

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
June 9, 2021

A regular meeting of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Wednesday June 9, 2021, in the Multipurpose Room of WVU Parkersburg and via Zoom Video Conferencing, beginning at 3:15 p.m. Board members present were: Donna Smith, Steve Hardman, Joe Oliverio, Jeff Matheny, Jason Landers, John Denbigh, JP Hushion, Stephanie McCoy, Ami Shaver, Rose Beebe, and Kim McFee. 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:

Good afternoon. How nice it is to see the Board of Governors returning face-to-face to the university they lead, and I know you will all join me in welcoming them back most cheerfully to West Virginia University at Parkersburg. When this community interviewed me three years ago for the presidency of WVUP, Dr. Torie Jackson asked me the most difficult question. I had talked a lot about humility that day, as I often do. She looked me square in the eye, smiled, and asked, "But how do you balance humility with pride?" Then she sat back to hear the answer. I thought for a moment, and I said these words: "I will be humble about anything I do alone, and I will be proud of what we all do together." Well, as I conclude three years as your president this month and prepare for us to begin a new chapter, not quite post-COVID-19, but with the pandemic seeming to allow a new normal, allow me to wax nostalgic today as you have given me more pride than I could ever have imagined, because we have accomplished much, and every bit of it we have accomplished together.

I wrote my first letter to this community shortly after I was selected for this great honor, to help you get to know me before I arrived, and I quoted the Book of *Esther* from the *Bible* my Mamaw Sarah made sure that I read: "For who knows but that you have been called to the kingdom for such a time as this." While I liken myself in no way to the Biblical queen, I felt that sentiment profoundly in that moment, and I still feel it now. The "time," I now see, was the pandemic. We accomplished a lot before it hit. We will accomplish even more after it subsides. We even accomplished a lot while it has been

raging around us, if simply by enduring as a strong familial community, but I suspect years from now when I reflect on the moment in time you gave me as your partner leader, I will reflect on the pandemic as the defining moment to which I was called to do my best, all day, every day, to keep you safe. Over these three years, I have gotten a few things quite right. There is a rare moment of personal pride amid the humility. I have gotten a few things quite wrong. There is a moment of realistic humility amid the pride, but I believe we are stronger now and stronger together than when we started our journey, unacquainted and alone. This much I will say about me. Even in the moments when I got it wrong, I have without exception considered your needs and the needs of this community above my own, as anyone decent to be called leader always does. David Creel and I have made so many friends among you, and one of them, Dr. David Lancaster, sat with me in my office one afternoon as he does fairly often and said this: "I hoped when you came that you would stay for at least three years." Well, David, together we have made those three years, and I look forward to starting the fourth year next month.

In one more moment of indulgence, I read a poem to you on the day I met this community, and I am going to read it again. I wrote it some years ago, and it is entitled simply *Papaw*.

He quit school in the first grade
To plow the fields that fed his sisters
Seven in all from Waunice to baby Glenda
And him the only boy

His papa was sorry
Meaning he enjoyed a good summer nap
Avoided the hoe and cotton sack
Was known to drink even when it wasn't Saturday
Most of his mama's days were consumed
With earnest prayers and rocking babies
Cleaning turnips and gutting fish

Papaw could not read
Loved to watch Walter Cronkite
On the black-and-white TV
Also Sanford and Son
Sat on the same pew every Sunday
At the Rocky Hill Church of God in Christ
He taught me the capitals of every state
From Bismarck to Santa Fe
Smiled from deep inside as I recited them often to company
His wife traded on credit at the general store
Three sons inherited that same good name
When he shook hands
The deal was struck

He plowed the fields that fed his family
Until he died on Thanksgiving Day at seventy-four
Eleven months after Mamaw went underground
On a cold New Year's Day
Fifty acres and a Massey-Ferguson tractor finally all his own
Withered and brown from decades of sun on topsoil
Unrecognizable the little fair-skinned child
In the one photograph from so long ago

He taught me the capitals of every state
From Baton Rouge to Sacramento
Sold cows to send his only grandson to college
And now
Early in the morning when the city is quiet
As hot July noon on the endless terrace rows of my youth
These words escape my mouth
In his voice
Augusta Maine
Charleston West Virginia
Jackson Mississippi

So, for good or for bad, the same person stands before you today, made a bit more wise perhaps by Shakespeare's premise that heavy is the head that wears the crown, but just as humble, just as thankful for the moment in time you have given me, and just as committed, perhaps even more committed, to be the ambassador to the world for the special place we now call home and the equally special people we now call family.

