adam Weidner for more discussion and information on the subject.

6. Academic Integrity Policy Draft

- In regard to the Academic Integrity Policy, President Evans stated that faculty has created and drafted a policy; however, depending on whether or not it is an institutional policy or a board policy, there is a particular format for presenting the policy as well as a process for its approval. President Evans explained that he complied with the Board’s request to meet with faculty and pull together a committee to draft such a policy. He suggested outside persons to assist as well. Despite any accusations of not having shared governance, this process was led by Dr. Diana Barber. President

Evans and Attorney Hooper think that the policy is an institutional one. Therefore, if this is the case, it would be presented to the University Family once the semester begins, and stakeholders will have 30 days to review it and submit comments.

- Trustee McKinley expressed his hopes to break down barriers with the faculty, and Chairman Lucas stated that President Evans was to work with the faculty committee and come up with a draft. Ms. Diana Harto had requested that the faculty provide the draft by June 1, 2022. President Evans explained that faculty did not complete the task as quickly as he had assumed they would, and that he had been informed that some members had dropped off from the committee. Trustee McKinley asked how we can overcome this and build up the relationship between our administration and faculty because it does not appear to be good.
- President Evans stated he is not taking it personally and that the problem has been an ongoing matter even prior to his arrival at WLU. Furthermore, there must be a willingness to work together. Initially, staff had expressed concerns that their views were not heard by the administration, but the President created opportunities for them to sit down at the table and be heard. President Evans further explained that some faculty believe that shared governance is only for faculty, and that no other groups need to be involved in making decisions. He has tried to include faculty from across the campus in several initiatives such as hiring and strategic planning. President Evans further stated that Interim Provost Monteroso is also experiencing push back but is choosing to be inclusive and collaborative. For example, there were issues with grades being turned in for graduating student in a timely fashion. She solicits input and suggestions, but when she tries to implement change, faculty respond by saying that they like things the way they are – despite a need for change or improvement. It is generally accepted that the Faculty Senate represents the entire faculty; however, does the WLU Faculty Senate truly represent all faculty? The meet for two to three hours once per month, but it is difficult to see the positive outcomes they are making to move the university forward. President Evans stated there have been accusations of bullying and retaliation, but there is no evidence or specific examples provided to support such claims.
- Trustee McKinley shared a personal experience where he had dealt with workplace issues and accusations and how the organization was eventually able to move forward. It was stated that for the upcoming academic year, townhall meetings will be held in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to cultivate unity, healing and moving forward to build healthy bridges between administration, faculty, and staff. Trustee McKinley stated that he is willing to assist.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Monique L. Akassi

Richard Lucas

Chair

Jamie Evick

Secretary