

MINUTES  
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
August 14, 2019

A regular meeting of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Wednesday August 14, 2019, in the Francis and Nina Phares Board Room at the WVU Parkersburg Campus, beginning at 3:15 p.m. Board members present were: Donna Smith, Steve Hardman, Joe Oliverio, Sam Winans, Jeff Matheny, Jason Landers, John Denbigh, JP Hushion, Chris Cunningham, JB Skidmore, and Miranda Reed. Others present included Dr. Chris Gilmer and Brady Whipkey.

Guests present included administrators, faculty and staff.

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Smith, Chair of the WVU at Parkersburg Board of Governors, called the meeting to order.

**2. Swearing in of New Board Member**

Debbie Richards, Executive Director of Equity, Inclusion and Compliance, conducted the swearing in of new Board member Miranda Reed.

**3. 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.

**4. Board Chair Report**

Chairman Smith, welcomed new Board member Miranda Reed who will be serving as the Student Government Representative. Ms. Smith discussed the campus looks great and thanked all of those involved who have worked so hard on it. Next, Ms. Smith reported the meeting schedule has been dropped to six meetings for the academic year and that we are still short one Board member. We are still waiting on the appointment from the Governor's office.

**5. President's Report**

Dr. Gilmer began his report by discussing his theme for the faculty/staff opening assembly on Monday; "Open Your Heart." Dr. Gilmer then discussed enrollment is up from the spring semester as we approach the first day of the Fall Semester.

Next, Dr. Gilmer discussed personnel changes since the last Board meeting. Dr. Chad Crumbaker was promoted to Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Torie Jackson is promoted to Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Dr. Cindy Gissy was promoted to Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Jeremy Starkey to Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Scott Poe was promoted to Executive Director of Human Resources, Kurt Klettner was promoted to Executive Director of Student Support Services. Senta Goudy took on the new role as Director for Civic Engagement and Innovation. The college has welcomed Dr. Steve Smith as Dean and Chief Executive Officer of the Jackson County Campus and Vice President for Enrollment Management.

Dr. Gilmer then reported the College hosted the West Virginia Center for Civic Life's Summer Institute 2019 with guest from five continents on our campus, including representative of the prestigious Kettering Foundation. We are in discussion with the Center to perhaps locate its home on our campus. We also hosted the West Virginia Advisory Council of Classified Employees and a visit from the Community and Technical College Vice Chancellor, Dr. Anthony Hancock. We recognized nonprofit organizations throughout the Mid-Ohio Valley, in partnership with the United Way and the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, with a reception at Oakland for National Nonprofit Day and school administrators from Wirt County at our final university/school district coordination dinner of the year.

Dr. Gilmer also reported Donna Smith, Jeff Matheny, Chris Cunningham, Brady Whipkey and himself represented the Board at the statewide Board retreat convened by Chancellor Sarah Tucker, and the college's executive team made a reciprocal visit to Washington State Community College at the invitation of President, Dr. Vicky Wood. We are preparing to build partnerships which will allow associate degree graduates from WSCC to matriculate seamlessly into our bachelors programs. A call center for Ntiva, a major national computer systems provider based in Washington, DC, opened in the Caperton Center allowing students in our computer information systems program to gain real-world experience answering technical assistance calls while studying and earning money through this Learn and Earn program.

Next, Dr. Gilmer reported the English Department is in the final stages of publishing the Poorhouse Rag, a journal of the literary and visual arts which will be available for review shortly. Dr. David Mathieu, is consulting with us in preparation for our HLC mid-cycle assurance letter to be submitted spring 2020 ahead of our 20204 HLC Visit. Dr. Mathieu is supporting Provost Crumbaker in developing new protocols for shared governance which include more broad based campus ownership of curriculum and new protocols for collecting and utilizing assessment data in continuous improvement cycles. Local business leader Bob Fehrenbacher, recently retired CEO of Chemours and Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year, is serving as our first Titans of Industry mentor for the 2019-2020 academic year, partnering with business faculty in activities such as curriculum review to ensure students are "real world" ready, and also mentoring students.

