

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
April 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Wednesday April 14, 2021, via Zoom Video Conferencing, beginning at 3:15 p.m. Board members present were: Donna Smith, Steve Hardman, Joe Oliverio, Jeff Matheny, John Denbigh, JP Hushion, Stephanie McCoy, Ami Shaver, Rose Beebe, Kim McFee, Elaina Segsworth. 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. 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. President's Report

President Gilmer delivered the following report:

Oriah Mountain Dreamer wrote one of the most important poems which has guided my life, *The Invitation*, and in it she says: "It doesn't interest me who you know or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back." Governors, I would submit that this metaphor well describes how the WVUP family has supported each other during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have not shrunk back from helping each other, and even as we try to move toward a new normal while the pandemic still rages, we will continue not to shrink back in our mutual support. Later in this meeting, I will ask this Board to formally approve an update to WVUP's COVID-19 protocols.

WVUP is planning a socially-distanced outdoor commencement to be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8, on the back lawn of the Parkersburg campus. In case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed until 2 pm. Saturday, May 15. The event will not be moved indoors, and regrettably no official receptions will be held in order to promote social distancing. We will hold an outdoor pinning ceremony for our student nurses following the commencement ceremony and observing the same protocols. This is an important milestone in the lives of student nurses, and we are happy to support them. We note, however, that they are not receiving any special consideration for their events which is not received by the other academic programs, because the annual pinning ceremony is the only such academic program which has been part of WVUP's commencement traditions in recent years. I thank everyone

who is working hard to plan a safe, but wonderful commencement for our graduates and their families. WVUP was forced to cancel the May 2020 commencement and to move the December 2020 commencement to an innovative series of individual events. As we begin the attempt to resume some sense of normalcy, the administration determined to allow spring 2021 commencement to move forward in a limited way, recognizing the importance of this milestone to our graduates and to the community. Many other colleges and universities nationwide are planning similar events including West Virginia University. WVUP reserves the right to make any changes to current plans which guidelines from public health or other local, state, or federal authorities require, with as much advance notice to participants as possible. Masks will be required for participation even though the event is outside. I am pleased to announce that our own Dr. Torie Jackson, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and CEO of the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation, an alumna of WVUP and the current senior administrator with the longest service at WVUP, will serve as the commencement speaker.

Our Institutional Advancement staff has been busy since your last meeting. We reached nearly 36,000 engagements in the past month on Facebook. The biggest engager was the announcement that we would not be increasing tuition for the 2021-22 academic year. An announcement that students could complete their student teaching with a new partnership with Doddridge County Schools was well received. News about the college's Child Development program being ranked Number One in the nation also was well engaged. A request for users to share their stories about Women's History Month had high engagement, as did an interview with Board of Governors Chair Donna Smith. We now have a working chat bot on the homepage, a resource already enjoyed by our web users. Student marketing intern Joseph Whipkey has created a mascot for the WVU Parkersburg Riverhawk Farm, Chip the Potato. I have invited Joseph to join us today for your recognition, and I believe that Dr. Jackson is prepared to debut Chip at this time.

The Early College program is currently visiting area high schools to enroll students for the 2021-22 academic year. We have partnerships with 11 high schools and vocational centers. Those relationships continue to expand and the course offerings for schools is growing for next year. We will be offering 363 credit hours with our off campus partners in the 2021-22 academic year. These offerings make it possible for dedicated high school students to earn college degrees. A total of 19 Early College students applied for and earned their Certificate of Applied Science in General Education (with at least 30 hours completed) and six Early College students also applied for and earned their Associate of Arts in General Education (with 60 hours completed).

Executive Vice President Chad Crumbaker and I are pleased to share that all affected staff are almost moved into the Success Epicenter, the new name for our learning commons area which has physically collated the library, tutoring, advising, ASCEND, retention, and other academic support functions into one new location. The new space is terrific, and I look forward to showing it to you personally the next

time you are on campus. Chad and I appreciate the patience and adaptability of the staff as we create a new vision for this space, especially at a time when we are fully engaged in advising students for summer and fall. Executive Vice President Alice Harris and I announce that with COVID-19 stimulus funds, we have purchased a new state-of-the-art virtual anatomy and physiology table for our students and faculty, and we are seeking state approval to purchase a new security truck. The purchasing office is working on multiple bids to replace classroom computer equipment, and our payroll representative Melody Mercer is retiring after 28 years of faithful service. EVP Harris and I commend her for her devotion to WVUP.

