

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
April 18, 2023

A regular meeting of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in the Student Activity Lounge at the Jackson County Center and via Zoom Video Conferencing, beginning at 3:15 p.m. Board members present were: Steve Hardman, Joe Oliverio, JP Hushion, Donna Smith, Jason Landers, Stephanie McCoy, Ami Shaver, Blaine Hess, Dr. Rose Beebe and Cody Irick. Others present included Dr. Torie Jackson and Lauriel Rader.

Guests present included administrators and staff.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Lauriel Rader, Interim Secretary to the Board of Governors, noting that a quorum was present.

3. President's Report

Interim President Jackson delivered the following report:

Governors, this is an exciting time for WVUP. Five of you were able to attend when we hosted WV Governor Jim Justice, Baby Dog, and several esteemed guests to campus recently. We had a wonderful turnout of students, staff, and faculty to an event that highlighted our nursing programs and the partnership for both Learn and Earn and incumbent worker training with Chemours. I want to specifically thank Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. David Lancaster and Nursing and Health Sciences Dean Kathy Frum for their efforts to encourage a great turnout of health sciences faculty and students.

Some may say the theme was Do It for Baby Dog. I'd say it was even better. It was more like do it for WVUP and – even better – do it at WVUP.

In addition to governors and Foundation board members in attendance, some of our other special guests included Chemours Venture Leader Todd Fox, WVU Medicine Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Carol Grove, Delegate Vernon Criss, Delegate Scot Heckert, Delegate Bill Anderson and Delegate Bob Fehrenbacher; Parkersburg Mayor Tom Joyce, Lindsay Piersol from the Wood County Development Authority, Mandy Stevens from Downtown PKB, and Stacy DeCicco from the United Way Alliance. From the West Virginia Community and Technical College System, Chancellor Dr. Sarah Tucker, Vice Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education Dr. Chris Treadway, Communication Specialist Jessica Tice, and Vice

Chancellor for Health Sciences Dr. Cynthia Persily. Later that day, Dean Frum and I attended a Zoom led by Dr. Persily to help us plan our next round of funding request for the nursing expansion initiative.

We have a tremendous amount of growth opportunity for partnerships in the Health Sciences Division. We have many current conversations ongoing with WVU Health System President Albert Wright, Chief Nursing Executive Melanie Heuston and now WVUP Alumni and WVU Medicine Wetzel County Hospital Assistant Vice President Jessica Huffman. Through these conversations that began in December 2022, we have almost secured up to \$15,000 scholarships for 20 students per fall and 20 students per spring – an investment that by year 2 could bring an additional \$600,000 in scholarships into our Foundation. Note our Foundation currently awards between \$250,000 to \$300,000 on an average. This is a phenomenal opportunity for WVUP. They said they chose us to begin this program because we are prepared to make it happen. That is a true compliment for our institution. This program will allow the completers to work anywhere in the WVU Medicine system, making it easier for them to agree to a two or three-year commitment to the company with such flexibility across the state. The WVU Medicine leaders are tasking Jessica Huffman to take lead on working out the details with us since she is an alum – an accomplished graduate who is currently completing her doctoral studies.

Last week, WVU Medicine Camden Clark President/CEO Steve Altmiller also visited the campus for nearly 2 hours. I'll thank Dean Frum again for allowing me to call her down to my office with no notice to help answer questions and to do a tour of our healthcare facilities. President Altmiller is excited to partner with us for gap scholarships to help students with the first semester nursing expenses that include a \$2,300 book bundle and supplies. He also wants to use scholarships to help encourage our students to sign to work at CCMH upon completion. And, he and Wood County Schools Superintendent Christie Willis are willing to let us have a recruitment campaign in the three public Wood County high schools in early May. President Altmiller also agreed to assist us with the clinicals and sites for equipment training to initiate a radiology technician program – one of great need in the MOV. Dean Frum and I are looking to see the quickest route we can take to meet those demands in the local workforce.

And that's not all – we also had a meeting with the WV Hospital Association who is interested in our surgical technology program. I would like to pause and note the great loss in our surgical technology program during Easter weekend. Amy West loved her students, loved surgical technology and was an amazing recruiter and teacher. Our program will certainly miss her talent. In her honor, though, we must continue to help build her legacy, as she revived this program when she came to WVUP just a few short years ago.

The WV Hospital Association wants to look at Department of Labor apprenticeship opportunities for surgical technology students. The details will evolve, but could result in students entering into a paid apprenticeship in their second semester of the

program. This apprenticeship would finish shortly after their program at WVUP. It would be encouraging to those students to be able to be paid for working in the field while they continue to complete their coursework.