Governors, I am delighted to announce that WVUP has won a prestigious national honor, the first ever Mark Ivester Innovation Award from the Community Colleges of Appalachia, against very strong competition and in recognition of the excellent work being done by the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley. CCA is a membership organization of approximately 100 colleges from across the entire Appalachian region, and our own former President, Dr. Eldon Miller, was one of its founders. The Arts Collaborative of the MOV, funded by a generous grant from The Ross Foundation, brings together more than a dozen area nonprofit arts and humanities organizations, and other service-oriented nonprofits supporting the arts and humanities, and WVUP is honored to serve as the convener, fostering collaboration and economies of scale among these free-standing arts leaders. While I want to thank the Ross Foundation and recognize everyone who has worked hard to bring this partnership to life, especially the President's downtown team, Dean Senta Goudy deserves special recognition for her leadership of this initiative. Senta, please join me at the podium and take possession of the award that you and our partners have earned, and may you display it proudly at our downtown office, one of many examples of WVUP leading the way, not only locally, but nationally.

I am pleased to report that our three primary enrollment indicators for fall 2021 are all trending very positively at this time, although I caution that they change on a daily basis and that we must remain vigilant to close the ground we still need to close between now and the beginning of the semester. As of Friday, June 4, day-to-day comparisons between this enrollment cycle and the 2021 fall enrollment cycle showed a 23 percent increase in Early College, a 10 percent increase in new students, and a 3 percent increase in continuing students for an overall full-time equivalent enrollment increase of 3 percent. I say once again that while I am exceedingly proud of the hard work of our recruitment, retention, and marketing teams during this unusual recruitment and retention cycle, and while I am cautiously optimistic about fall enrollment, that we built the budget for the upcoming fiscal year conservatively because colleges nationwide are still expecting significant negative enrollment and retention impacts caused by COVID-19. We hope to buck that trend at WVUP. I share these numbers publicly not because they are final or even fully dependable at this early stage since so many of WVUP's students traditionally register late in the summer, but because I promised early on to tell you the truth when it is good and when it is not. Today, it is quite good related to fall enrollment.

I am also pleased to report, under the leadership of Dr. Torie Jackson and assisted by me and by many in our community, WVUP has received Proclamations of Congratulations on our 60th Birthday from every county in our primary service area, from county and city governments and from school districts, from Governor Jim Justice, the West Virginia Legislature, and others. Copies of these proclamations are included in the media coverage electronic file shared in advance with the Governors. Co-Chairs David Creel, Terry Hardman, Kiki Angelos, and Annette Fehrenbacher, and our events team, are hard at work planning our blowout birthday party to be held this December. I call to your attention that no such media coverage portfolio was routinely presented to the Governors prior to my tenure, and that in three years our earned media coverage has increased from about 25 pages in a printed document at each of your meetings to this month 151 pages, representative and not all-inclusive, and presented to you as an electronic document to be environmentally friendly. I was told when I arrived that WVUP is a "hidden gem." While it was meant as a compliment, I only like one of those two words, and I am guessing you know which one I do not like. Our media coverage and marketing are excellent, and we are hidden no more.

Since you last met, our digital media studies and business programs have been nationally ranked. We have submitted three Congressional community enrichment grant proposals which, if funded, will support the development of the Riverhawk Farm where we have achieved a full stand of potatoes this season with cooperative weather so far. We have submitted a Metallica Scholars grant proposal which is designed to elevate the stature of technical education, focusing on our excellent computer information technology major, and while I know more about the music of Loretta Lynn than Metallica, I am quite hopeful we will compete favorably. The faculty and students of our computer information technology major hosted a student showcase of their capstone projects which ranged from video games to business technology applications and greatly impressed all of those assembled. Provost Chad Crumbaker and Dean Michele

Wilson are engaged in an exploration with the Wood County Public Schools and area business leaders to build a cosmetology program at WVUP, and I appeared before the Wood County Board of Education to secure their full partnership and collaboration.

I have recently met with Delegate Vernon Criss and Delegate Shannon Kimes to introduce newly-elected Delegate Kimes to WVUP and to begin discussing legislative priorities for the next session. I served on the local leaders roundtable to introduce the Mid-Ohio Valley to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, represented WVUP along with Vice President Dr. Steven Smith as delegates to the inauguration of Dr. Carmen Walters as the President of Tougaloo College, and had the honor of serving as the speaker for the Memorial Day program planned and implemented by our Student Veterans Corps under the leadership of Darren Shearlock and student President Jared Smith. In July, I begin my tenure as President of the Rotary Club of Parkersburg, having served as President-Elect and Program Chair.