I was honored to participate recently as a guest fundraiser on the Wood County Society's annual telethon which raised, even during the pandemic, significantly more money for this worthy local nonprofit than was raised last year. I also participated as a National Commissioner for College Readiness in the recent national meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges.

WVUP's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Omega Chapter, held its spring induction ceremony recently with Dr. Cynthia Gissy, our recently retired Associate Provost, as their inspiring guest speaker. During the recent regional awards celebration, WVUP's Chapter President Fallyn Buffington, Vice President Allison Ezell, and Secretary Serena Graham received the Order of the Torch Award, and collectively WVUP's Chapter won eight individual or Chapter awards including awards won by the advising team. Allison Ezell was elected President of the Ohio Region, and Fallyn Buffington was elected Eastern District Representative. I know you will want to join me in celebrating the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff.

Madam Chair, with respect to the Board and if there are no questions, this concludes my report.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Smith, stated the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of March 10, 2021 are submitted for review. With no corrections to be made, minutes are approved as submitted.

5. Committee Reports

- Executive Committee

Chairman Smith reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss COVID-19, enrollment, fiscal update, personnel update, and the Riverhawk Farm. Next Chair Smith announced the appointment of the Nominating Committee. The committee will be chaired by John Denbigh, with JP Hushion and Dr. Rose Beebe serving as members. The committee will present the slate of officers at the June 9, 2021 Board meeting.

- Academic and Student Services Committee
Mr. Oliverio reported on updates of academic affairs, 2020-2021 five year review, engagement and retention, Workforce and Economic Development updates on short term programs and business and industry, JCC updates and enrollment updates.
- Administrative Services Committee
Mr. Hardman reported on updates Foundation, alumni, marketing efforts, finance and administration, library renovation project, COVID-19, activity center foundation, activity wing door installation, office renovations, zoom rooms, events, information technology, position vacancies and new hires.

6. Information Items

- Fiscal Update
VP Harris provided a detailed report on the budget summary as of month ending March 31, 2021. With review and discussion, Ms. Harris answered questions from the members.

7. Action Items

- Five-Year Program Reviews 2020-2021
Provost Crumbaker presented to the Board the resolution for approval of Five-Year Program Reviews for 2020-2021.

After review and discussion, Mr. Matheny moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors approves the recommendations of the Outcomes Assessment Committee regarding program reviews for 2020-2021.

Mr. Hushion seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Honorary Degrees
President Gilmer presented to the Board the resolution for approval honorary degrees to be presented at the May 2021 Commencement Ceremony.

After review and discussion, Mr. Oliverio moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors approves awarding the degree Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mr. Hershel "Woody" Williams for his service as the speaker for a prior commencement ceremony and to Dr. Torie Jackson for her service as the speaker for the upcoming commencement ceremony; and honorary bachelor's degrees to former Board of Governors Chair Sam Winans and former Board of Governors member Cheryl Donohoe for their distinguished service as Board

members, as has been the custom of this Board.

Ms. Shaver seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Revised COVID-19 Protocols

President Gilmer presented to the Board the resolution for approval of Revised COVID-19 Protocols.

After review and discussion, Mr. Matheny moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors approves the proposed revision of COVID-19 protocols which will govern the University until further action is taken and empowers the President of WVUP to enforce them and/or to amend them as needed with any material amendment shared in advance with the Chair of this Board.

Ms. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion passed

8. Board Comments/Announcement

Chair Smith announced the CTC will hold a virtual Board training on June 10, 2021. Information regarding the training has been sent with more information to follow.

9. Next Meeting

June 9, 2021, meeting will be held in person on campus with a zoom option available.

10. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Smith, requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Denbigh moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hushion seconded. The regular meeting of the Board of Governors adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Donna Smith, Chair

Joe Oliverio, Secretary