These opportunities are part of the joy of this job as I so often get to share with community and industry leaders the quality programs that we offer at WVUP and the value that accompanies them.

I shared with the crowd during the governor's visit some of the strengths of our college as defined by students in Professor Jeff Holland's capstone Business Policy course, where I was invited to be a guest during their presentations. They appreciate the value of the institution. They agree with our mission statement that the education they receive is accessible and life changing and they truly believe it is in a safe and supportive environment. That speaks to the entire campus. Students feel valued because faculty and staff know their names and care about their success. Students noted that our faculty push them to succeed. It was a similar message that RN graduate and now RN to BSN student Sydney Tennant shared when speaking before the governor and a full multipurpose room.

Something our students do request frequently in my discussions with them is assistance with childcare. We did close our childcare facility during Covid, as it was not nor had it been operating in a financially feasible manner. We've discussed a possibility to consider a smaller space for drop off childcare like we used to have in the Children's Room. To be honest, the initiative which is beginning and for which I have signed us up as a pilot institution is one that will be in the planning stages for the next year. In the meantime, I will begin to work with local organizations to see if we can develop other strategies to assist students because a year is a very long time to a mother needing a place to drop off her child and instead chooses to drop out of college. National statistics shared by the American Community College Trustees last week note that single mothers are most likely to attend community colleges, but from those that do – only 28 percent graduate in 6 years with a 1 year certificate or a 2 year degree. That means 62 percent of them often can't stay in school or are limited to such few classes that it takes more than 7 years to get any credential. Facilities with childcare (in this case with a connection to Head Start) saw single mothers obtain a certificate degree at a rate of 67 percent.

As we assess our needs, we are also making changes to policy as I noted to you last month. In President's Cabinet, through assignment and volunteering, all 122 policies for the Answer Book of WVUP now have a champion who is working to update them. One I share with you today is #1-3. Goals and Purposes of WVU at Parkersburg. We've updated it to include more of our workforce initiatives, address our pipeline population of high school students, assure we are being a diverse and inclusive institution, and to align us with the comprehensive statewide mission of higher education. Previously, this 1991 policy had our goal and purpose as alignment with WVU's mission only. We are broadening that approach.

What's next? So much!

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito will visit the campus next week. She's already sent two of our staff – an economic development specialist a few weeks ago and a field agent last week – to visit and discuss future plans for growth at WVUP. During this visit, she will also stop at the farm to see our progress with recent Congressional earmark dollars for the continued birth of our agri-business degree.

Employees will have an opportunity next week to share their work home with family during the upcoming Bring Your Child to Work Day. A full day is slated to help showcase fun degree opportunities, the maker space, the farm, and so much more of WVUP's excellence during this day-long event.

We have been one of five institutions nationally chosen to present tomorrow for two different cohorts of the Metallica Scholars Initiative because the All Within My Hands Foundation that Metallica operates likes the work that we are doing.

Commencement is May 6. Please let Lauriel know if you plan to attend. Our commencement speaker is Craig McAtee, a PHS alumni who took a class at PCC many years ago. He is the Executive Director of the National Coalition of Applied Technical Centers. He knows Parkersburg well, but also knows that our Applied Technical Center wasn't built as large as it should have been. He's going to look at our space and offer suggestions for expansions. He's also going to work with our faculty to discuss current industry curriculum needs and modes of delivery for course content to match industry needs.

As we look forward to strategic growth, we will continue to have much excitement.

This, governors, is why I am WVU Parkersburg proud.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hardman stated the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of March 21, 2023 are submitted for review. Chairman Hardman motioned to make one correction to the announcements. The date of the BOG Summit is on October 11-12, 2023 at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. Minutes are approved with this correction being made.

5. Committee Reports

- Executive Committee

Chairman Hardman reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss training for advanced manufacturing technical careers, the possibility of additional nursing scholarships and the need for nursing in this area. The Committee discussed other health care careers, such as, surgical technology (16-month program) and a possible radiology technician program. Also, Senator Capito will be coming for a visit next week.

- Academic and Student Services & Administrative Services Committees
Mr. Oliverio reported the Committee Members had opportunity to tour the facility at the Jackson County Center and discuss the potential for growth. Mr. Oliverio thanked Jeannie Hetrick-Ratliffe for the facility tour.

