

MINUTES  
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY PARKERSBURG  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
October 14, 2025

A regular meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 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: Blaine Hess, Savannah Morgan, Vasanth Ananth, Stephanie McCoy, Ami Shaver, Jared Decker, Scott Seese, Andrew Walker & Trista Scarberry. Others present included Dr. Torie Jackson and Lauriel Rader.

Guests present included administrators, faculty and staff.

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Hess, Chairman of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors, called the meeting to order.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. President's Report**

President Jackson delivered the following report:

Greetings, Governors,

Today, I'd like to share with you a recent opportunity. A team from WVU Parkersburg attended the national conference of the National Association of Community Colleges for Entrepreneurship (NAACE).

At the conference, we were recognized as one of the top 5 entrepreneurial colleges in the nation. We are going to continue to work to be the number one college, but we will be accepting of a top 5 finish.

As a college, we also walked away with the full amount requested of \$45,000 in support of its Forging Futures welding initiative through the NACCE and the Ratcliffe Foundation's Pitch for the Skilled Trades competition.

The Forging Futures project will bring mobile, industry-certified welding training directly into correctional facilities in the Mid-Ohio Valley. Using state-of-the-art mobile welding units, the program delivers hands-on, American Welding Society-aligned instruction to incarcerated individuals, providing them with marketable skills and credentials that prepare them for high-demand jobs in the skilled trades upon release.

This project represents what community colleges do best, which is bringing education to those who need it most. With this funding, we can create pathways from incarceration to employment, transforming both lives and communities through opportunity and education.

The program will provide wraparound services that not only teach a trade, but also provide soft skills and basic literacy and math credentials as needed. The program plans to reduce recidivism while solving a workforce shortage.

“Forging Futures is about restoring dignity through skill. We believe education is the most powerful form of rehabilitation, and this project gives students a tangible way to rebuild their futures. When we hand someone a welding torch, we’re not just teaching them a trade, we’re handing them hope, stability, and the chance to belong again,” said Vice-President of Institutional Advancement Olivia Reeder.

The participants included myself, Olivia, and C.O. and Charles F. Erickson Distinguished Faculty Chair in Entrepreneurship Andrew Rochus. To compete in the live pitches, the team had to complete an application detailing the program and its potential funding as well as participate in live-online semi-finals.

Forging Futures embodies WVU Parkersburg’s mission to deliver innovative, accessible education that strengthens West Virginia’s workforce, reduces recidivism, and expands opportunity through skill, compassion, and second chances.

Additionally at the conference, I had the opportunity NAACE’s Lifetime Achievement Award to a leader whose impact can be felt in classrooms, labs, and shop floors across America, Mr. Nick Pinchuk, Chairman and CEO of Snap-on.

At WVU Parkersburg, we believe deeply in the dignity of work and the promise of skilled careers. Our students are future welders, advanced manufacturing technicians, chemical operators, engineers, computer science professionals, healthcare professionals, and more. They come to us to build real skills and real lives. They choose pathways that power the Mid-Ohio Valley and the entire state of West Virginia. We invest in high-quality labs, industry-recognized credentials, and employer partnerships because we know that when talent meets opportunity, communities thrive.

That commitment is why it felt especially meaningful to be asked to recognize that Mr. Pinchuk’s leadership, which has elevated skilled trades from a talking point to a national priority. Under his guidance, Snap-on has been more than a world-class manufacturer; it has been a force for workforce excellence, championing rigorous standards, investing in educator training, and collaborating with community colleges to ensure students graduate with mastery, confidence, and, most of all, pride. This CEO has long been a clear, consistent voice for the dignity and necessity of hands-on expertise. He reminds us that our economy doesn’t move forward by accident; it advances because skilled people design, build, maintain, and repair the systems

that make modern life possible. In an age of rapid technological change, he's shown that craftsmanship and innovation are not opposites. They are partners. Precision matters. Safety matters. Quality matters. And people matter most.

Similarly, at WVU Parkersburg, we see the fruits of that philosophy every day. When a student earns a credential that leads to a career. When our programs align with employer expectations, our graduates walk into interviews ready to contribute on day one. That alignment between education and industry, between learning and doing, is exactly what we champion.

What we do at WVUP extends far beyond a single company. Through partnerships with employers, support for instructor development, and advocacy on the national stage, we at WVUP can work alongside those like Mr. Pinchuk to restore respect for technical education and the skilled trades. We can measure success not only by enrollment, but by employment, advancement, and the pride of a job done right.

Our students are strivers and problem-solvers. They're ready to work, ready to learn, and ready to lead. When education is aligned with industry, our graduates don't just fill jobs; they build futures, support families, and strengthen our communities. When we respect mastery, we expand opportunity, and when we expand opportunity, we uplift entire communities.