Vice President Brady Whipkey and I continue discussions with Coplin Healthcare in anticipation of our campus-based health clinic opening in 2022, and Dean Senta Goudy and I are in discussion with Glen Kelly who leads the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport about enhanced collaborations. You might find it interesting as I did that the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport logs the most take-offs and landings of any airport in West Virginia. Any of the Governors who wish to attend are invited to our 2021 Constellium Scholars signing ceremony to be held on June 16 in Jackson County. Chancellor Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker is scheduled to be my guest as we officially welcome the newest class of Constellium scholars. I would also like to recognize Dr. Alicia Beeson who is working this summer in leadership of the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation-funded Civic Leadership Fellows which WVUP is coordinating for the first year. This program provides leadership development for college students from WVUP and local students attending many colleges statewide, and I look forward to speaking with the scholars as part of the agenda that Professor Beeson and Dean Goudy are developing for them.

Provost Crumbaker and I express our gratitude to the team at Workforce and Economic Development, under the leadership of Dean Wilson, for their willingness to take on every opportunity we send their way. They immediately jump in, do a full analysis of the opportunity to explore the best fit for the institution, and get started with the work it takes to get it done on time. Two examples are the new cosmetology program we are exploring and the recently submitted Metallica grant. We also recognize the diligent and persistent work of the professional advisors in the Professional Advising Center and the leadership and staff of the academic divisions in getting continuing students registered for fall 2021 in a timely manner. This work has enabled us to dig deeper to assist even more students who are uncertain about returning in fall. We thank the Curriculum Committee and the Outcomes Assessment Committee, vital working groups of the faculty, for their tireless efforts to continuously improve our curriculum and assessment practices. The work sometimes happens in the shadows, but is foundational to the success of students at WVU Parkersburg. We also salute Professor

Traci Dolan-Priestley for completing all of the requirements to receive an Open Educational Resources grant from the Vice Chancellor's Office.

It is scholarship season, and Dr. Jackson and the Office of Institutional Advancement are in process of awarding \$180,726 in scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year, made possible by the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation. The team has traveled to many high schools to deliver scholarship awards and had the opportunity to award Presidential scholarships to 14 students. While we report this as a number, it is worthy to pause and remember that these numbers are life-changing for students. Recently, a scholarship recipient wrote a thank you letter to WVUP, and here is what Adam Hoschar had to say: "I would like to thank you for awarding me the presidential scholarship last year. This scholarship means the world to me and it has taken a lot of the stress of going to college away from me and my family. From early on, I always knew I wanted to go to a small college. WVU Parkersburg has truly been the perfect fit for me. My professors have all been very nice and helpful. I have been able to meet some wonderful people. My grandmother, both of my parents, and my brother all graduated from WVU Parkersburg. My parents actually met playing cards in the student lounge at WVU Parkersburg. We are definitely a WVU Parkersburg proud family." I thank the Foundation, under the leadership of the Chair of their Board, Becky Deem-McGinnis, for continuing to make such scholarships possible.

Our COVID-19 Task Force met last week, and while I could spend the afternoon detailing the deliberations of the task force and the WVUP executive team related to updating our COVID-19 protocols, I will say only that the community should expect revised protocols to be distributed in the near future which are in concert with the guidance received by Governor Jim Justice and other national, state, and local governmental and public health officials. WVUP will relax its mask mandate to a mask advisory in keeping with the Governor's guidance. Revised protocols are forthcoming and continue to be subject to further revision based on the trajectory of the pandemic.

I will ask Executive Vice President Alice Harris to present the college's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year for your consideration and hopeful approval later in this meeting. Alice and her team have worked collaboratively with the WVUP community throughout the budgetary process, and Alice and I have worked collaboratively to present a proposed no-deficit budget for the upcoming fiscal year, a budget which is also based on no tuition increase as a consideration to our students and an acknowledgement of the financial challenges many of them continue to face. Alice will also update you on our closeout of the current fiscal year with an anticipated budget surplus. We consider these updates and proposals to be a great accomplishment during the pandemic and acknowledge that this budget is based on the receipt of significant federal pandemic relief dollars. We will also be asking this Board to allow us to carry over as part of next year's budget certain reserve funds which were already approved for use by this Board to fund the strategic recruitment plan implementation, capital projects, the downtown expansion, and other purposes, but which were not yet fully expended due to the confines of the pandemic. We do not at this time anticipate any request for further release of reserve funds beyond those already approved as an

