

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
September 20, 2022

A regular meeting of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Tuesday September 20, 2022, in the Francis & Nina Phares Board Room of WVU Parkersburg 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, Rose Beebe, Cody Irick and Lauren Hissem. Others present included Dr. Torie Jackson and Brady Whipkey.

Guests present included administrators, faculty 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 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

Interim President Jackson delivered the following report:

Recently, I sent a note to our campus community and thanked our faculty and staff for such a fabulous beginning to the fall semester. For every job on this campus, we have a valued employee who makes it possible. For all of us, students are the reason we exist. Changing lives is our daily opportunity. Preparing a workforce and enhancing our community is our privilege. What they do matters and it is appreciated.

We have the opportunity for such growth and motivation at WVU Parkersburg. I see a renewed sense of excitement as students are back on our campus learning. We've been able to plan many events for them and hope to encourage them to find the same home at WVUP that many of us have found.

We have thrilling news in that we have secured \$280,000 from a Perkins Reserve Collaborative grant to begin the new cosmetology program. Wood County Schools started their portion of programming this fall semester. Once we are able to get a lease agreement approved by the WV Attorney General's office, the owners will make necessary renovations to the facility and then we will be able to occupy it. It's an innovative joint project that allows for a new CTE pathway for high school students to pursue a college education.

In my last board report, I invited local partners to our meeting to show the importance of WVUP's commitment to collaborative progress. This continues to be the theme as we prepare for the opening of the The WVU Parkersburg Health and Wellness Center in collaboration with Coplin Health Systems. We are going to assist students with some financial needs, as will Coplin with a sliding scale fee system. We have raised \$15,000 in WVU at Parkersburg Foundation Funds to help pay for student expenses in the first year of operation. On Thursday night, the Foundation hosted a joint fundraiser with Coplin Health Systems of a quarter auction on our campus. More than 100 people attended and we raised \$4,000 for the fund.

Earlier last week, the Foundation hosted the Frank Deem Memorial Golf Tournament at St. Mary's Golf Course. This event benefits early college scholarships for students in Pleasants and Ritchie counties and is supported by businesses and golfers (including my own dad) in those two counties. We raised \$6,000 at that event. That was definitely on par for our goal.

Last week we also collaborated with Potomac State College to expand the potato growing initiative that began at WVUP to other colleges and farmers in the state.

For internal collaboration, the executive team of the college continues to work with a variety of focus groups on campus for the next strategic plan. We will have it in place beginning January 2023. It will be a plan built around our 5 areas of: enrollment management, marketing/branding, workplace culture, community engagement, and quality educational programs. To set our goals and evaluate our successes, we will use learning outcomes for each identified area. Alice Harris, Brady Whipkey, David Lancaster and myself are working with Board of Governors' Vice Chair Joe Oliverio to complete the strategic plan.

The strategic plan will be about improving our systems and making our learning environment more conducive for students. This isn't a new effort. Let me share an example of improving systems. This morning, I hosted a town hall meeting for the campus community to explain some changes we have made since 2019 in the area of financial aid. We made changes after learning of an audit by the Department of Education into our financial aid practices in the academic years of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. That audit allowed us to focus on nine areas to improve within our internal financial aid systems. As a result of this review, we have taken a deep dive into our internal processes. The creation of the policies and procedures manual has resulted in immediate improvement in our compliance with the regulations and how we approach customer assistance and communication within the Financial Aid Office. We became much more proactive in explaining the Standards of Academic Progress (known as SAP) by teaching its requirements in all College 101 classes. This isn't our rule, but a requirement of Title IV of Federal Financial Aid policies. For a student to remain in compliance with SAP, they need to maintain a 2.0 GPA, have a completion rate of more than 67%, and complete their program of study within 150% of the required number of hours. A student who cannot meet those requirements cannot receive assistance. More proactive communication means we

provide this critical information so that incoming first-year students understand what they need to remain eligible for financial aid. Earlier intervention also allows us an opportunity to help those who stumble recover in their warning semester, so they do not find themselves in suspension status.

Even with all of the advancements we have made in this area, we still must be responsible for the years of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 when findings did occur. Those findings showed a total liability of \$3,900,199. The U.S. Department of Education Office of Federal Student Aid offered a settlement of our open program review, asking us to reimburse \$1,252,735. We will be asking for this money to be paid in one lump sum and will request today that it be taken from reserve funds. The Department also agreed to not issue a final program review determination.

In addition to the steps that WVUP already has made to improve the efficiency of the financial aid system, we also will be hiring a financial aid compliance officer to oversee the WVUP Financial Aid Department and to help us remain abreast of any changes on the federal level and to ensure that our policies and procedures are current and in compliance with the US Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Department.

The resolution of this matter that has lingered since 2019 is relieving for WVUP and a chance for us to move forward knowing that we have corrected the situation.