At WVU Parkersburg, we know that, together, we can achieve more.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Hess stated the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of August 19, 2025, are submitted for review. With no corrections to be made, minutes are approved as submitted.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

- Executive Committee

Chairman Hess shared updates from the Executive Committee. He announced that we've reached another hallmark in terms of enrollment, with a head count this Fall of 3,015 students, a new high-water mark for us and a 9% increase for nine consecutive semesters. Behind this success is extensive recruitment, marketing, and the quality of our programs. Chairman Hess announced, several members will participate in the upcoming board summit in Charleston on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Board Members were asked to please mark their calendar for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, for graduation. Lauriel will send communications to confirm attendance and attire for the ceremony.

- Academic and Student Services Committee

Ms. Stephanie McCoy reported that the Academic and Student Services Committee received updates about the Arts & Sciences Division from Dean Mary Hetrick-Ratliffe. The Arts & Science Division supports all college degree pathways and consists of 23 faculty and three staff members. They toured the

biology department's advanced anatomy table with interactive case studies and the collaborative English space. In the computer lab, math instructor Angie Morgan's enthusiasm for teaching and her efforts to connect with students were especially memorable; she has students share about themselves, celebrates birthdays, and encourages peer tutoring, fostering a supportive learning environment. We also visited the music and art department to see self-portrait collages and a capstone project highlighting gender expectations.

- Administrative Services Committee

Ms. Savannah Morgan reported that the Administrative Services Committee received an update about the new proposed CRM System from Paula Tewksbury, Operational Excellence Consultant. The Board members learned about the implementation of the new CRM system, which will streamline college workflows from recruitment to enrollment, integrate various tasks across departments, and help prevent up to 97% of fraudulent applications, saving staff significant time.

## **6. Information Items**

- Fiscal Update

Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Financial Analysis & Institutional Research, CFO, provided a detailed report on the budget summary as of month ending September 30, 2025. There were no questions from the members.

- Policy Update to the Board of Governors Policy C-07 "Grade Point Averages"

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy C-07 Grade Point Averages. Dr. Jackson reported that no substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the August 19, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

The current Policy C-07 for "Grade Point Averages" establishes the guidelines for GPA in regards to graduation, as well as D and F repeat provisions, as well as discretionary academic forgiveness provisions. This policy was last updated in 2002.

Changes to Policy C-07 are minor in that it updates naming and adds in applicable laws.

This policy proposal will be submitted to the Chancellor of the WV Council for Community & Technical College System for final approval.

- Policy Update to the Board of Governors Policy E-04 "Travel"

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy E-04 Travel. Dr. Jackson reported that no substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the August 19, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

The current Policy E-04 for “Travel” establishes the guidelines for appropriate travel as an employee of the institution. This policy was last updated in 2018.

Changes to Policy E-04 are minor in that it updates naming and adds in applicable laws.

This policy proposal will be submitted to the Chancellor of the WV Council for Community & Technical College System for final approval.

- Policy Update to the Board of Governors Policy E-57 “Appropriate Use of Computer Resources”

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy D-57 Appropriate Use of Computer Resources. Dr. Jackson reported that no substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the August 19, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

The current Policy E-57 for “Appropriate Use of Computer Resources” establishes the guidelines for appropriate use of computer resources. This policy was last updated in 2014.

Changes to Policy E-57 are minor in that it updates naming and adds in applicable federal laws. We also have added the Innovation and Technology Center as a site. The more specific guidelines for this generalized policy are found in the WVU Parkersburg Answer Book in #VII-1. It also is being updated, with its previous revision dating 2017. One of the primary changes to it is the addition of using encrypted emails for some private information transfers.

This policy proposal will be submitted to the Chancellor of the WV Council for Community & Technical College System for final approval.

## **7. Action Items**

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy updating the Policy for Part Time Classified Employees (Policy B-13)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Part Time Classified Employees. Dr. Jackson reported the current Policy B-13 for “Part Time Classified Employees” indicates the definitions of part time employees and the acquisition of those employees. This policy was last updated in 2003.

Updates to Policy B-13 modernize the authority references by removing outdated WV Code and aligning the policy with current HR statutes. The reporting section is revised to ensure compliance with WVCTCS reporting requirements. In addition, definitions were updated, including the definition of “Classified Employee.” The new updates also strengthen language about vendor compliance and hiring justification to bring it into compliance with current practices.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to "Part Time Classified Employees" policy. If no substantial comments are received during the 30-day comment period, this policy proposal will be considered approved following the comment period without further action by the Board of Governors. Upon approval by the Board of Governors, this policy proposal will be submitted to the Chancellor of the WV Council for Community & Technical College System for final approval.

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

*Resolved*, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors approve an update to the Board of Governors Policy B-13 "Part Time Classified Employees"

Ms. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy Updating the Policy for Accreditation and Degree Standards (Policy C-35)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Accreditation and Degree Standards. Dr. Jackson reported the current Policy C-35 for "Accreditation and Degree Standards" specifies accreditation expectations for the Board of Governors and the minimum standards for conferring degrees. This policy was last updated in 2006.