6. Information Items

- Fiscal Update
EVP Harris provided a detailed report on the budget summary as of month ending March 31, 2023. There were no questions from the members.
- Presidential Search Update
(Dr. Jackson recused herself from this part of the meeting.)
Mr. Oliverio expressed a special thanks to the Board members and those in attendance that are serving on the Presidential Search Committee. The Search Committee reviewed the applications and selected semifinalists to be interviewed.

Mr. Oliverio provided the following updated timeline:

- April 24 & April 27 - Search Committee will conduct zoom interviews and select Finalists. These interviews will be recorded.
- May 2 at 9:00am - Board of Governors will meet to approve the Finalists. Once the Finalists are approved their names will be made public.
- May 12 (optional May 18) - Campus interviews of the Finalists. (Draft schedule is set up for the Finalists.)

Chairman Hardman thanked Mr. Oliverio and the Search Committee for their time and commitment for serving on this committee.

7. Action Items

- Approval of Honorary Degree
Dr. Jackson presented to the Board the resolution for approval of Honorary Degree. With support from the Faculty Senate, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. David Lancaster and Interim President Dr. Torie Jackson recommend Robert "Todd" Fox for a WVU Parkersburg Honorary Degree. Todd has been one of our institution's greatest community champions and is responsible for countless endeavors to help WVU Parkersburg and their students with educational and employment opportunities. Todd truly believes in WVU Parkersburg's mission and has been instrumental in its efforts to grow enrollment and promote our degree programs to Chemours incumbent workers. As the Training and Education Director at Chemours Washington Works plant, Todd had been a vital part of the partnership between WVU Parkersburg and one of the Mid-Ohio Valley's largest employers. Todd, in his position at the plant, had offered us many challenges and has given us the opportunity to be partners on a number of projects which has helped our institution and the community in countless ways. Todd is a strong proponent of the CTSC "Learn and Earn" program - mentoring and helping with the hiring over 70 of our Chemical &

Polymer Operator Technology students, in addition to using WVUP as its training and education partner for Chemours "Investing in Us" program he developed. This program gave their employees knowledge and job marketability above and beyond what they would be required to have as part of their everyday job, and it provided non-credit to credit learning which may later be used towards an Associates or Bachelor's degree. He now is a Venture Leader for Chemours, a courageous chemical company in Wood County, WV.

After review and discussion, Ms. Smith moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors approves awarding the degree Honorary Bachelor of Arts to Robert "Todd" Fox.

Mr. Oliverio seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Honorary Degree

Dr. Jackson presented to the Board the resolution for approval of Honorary Degree. With support from the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors Executive Committee, Interim President Dr. Torie Jackson recommends former governors Jeff Matheny and John Denbigh for a WVU Parkersburg Honorary Degree.

Jeff Matheny, who served as a former chair of the WVUP Board of Governors, is President and CEO of Physician's Business Office, Inc., where he has been employed for 21 years. He began serving on the WVUP BOG in April 2013. He is noted to be a skilled and knowledgeable administrator, and we appreciate him bringing those talents to us as a governor for WVUP.

John Denbigh is the retired President at Casto and Harris, Inc., where he was employed for 43 years. He also is the retired owner of I-77 Auto Group in Ripley. He began serving on the WVUP BOG in February 2013. He is known for his good taste in fast cars and his knowledge of Staunton Turnpike, as well as his keen business skills, and we appreciate him bringing those talents to us as a governor for WVUP.

After review and discussion, Ms. Smith moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors Approves awarding the degree Honorary Bachelor of Arts to Jeff Matheny and John Denbigh, former Board of Governors, as is the custom of this board.

Mr. Oliverio seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. Possible Executive Session under the authority of WV Code §6-9A-4(b)(9), to discuss consideration of real estate and legal matters.

Chairman Hardman asked for a motion to move into Executive Session, under authority of WV Code §6-9A-4(b)-(9) to discuss consideration of real estate and legal matters. Ms. Smith moved to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Board moved into Executive Session at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Chairman Hardman announced the Board would return to the regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Smith moved to return to regular session. Mr. Landers seconded the motion. Motion passed.

9. Board Comments/Announcement

Ms. Smith reminded the Board Members about Graduation on May 6, 2023. Let Lauriel Rader know if you will be attending.

10. Next Meetings

- May 2, 2023 at 9:00am - Special Meeting - Board Members may attend in person or on Zoom.
- May 16, 2023 - Regular Meeting (This meeting was originally scheduled for May 23, 2023, but the date was changed.)

11. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Hardman, adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Governors.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauriel Rader
Interim Secretary to the Board of Governors

Steve Hardman, Chair

JP Hushion, Secretary