

MINUTES  
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY PARKERSBURG  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
August 19, 2025

A regular meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Tuesday, August 19, 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, Stephanie McCoy, David Bowles, Jared Decker, Scott Seese, Andrew Walker, Cody Irick & 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. Swearing in of new Board Members**

The Honorable Timothy Sweeney, 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court Judge, conducted the swearing in of new Board member, Trista Scarberry.

**3. Roll Call**

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

**4. President's Report**

President Jackson delivered the following report:

I definitely could start with Phew! We made it.

We've started a new semester. We have the west wing of the first floor of the Innovation and Technology Center open.

Think back to February 2025, when we had small excavators inside the facility digging up the concrete on the ground floor so that we could add more plumbing. Think back to February 2024, when we were beginning to empty the library of its books and just had heat in the building. Think back to February 2023, when we weren't sure that the family would honor the wishes of our donor with a legacy gift. It hasn't been the easiest journey, and some might even have labeled it aggressive, but we have been able to bring students a state-of-the-art technology facility, and for that I am very grateful.

Yes, much more needs to be done.

However, we have so many reasons to be thankful. Increasing enrollment, growing programs, new opportunities. That's the story of WVUP.

It's not the story across the country, where *Inside Higher Education* is featuring stories about market conditions causing cuts at public and private colleges in July. Yet, we are blessed enough to be hiring additional employees.

As I told employees at the opening session last week, our options are only limited by us, quoting William Shakespeare in *Measure for Measure* when he said, "Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt."

Thank you to this Board for believing in the opportunity for WVUP to grow and become an economic driver in the community.

We are excited to also begin the STAND program, a statewide initiative for Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree. One of our faculty members, Jeff Holland, agreed to step into a Faculty Fellow for Skilled Trades position this fall to take lead in teaching for that program and the Chemours incumbent worker initiative.

At our President's Cabinet Retreat this summer, the team decided they would like to have an Artificial Intelligence Task Force. It will be led by Dr. Kyle Lancaster. The group will identify areas across the college where AI can enhance student support, academic delivery, staff productivity, and operational cost efficiency. They will prepare recommendations for the President on AI tools and implementation projects. They will monitor AI pilots on the campus to document successes and challenges.

Additionally at our opening ceremony last week, we had a special presentation by Dr. Stephen Lloyd, the director of the WV Office of Drug Control Policy. He shared his own story of addiction and overcoming those obstacles.

It wasn't an easy story to hear, but I wanted the campus to hear his powerful story to know that behind every statistic is a real person, with a life, a family, and dreams that matter. Stories like Dr. Lloyd's break down barriers of stigma and replace them with understanding. They challenge us to look beyond the surface and see the whole person, not just the struggle.

His testimony to our employees encourages us to keep an open mind as we serve our students. Every student walks through our doors carrying a history we may never fully know. For some, that history includes challenges like addiction, trauma, or loss. When we choose to see through a lens of empathy, we begin to view education not only as the transfer of knowledge but as an opportunity to offer stability, connection, and hope.

At WVU Parkersburg, we are committed to building that kind of supportive environment. Our partnership with health care providers ensure that physical and behavioral health services are accessible right here on campus. Students don't have to navigate their challenges alone—they can find care in the same place they pursue

their education. Such collaborations are one way in which we bridge the gap between academic success and overall well-being.

We also invest in equipping our campus community with the skills to respond when someone is in crisis. Through our Mental Health First Aid initiative, 16 faculty and staff members are now certified to recognize the signs of mental health and substance use concerns, to listen without judgment, and to connect individuals with the right help. These trainings expand our ability to create a safety net of care across classrooms, offices, and student spaces.

Dr. Lloyd's story reinforced why these efforts matter. It reminded us that change is possible, and that sometimes the most important thing we can offer is simply to see, hear, and believe in someone.

WVU Parkersburg will continue to be a place where education and compassion walk hand in hand, where we treat all with respect, and where every person is given the chance to write their next chapter—no matter where their story began.