And while we are discussing numbers, I am very excited to share another amount with you. In April and May, I worked with faculty here and at BridgeValley Community and Technical College and Southern Community and Technical College as we partnered on a Strengthening Community College grant from the Department of Labor. WVUP is the lead for the grant and recently we were awarded **\$6.4 million** to allow for a continuation of an Ascend-style program at WVUP, in addition to the beginning of those programs at BridgeValley and Southern. This grant also particularly focuses on retention efforts in nursing and to adding more diversity into this group of students. This will be transformative for all three institutions. It adds dollars for student incentives, for retention assistance, for faculty, and for a data analyst. Let me note that this grant is the largest one awarded in the nation and that our request was fully funded. To be able to bring a \$6.4 million grant to WVUP is phenomenal, and it is our largest grant to date.

I often end by saying that I am WVU Parkersburg Proud. This weekend, faculty member Charles Almond sent me a text - it simply said: PROUD - Parkersburg's Regional Occupation and Undergraduate Destination. The care our faculty and staff have in their work - it's another reason why I am proud.

As I stated in the beginning, students are the reason we exist. Changing lives is our daily opportunity. Preparing a workforce and enhancing our community is our privilege. And that, governors, makes me WVU Parkersburg Proud.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hardman, stated the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of August 16, 2022 are submitted for review. With no corrections to be made, minutes are approved as submitted.

5. Committee Reports

- Executive Committee

Chairman Hardman reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss WVU relationship, open program review, Children's Listening Place, possible collaborations, personnel updates, Strengthening Community Colleges Grant, and other business.

- Academic and Student Services Committee/Administrative Services Committee

Chairman Hardman reported that members of administration provided in-depth tour of campus.

6. Information Items

- Fiscal Update

EVP Harris provided a detailed report on the budget summary as of month ending August 31, 2022. With review and discussion, Ms. Harris answered questions from the members.

7. Action Items

- Approval of WVUP Open Program Review

Interim President Jackson, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of WVUP Open Program Review. On September 2, 2020, the US Department of Education issues a Program Review Report outlining findings from an audit. All but two of those findings were resolved. The remaining findings are in Unofficial Withdrawals and Satisfactory Academic Progress in regards to financial aid disbursements made in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The department believes it is the best interest of both parties to resolve the program review and not proceed with a final program review determination. The department is requesting that \$1,252,735 be reimbursed to them as a result of financial aid payouts.

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 WVUP Open Program Review settlement agreement between WVUP and the United States Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Department, and that \$1,252,735 be used from the institution's reserve funds to reimburse the Department of Education.

Mr. Oliverio seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Higher Education Funding Formula Mission Weight Selection
EVP Harris, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Higher Education Funding Formula Mission Weight Selection. During the 2022 legislative session, the WV Legislature approved HB 4008 relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission funding formula. This bill amends WV Code §18B-1B-4 relating to the powers and duties of the WVHEPC. The bill requires the WVHEPC to establish a funding formula model governing its appropriation request to the Legislature for the distribution of general revenue to the state's higher education institutions.

In compliance with HB 4008, the WVHEPC created a funding formula that identifies ten measurable performance metrics (see attached). Each of the metrics is weighted to reflect its importance in calculating funding. For the initial selection of the institutional values, the WVHEPC staff reviewed the performance results for the ten metrics based on the average three-year results, including fiscal years 2018-2020. Based on these results, the WVHEPC staff calculated the mission weights that result in the maximum amount of points for each institution.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has the option of approving or modifying these weights to reflect known changes that may impact performance within the ten metrics. WVUP's executive staff has reviewed and analyzed the mission weight selection and feels that the amounts proposed by the WVHEPC represent the best option for WVUP to maximize the points earned within the funding formula based on our current performance over the projected three-year measurement period. Therefore, the executive team recommends approval of the attached mission weight values for the five-year funding cycle beginning in 2024.

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

Resolved, That the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors Approves the Institutional Mission Weight Selections for the Metrics Identified in the Higher Education Funding Formula for the Five-Year Cycle Beginning with State Fiscal Year 2024

Ms. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. Possible Executive Session under the authority of WV Code §6-9A-4(b)(2A), to discuss consideration of Presidential Search and personnel matters.

Chairman Hardman asked for a motion to move into Executive Session, under authority of WV Code §6-9A-4(b)-(2)(A) to discuss consideration of Presidential Search and personnel matters. Mr. Oliverio moved to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Hess seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Board moved into Executive Session at approximately 4:18 p.m. Chairman Hardman announced the Board would return to the regular meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Mr. Oliverio moved to return to regular session. Ms. Hissem seconded the motion.
Motion passed.

9. Board Comments/Announcement

None

10. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held November 15, 2022.

11. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Steve Hardman, Chair

JP Hushion, Secretary