Updates to Policy C-35 reflect current accreditation terminology, clarify program accreditation expectations, expand degree standards beyond GPA, align academic titles with current practice, enhance eligibility explanation, and establish a Board review cycle. Collectively, these revisions strengthen institutional accountability, ensure compliance with state and accreditation requirements, and provide clearer guidance for students, faculty, and administration.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to "Accreditation and Degree Standards" policy. If no substantial comments are received during the 30-day comment period, this policy proposal will be considered approved following the comment period without further action by the Board of Governors. Upon approval by the Board of Governors, this policy proposal will be submitted to the Chancellor of the WV Council for Community & Technical College System for final approval.

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

*Resolved*, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors approve an update to the Board of Governors C-35 "Accreditation and Degree Standards"

Ms. Shaver seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy Updating the Policy for Reduced Tuition and Fee Program (Policy E-14)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Reduced Tuition and Fee Program for Residents at Least 65 Years of Age. Dr. Jackson reported the current Policy E-14 “Reduced Tuition and Fee Program for Residents at Least 65 Years of Age” establishes a reduced tuition and fee program for residents of West Virginia who are at least sixty-five years of age allowing them to take courses or classes at WVU Parkersburg on a space available basis. This policy was last updated in 2003.

Updates to Policy E-14 are very minor and reflect only a clarification on the classification of a student as credit or non-credit seeking. However, as we reviewed this policy, we determined that the accompanying procedures for this process will also be updated. The changes don’t alter the core program (seniors age 65+ can take courses at reduced tuition on a space-available basis). Instead, the new process will clarify terms, tighten financial and registration details, and ensure proper reporting and compliance.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to “Reduced Tuition and Fee Program for Residents at Least 65 Years of Age” policy. If no substantial comments are received during the 30-day comment period, this policy proposal will be considered approved following the comment period without further action by the Board of Governors. Upon approval by the Board of Governors, this policy proposal will be submitted to the Chancellor of the WV Council for Community & Technical College System for final approval.

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

*Resolved*, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors approve an update to the Board of Governors policy E-14 “Reduced Tuition and Fee Program for Residents at Least 65 Years of Age”

Ms. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of One New Program: Certificate of Applied Science in Paraprofessional

Dr. David Lancaster, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of one new program: Certificate of Applied Science in Paraprofessional. Dr. Lancaster reported that the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) has long provided course modules for

individuals pursuing the Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher (ECCAT) credential. In June 2025, WVDE invited the state's Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs) to create a pathway that would allow ECCATs to advance toward full teacher certification.

In response, the Education Department collaborated with faculty and stakeholders to design a comprehensive, step-by-step pathway. This progression begins with earning the ECCAT credential in a single semester, followed by eligibility for the Paraprofessional credential after one year, an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Elementary Education after two years, and ultimately a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Elementary Education after four years.

The state has approved this concept, confirming that the proposed courses meet all required standards. To ensure students are eligible for financial aid while pursuing this pathway, we have also developed a Certificate of Applied Science (CAS) in Paraprofessional.

This structured pathway not only expands opportunities for aspiring educators but also supports the state's Student Success Act, which mandates assistant teachers in all K–3 classrooms.

The attached program of study has been approved by the College-wide Curriculum Committee, the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the President.

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

*Resolved*, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors approves the following programs: Certificate of Applied Science in Paraprofessional

Ms. Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Online Degree Program Tuition Rates

Dr. David Lancaster, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of online degree program tuition rates. Dr. Lancaster reported that WVU Parkersburg currently offers in-state tuition rates to all students enrolled in degree programs that are delivered 100% online. This policy provides affordable access to higher education for students regardless of residency, while supporting WVU Parkersburg's mission to expand educational opportunities through accessible delivery models.

We are requesting that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors endorses the ongoing support of charging in-state tuition for all newly approved programs delivered 100% online. The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, with the approval of the President of WVU Parkersburg, shall determine whether a



program qualifies as a 100% online program for the purpose of applying in-state tuition rates.

Below is the current list of Online Degree Tuition Rate programs:

Business Administration (AAS)  
Business Administration (BAS)  
Child Development  
General Education (AA)  
Occupational Development  
RN-BSN  
Skilled Trades  
Supervisory Management  
Surgical Technology  
Technical Studies

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

*Resolved*, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors endorses the ongoing support of in-state tuition rates for all students who are enrolled in programs that are delivered 100%online.

Mr. Seese seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **8. Board Comments/Announcement**

Chairman Hess and Mr. Andrew Walker shared the following announcements:

- The December Commencement will be on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Lauriel will send an email to Board Members with additional information.
- Announcement from the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation, on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, the Oakland Estate will be part of the Holly Trail. There will also be an Open House at the Oakland Estate on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

Chairman Hess shared the next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

#### **10. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lauriel Rader  
Secretary to the Board of Governors

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Blaine Hess, Chair

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Savannah Morgan, Vice Chair