We are embracing the student experience - assisting in every part of their journey - and knowing that without those students we can't have the moments where we sit back and say, "Phew! We've accomplished a new goal!" With this attitude, we will not lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt.

We shall bravely take the steps for growth because within this campus community and with you, our Board, we know that together we can achieve more.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Hess stated the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of June 11, 2025, are submitted for review. With no corrections to be made, minutes are approved as submitted.

## **6. Committee Reports**

- **Executive Committee**

Chairman Hess shared updates from the Executive Committee. He welcomed Trista Scarberry, Student Representative, to the Board. He announced that we still have a vacant seat on our Board and we are waiting for approval from the Governor's Office. Chairman Hess had the pleasure of attending and welcoming everyone to the start of the fall semester at the Faculty & Staff Opening Session on August 11<sup>th</sup>. He shared that WVU Parkersburg was on the front page of the newspaper and on WTAP with some positive press about the ITC opening. He announced there will be a Board of Governors training in Charleston on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, offered by the Chancellor's office. He provided updates on student enrollment, including a 15% increase in the summer enrollment and 8% increase in the fall enrollment. This is the ninth semester with increased enrollment. He commended the college on their work with enrollment and encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

- Academic and Student Services Committee  
Mr. David Bowles reported that the Academic and Student Services Committee received updates about the Nursing & Health Sciences Division from Dean Kathy Frum. The Board members learned about the six programs offered by the division, which include a new program in Radiology and a future EMS program. They also learned about the student recruitment efforts, increased student headcount and the \$2 million grant the division received for the nursing expansion. The Board members toured the state-of-the-art Nursing Simulation Lab, which included realistic mannequins for advanced student training.
- Administrative Services Committee  
Ms. Savannah Morgan reported that the Administrative Services Committee received an update about current and future software subscriptions from Doug Anthony, Chief Information Officer. The IT team's responsibilities include networking, telecommunications, security, maintaining Banner and Blackboard, user support, compliance and in-house development. They discussed the annual software budget, with the majority of the funds going to Banner, Blackboard and Oasis. They discussed the potential of future consolidation of software by using a CRM system called Element 451, to increase efficiencies across departments throughout the entire campus. The IT department also maintains GLBA compliance to protect student data. They are constantly working on improving processes, procedures, security and safety for the college.

## 7. 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 July 31, 2025. There were no questions from the members.
- Policy Update to the Board of Governors Policy A-06 “Naming Opportunities”  
Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy A-06 Naming Opportunities. Dr. Jackson shared comments with Board Members and reported that no substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the June 11, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

The current Policy A-06 for “Naming Opportunities” establishes the process for naming of buildings, areas or programs at WVU Parkersburg. This updated policy authorizes the adoption of an updated version to reflect current institutional practices and provide a clear, consistent framework for the naming of college buildings, spaces, and programs.

The existing policy, last updated in 2010, was revised to modernize language, clarify naming categories, and align with WVU at Parkersburg Foundation practices and applicable West Virginia Code (§18B-1-6 and §18B-2A-4).

### **Summary of Changes:**

- Updates institutional title references
- Refines eligible naming types and removes outdated categories (e.g., quads, athletic fields)
- Clarifies gift requirements (must be irrevocable and accessible)
- Adds reference to the Foundation's policy for name removal procedures
- Updates naming duration expectations for individuals, organizations, and corporations
- Expands academic categories to include "academic chairs/deans"
- Reinforces alignment with institutional mission by excluding advocacy organizations

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 A-18 "Alcoholic Beverages on Campus"

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy A-18 Alcoholic Beverages on Campus. Dr. Jackson reported that no substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the June 11, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

The current Policy A-18 for "Alcoholic Beverages on Campus" establishes the rules that govern the possession and use of alcoholic beverages on property owned, leased, or controlled by WVU Parkersburg. This policy was last updated in 2003.

The proposed revisions to Policy A-18, *Alcoholic Beverages on Campus*, clarify and modernize the institution's approach to regulating alcohol use on campus property. While maintaining the original intent of limiting alcohol-related activity, the policy has been updated for clarity, consistency, and alignment with current practices.