Dr. Gilmer also reported on the OPEN Project, Opening Pathways to Equity Now. The project kicked off this semester as the next phase of equity work on our campuses. Building success on the social justice committee, 20 colleagues applied for membership and will lead a more in-depth campus wide promotion of equity. The OPEN project will be led by Austin Grimmett as Chair and student Brooke Buchanan as Co-Chair and mentored by Kurt Klettner. The term "social justice" will be used moving forward to describe required compliance activities such as Title IX, disability services, and EEOC.

Dr. Gilmer then discussed the issue of losing our food service provider recently with very little notice. Vice Presidents Harris and Whipkey along with many others worked to ensure we had food service on campus when classes began. Ricky's Café will offer a full service breakfast and lunch restaurant on our campus with emphasis on quality food at low prices. The Angelos family, local owners of Chick-fil-A, will offer a limited lunch service on a trial basis.

Next, Dr. Gilmer reported that he was honored to have been selected by the American Association of Community Colleges as one of its National Commissioners on College Readiness. Dr. Gilmer and Michele Wilson also presented at the Community Colleges of Appalachia summer conference on our workforce development program. In September Dr. Gilmer will present as the Tennessee Williams Scholar for the Tennessee Williams Tribute in Columbus, MS. Dr. Gilmer will also discuss the National Institutes for Historically-Underserved Students as a panelist at the White House Conference on Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Washington DC. The National Institutes will be held again on campus November 7-9, 2019, headlined by Tony Award winning Broadway star Lillias White. Dr. Gilmer was also recently honored to be elected Vice Chair of the Parkersburg Children's Museum, a new project undertaken and led by the Ross Foundation, and as Program Chair of the Rotary Club of Parkersburg, in succession to serve as President of that organization.

Lastly, Dr. Gilmer would like to end by recognizing one of our own, Kelly Straley, a Lieutenant Fire Fighter and Emergency Medical Technician for the Eastwood Volunteer Fire Fighters. Kelly provides excellent service to our students in the Center for Student Services and is a bachelor's degree graduate cum laude in criminal justice in 2014. She was recently featured as a local hero in the Calhoun County newspaper and has been selected Eastwood Volunteer Firefighter of the Year.

## **6. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Regular Board meeting of May 8, 2019 and Special Meeting of June 13, 2019, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Denbigh, seconded by Mr. Oliverio.

## **7. Committee Reports**

- Executive Committee  
Chairman Smith reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss updates on personnel, Foundation, enrollment, funding and WVU, and then an open discussion.
- Administrative Services Committee:  
Mr. Hardman reported that the Administrative Services Committee met and discussed updates on finance and administration, renovations to facilities and campus, information technology, position vacancy and new hires, and marketing and communication efforts and website updates.
- Academic and Student Services Committee:  
Mr. Landers reported that the Academic and Student Services committee met. A report was received on professional development week, yearlong schedules, accreditation visits this fall and new faculty and staff. A report on WED short term programs, community education programs, business & industry updates, and miscellaneous activity was also received.

## **8. Executive Session**

Chairman Smith asked for a motion to move into Executive Session. Mr. Hardman moved to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Oliverio seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Board moved into Executive Session, under the authority of WV Code §6-9A-4(b)-(2)(A) at approximately 3:57 p.m. Chairman Smith announced that the Board would

return to regular meeting at 4:58 p.m. Mr. Oliverio moved to return to regular session. Mr. Landers seconded the motion. Motion passes.

**9. Information Items**

- Fiscal Update

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

**10. Board Comments/Announcements**

None

**11. Next Meeting**

October 9, 2019, Francis & Nina Phares Board Room

**12. Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Smith, requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Oliverio moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cunningham seconded. The regular meeting of the Board of Governors adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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Donna Smith, Chair

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Joe Oliverio, Secretary