

MINUTES  
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
February 13, 2019

A regular meeting of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Wednesday February 13, 2019, in the Francis and Nina Phares Board Room at the WVU Parkersburg Campus, beginning at 3:15 p.m. Board members present were: Sam Winans, Donna Smith, Steve Hardman, Jeff Matheny, Joe Oliverio, Jason Landers, John Denbigh, John Hushion, Chris Cunningham, Austin Grimmatt, and Austin Grimmatt. Others present included Dr. Chris Gilmer and Brady Whipkey.

Guests present included administrators, faculty and staff.

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Winans, Chair of the WVU at Parkersburg Board of Governors, called the meeting to order.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by Brady Whipkey, Chief of Staff to the President and Secretary to the Board of Governors, noting that a quorum was present.

**3. Board Chair Report**

Chairman Winans, thanked everyone for attending and stated that the faculty, staff, and administration is doing a wonderful job.

**4. President's Report**

Dr. Gilmer began his report by informing the members that he has spent the last eight months listening to the needs of the College and the community. Dr. Gilmer stated his vision can be put into two words, Students First. The college will continue to advertise that we are the best higher education fiscal value in the State, and moving forward we will also present ourselves as a college worthy of being the first choice for students.

Next, Dr. Gilmer discussed that we will be a community that adapts to change. Dr. Gilmer stated that as we move toward the close of his first year as President, he feels confident making changes to bring about a renewal of student focused achievement, employee focused satisfaction, and community focused service. The coming weeks and months will provide specific examples of how we will grow together to be WVU Parkersburg Proud.

Dr. Gilmer then discussed that since the last meeting, sophomore strategic communications major, Sarah Weeks was selected Miss Collegiate West Virginia. Dr. Gilmer had the pleasure of meeting Country Music Association awardee Crystal Gayle. Dr. Gilmer also had the opportunity to travel to San Diego with the national Workforce Development Institute 2019 sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges, where he was a scholarship representative of the Community Colleges of Appalachia. Dr. Gilmer also traveled to Denver where he was able to secure \$25,000 of in-kind support to the National Institutes for Historically-Underserved Students, bringing the total pledged or received gifts, including a \$20,000 cash donation from the Erickson Foundation.

Dr. Gilmer reported on visitors we have had recently on campus. Adrienne Belafonte-Biesemeyer, eldest daughter of musical icon and social activist Harry Belafonte, spoke to a large crowd to commemorate the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., observance. U.S. Senator Joe Manchin also attended and provided opening remarks for the ceremony.

Dr. Gilmer reported on changes that have occurred so far this year including doubling the size of the President's Cabinet to more accurately reflect and represent all constituency of our campus. The College has also formed the President's Beautification Task Force to provide a wide-ranging input into the restoration of the courtyard on the Parkersburg campus and a cosmetic makeover of both campuses. Three open campus question and answer forums were held and well attended.

Dr. Gilmer then reported that faculty have worked hard before his arrival on a faculty leave policy recommendation. We currently do not have a governing policy on faculty leave, and Dr. Gilmer has elevated this concern to the level of the Chancellor and legal counsel for review and comment. Neither the Chancellor nor the attorneys believe there is any prohibition in developing such a local policy. Dr. Gilmer will work with the faculty senate on this matter.

Dr. Gilmer also reported that two consultants will visit the college this spring to address ongoing areas for improvement. Dr. Steven Smith from Jackson State University, an expert in student recruitment and retention, will provide information to the community on national best practices and will help us finalize our strategic enrollment plan. Dr. Dorothy McGill, a seasoned fiscal manager, will conduct an external analysis on the university's compensation structure, making recommendations to address any noted areas of potential salary inequity.

Next, Dr. Gilmer reported that he met with the WVU Parkersburg Foundation Board, yesterday. During the meeting, he briefed them on reorganization within the university's Office of Institutional Advancement, and how that might affect the Foundation. Dr. Gilmer stated that he continues to work closely with a supportive Foundation Board committed to advancing the university through this important partnership.

Dr. Gilmer then invited all members to consider joining him on Thursday or Friday, February 14 or 15, at 6 p.m. in the multi-purpose room for a dinner theater performance presented by the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, directed by Paula and Joe Oliverio. Starring a cast of our own students.

Dr. Gilmer also reported he is delighted to report through our intensive, personalized outreach to high schools throughout our service area that our Earl College programs are now being offered in conjunction with 16 high schools to 471 students this semester.

Lastly, Dr. Gilmer informed the members that he has told the Board that after seven years of annual enrollment declines and significant changes in strategy which staff are putting in place that it would take two years or more to stabilize our enrollment. While he cannot promise that we won't see dips in enrollment again, the spring 2019 head count stands at 103.93 percent compared to spring 2018.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Regular Board meeting of January 9, 2019, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Denbigh, seconded by Mr. Oliverio.

## **6. Committee Reports**

- Executive Committee

Chairman Winans reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss enrollment, WVU MOU, campus beautification, restructuring marketing and recruitment, and legislative updates, and then an open discussion.

- Administrative Services Committee:

Mr. Hardman reported that the Administrative Services Committee met and discussed renovations to facilities and campus. A report was received on the position vacancies, and new hires. A report was received on Institutional Advancement, marketing and communication efforts and Foundation updates. A report was received on contracts, bids and financial budget updates.

- Academic and Student Services Committee:

Ms. Smith reported that the Academic and Student Services committee met. A report was received on Wood County Schools partnerships, robotic equipment and new team members. A report was received on Student Support and Activities and program updates. A report was received on WED short term programs, community education programs, business & industry updates, AAS Occupational Development updates, and miscellaneous activity. A report was received on Spring 2019 enrollment.

## **7. Executive Session**

Chairman Winans asked for a motion to move into Executive Session, with no motion being made the Board moved on to the next agenda item.

## **8. Information Items**

- Fiscal Update

Ms. Harris provided a detailed report on the budget summary for January 31, 2019. With review and discussion, Ms. Harris answered questions from the members.

## **9. Board Comments/Announcements**

None

## **10. Next Meeting**

March 13, 2019, JCC

## **11. Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Winans adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be held March 13, 2019, at JCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Brady Whipkey  
Chief of Staff to the President  
Secretary to the Board of Governors

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Sam Winans, Chairman

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Steve Hardman, Secretary