Notable changes include:

- Renaming and reformatting key sections for improved readability;
- Expanding Section 4 from a narrow focus on athletic events to encompass all campus-sponsored public events;
- Adding a new Section 5 on compliance and enforcement, which outlines consequences for policy violations and reinforces the institution's commitment to safety and legal compliance.

These updates ensure the policy remains applicable to a wider range of campus events while upholding WVU Parkersburg's responsibility to foster a safe and professional environment.

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-25 “Disposition of Obsolete and Unusable Equipment, Surplus Supplies and Other Unneeded Materials”

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy E-25 Disposition of Obsolete and Unusable Equipment, Surplus Supplies and Other Unneeded Materials. Dr. Jackson reported that No substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the June 11, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

The current Policy E-25 for “Disposition of Obsolete and Unusable Equipment, Surplus Supplies and Other Unneeded Materials” establishes the process for removal of unneeded and unwanted materials, supplies, and equipment that is college property. This policy was last updated in 2005.

Changes to Policy E-25 include a revised process and inclusion of the Chief Procurement Officer’s role in the determination of surplus material and the process for removal of such materials. It also outlines the process for depositing any funds from a surplus sale. Additionally, the process of donating unwanted materials is denoted.

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

## **8. Action Items**

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy updating the Policy for Grade Point Average Guidelines (Policy C-07)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Grade Point Average Guidelines. Dr. Jackson reported 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.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to “Grade Point Averages” 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 C-07 “Grade Point Averages”

Ms. Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy Updating the Policy for Appropriate Travel Guidelines (Policy E-04)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Travel. Dr. Jackson reported 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.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to “Travel” 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. Bowles moved to approve the following resolution:

*Resolved*, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors approve an update to the Board of Governors policy E-04 “Travel”

Mr. Seese seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy Updating the Policy for Appropriate Use of Computer Resources (Policy E-57)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Appropriate Use of Computer Resources. Dr. Jackson reported 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.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to “Appropriate Use of Computer Resources” 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-57 “Appropriate Use of Computer Resources”

Mr. Bowles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval to Utilize Unrestricted Reserve Funds for Renovations at the Innovation and Technology Center

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval to utilize unrestricted reserve funds for renovations at the Innovation and Technology Center. Dr. Jackson reported the Innovation and Technology Center being renovated will house WVU Parkersburg’s programs in Computer Science and Computer Information Technology, as well as the Workforce and Economic Development Division.

The WVU at Parkersburg Foundation has spent \$18 million to date on this project renovation and will pay \$13.5 million in the next three years to complete it. On August 18, WVU Parkersburg began using the facility per its lease with the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation. Due to the size of this expense and its purpose to enhance our educational opportunities, we request \$7 million from the college to the Foundation to assist in these renovations. This project will be able to sustain itself upon being fully open by lease income and student enrollment. Already, 159 students are in the facility for Fall 2025. To be able to have the facility fully functioning, we need to complete the cafeteria area and the second floor. We also are requesting to expand cosmetology into the annex building. This space originally was going to be lease space, but now will be better utilized for WVUP programming

Reserve balances as of June 30, 2025, based on draft financial statements are more than adequate to support these expenditures and still have a more than adequate reserve.

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

*Resolved*, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors approves the utilization of college unrestricted reserves of \$7 million to assist in renovations of the Innovation and Technology Center”

Mr. Bowles seconded the motion. Motion passed with Board Member Ms. Savannah Morgan abstaining.

**9. Board Comments/Announcement**

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

- Please watch for an email from the Chancellor’s Office regarding the Board of Governors Conference that will be offered on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30th.
- On September 13, 2025, the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation Board will host the Drew Carpenter Memorial Golf Tournament at Worthington Golf Course. This will help fund the endowment for a scholarship in Drew’s memory.

**10. Next Meeting**

Chairman Hess shared the next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

**11. 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