element of balancing next year's budget. WVUP is fortunate to have withstood the pandemic without significant fiscal challenges, keeping every employee fully on payroll for the entirety of the remote work period, while many if not most colleges statewide and nationwide have had to cope with very difficult financial realities. We acknowledge that the strong financial position of the college when the pandemic began, based on a pattern of generally conservative spending by the administration and college community as a whole, coupled with federal stimulus funding, has significantly contributed to our relative immunity, to date, to the fiscal crisis faced by many institutions of higher learning. While we were spared making such decisions, however, I want this Board to be certain that I would have been prepared to make difficult choices necessary to present you with a no-deficit budget, believing it is the responsibility of the president to ensure that the college lives within its means.

The outdoor commencement on May 8 was a huge success as we welcomed graduates from May 2020, December 2020, and May 2021, along with their families, in a safe and socially-distanced face-to-face commencement. A total of 358 credentials from certificates through associate and bachelor's degrees were conferred by WVUP during the spring of 2021. We also awarded honorary degrees to Dr. Torie Jackson as the commencement speaker; Hershel "Woody" Williams, World War II Medal of Honor recipient and former commencement speaker; Sam Winans, former Chair of the WVUP Board of Governors; and Cheryl Donohoe, former member of the WVUP Board of Governors. Ms. Donohoe is with us today, and I would like to ask Chair Donna Smith to join me at the podium. Cheryl, would you join us so that we may have the honor of presenting you with your honorary degree and thanking you publicly for your distinguished service.

Finally, as this is the last scheduled Board of Governors meeting to be presided over by Donna Smith as our Chair, I wish to acknowledge, both as president of WVUP and personally, Donna's tireless support of the university and her wise and amiable counsel to me during her tenure as Chair. We are delighted that she will remain on the Board as we will welcome Steve Hardman as our incoming Chair beginning in July 2021. Madam Chair, if there are no questions and with respect to this Board, this concludes my report.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairwoman Smith, stated the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of April 14, 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 fiscal update, enrollment, Coplin Clinic draft MOU, Oil & Gas Museum draft MOU, and COVID-19 Protocols.

- Academic and Student Services Committee
Mr. Oliverio reported on updates of academic affairs, new program, student success and retention, Workforce and Economic Development updates on sector strategy meetings, 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, COVID-19, events, activity center foundation, office renovations, JCC parking lots, sidewalk repair and lighting at Caperton, information technology, position vacancies and new hires.
- Nominating Committee
Mr. Denbigh reported the Nominating Committee met and present the following slate of officers:
Steve Hardman – Chair
Joe Oliverio – Vice Chair
JP Hushion – Secretary

With no further nominations from the floor Mr. Matheny motioned to approve the slate of officers as presented. Mr. Denbigh seconded. Motion passed.

6. Information Items

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

7. Action Items

- 2021-2022 Budget
President Gilmer and Executive Vice President Harris presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the 2021-2022 Budget.

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

Resolved, That the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors approves a final budget for West Virginia University at Parkersburg for 2021-2022.

Mr. Hushion seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Proposed Revision of Policy B-55, Employee and Family Tuition (and Fee) Waiver Program
Executive Vice President Harris presented to the Board the resolution for approval revision to the Employee and Family Tuition and Fee Waiver Program.

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

Resolved, That the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors authorizes a notice of proposed rulemaking for revision of Policy B-55, *Employee and Family Tuition [and Fee] Waiver Program*, and hereby authorizes revision of said policy without further action by the Board if no comments are received.

Ms. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of New Program: AAS Electrical Technology
Provost Crumbaker presented to the Board the resolution for approval of new program; AAS Electrical Technology.

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

Resolved, That the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors approves the following program: Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Technology

Mr. Landers seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Delegation of Powers to the President
Vice President Whipkey presented to the Board the resolution for approval of delegation of powers to the President.

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

Resolved, That the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors approves the document enumerating the powers, duties and responsibilities retained by the Board of Governors and the powers, duties and responsibilities delegated to the President of the West Virginia University of Parkersburg.

Mr. Matheny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. Board Comments/Announcement

Chairwoman Smith announced that she has enjoyed her time serving as the Chair of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors and thanked the members, Dr. Gilmer and staff for all of their efforts.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be set after incoming Board Chairman Steve Hardman and President Gilmer meet to set the schedule for the upcoming academic year.

10. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairwoman 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 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Donna Smith, Chair

Joe Oliverio, Secretary