

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY PARKERSBURG
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
January 20, 2026

A regular meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the Chapel of the WVU Parkersburg Innovation & Technology Center, beginning at 3:15 p.m. Board members present were: Blaine Hess, Savannah Morgan, Stephanie McCoy, Ami Shaver, David Bowles, Jared Decker, Scott Seese, Andrew Walker, Cody Irick & Trista Scarberry. Board members absent were: Vasanth Ananth. 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:

Members of the Board of Governors, colleagues, and friends,

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on where we are, where we are going, and what will guide us as we move through 2026 together.

Our goals remain clear and grounded in our purpose. Recruitment and retention continue to be central to everything we do, because enrollment is not simply a number. It represents people, opportunity, and the future of our region. In 2026, we will place focused attention on enrollment growth at the Jackson County Center, building on its strong community connections and expanding access to higher education for students who may not otherwise see a college pathway as possible.

At the same time, we will continue the intentional expansion of the Innovation and Technology Center campus in Vienna. The ITC represents more than growth in square footage or programming. It represents a commitment to innovation, workforce alignment, and entrepreneurship. Our aspiration is not just to participate in innovation in West Virginia, but to lead it. We want WVU Parkersburg to be recognized as a place where ideas become action, where students are prepared not only for jobs, but for leadership and entrepreneurship in a changing economy.

This year, I have challenged all employees to embrace a simple but powerful framework inspired by educator Ron Clark: the idea of being one percent better each

day. That challenge is not about perfection. It is about progress. It is about recognizing that small, intentional improvements compound over time and create meaningful change in our culture, our systems, and our outcomes for students.

Within the President's Cabinet, that mindset is especially important as we navigate a year of real complexity. We are leading calmly and deliberately through the complete separation of our human resources, payroll, and business office functions from WVU. At the same time, we are responding to the Governor's request that all institutions prepare a budget reflecting a two percent reduction. These are not insignificant challenges. But they are moments that test leadership, clarity, and trust.

In response, we are committing to be one percent better in how we communicate with one another. Clear communication builds confidence, reduces uncertainty, and strengthens our shared purpose. We are also committing to be one percent better in our customer service to students, because how students experience this institution day to day matters just as much as the credentials they earn.

Above all, we will remain true to our mission: to provide life changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment. That mission is our anchor. If we stay true to it, we will not lack direction, resolve, or purpose. We will humble ourselves, recognizing that our work is ultimately about service. We will stay focused on students, their success, and their futures.

As we move through 2026, we will always strive for more. We will continuously improve. We will adapt when necessary, lead with integrity, and remain bold in our vision for what WVU Parkersburg can be for this region and this state.

And as always, together, we will achieve more.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hess stated the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of October 14, 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 he, Dr. Jackson, Lauriel Rader, and Andrew Walker attended a Board of Governors training session in Charleston and found it very valuable. He commends the administration, faculty, and staff for an excellent December commencement ceremony, featuring Senator Capito as the commencement speaker. He shares information about a Zoom presentation by Dr. Jackson and Lindsey Piersol on the ITC that highlighted the college's progress. He also provides an enrollment update, noting roughly a 5% increase in spring headcount which is about 152 more students, and a similar positive trend in full-time enrollment, praising recruitment efforts.

- Academic and Student Services & Administrative Services Committees
Mr. David Bowles reported that the Academic and Student Services & Administrative Services Committees toured the Innovation and Technology Center with President Jackson. Mr. Bowles highlights the building's modern features, especially the lighted hallway system that shows which classrooms and spaces are in use based on the light colors around the doors. He notes that the group observed a computer coding class and a math class in session in the updated classrooms. The tour also included the Engineering Innovation Lab, which will be open to the community, the WED reception area and several WED offices. Mr. Bowles describes the dedicated podcast area, the future courtyard/gaming space, and the surprisingly large childcare facility designed for about 130 children, including its own kitchen, reception, and playground. He adds that they viewed the boiler area, office space for the daycare center and the expanded shipping and receiving area. Finally, he mentions seeing the former kitchen and restaurant space, which is planned for a future restaurant, the new cosmetology area that will support program growth, student housing and student lounge across the street, which are already actively used by students.

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 December 31, 2025. There were no questions from the members.
- Policy Update to the Board of Governors Policy B-13 "Part Time Classified Employees"
Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy B-13 Part Time Classified Employees. Dr. Jackson reported that no substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the October 14, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

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.

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 C-35 “Accreditation & Degree Standards”

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy C-35 Accreditation & Degree Standards. Dr. Jackson reported that no substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the October 14, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

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.

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-14 “Reduced Tuition & Fee Program for Residents at Least 65 Years of Age”

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared an update on the Board of Governors policy E-14 Reduced Tuition & Fee Program for Residents at Least 65 Years of Age. Dr. Jackson reported that no substantive comments were received. Policy is considered approved 30 days from the October 14, 2025, meeting of the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

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.

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

- Acknowledgement of Tuition & Fee Waivers for Fiscal Year 2025

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, shared information with Board members about the acknowledgement of tuition and fee waivers for Fiscal Year 2025. Dr. Jackson reported, as noted in Board of Governors Policy E-20 for “Awarding of Student Tuition and Fee Waivers,” the following tuition waivers were provided in FY 2025.

A total of \$124,073.32 was awarded as tuition and fee waivers in the three semesters of Fall 2024, Spring 2025 and Summer 2025 combined. Of that total, \$86,069.32 was for student waivers, and \$38,004.00 was for employee waivers.

Examples of waiver scholarships include WVUP Spouse & Dependent Scholarship, WVUP Employee Scholarship, WVU Parkersburg Tuition Waiver, Presidential Scholarship (\$86,069.32, which are given to students at area high schools chosen by their schools who are not Promise eligible), HSTA Waiver and the WVUP Purple Heart Waiver.

A total of 35 students received tuition waivers in FY 2025.

7. Action Items

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy updating the Policy for Meal Breaks (Policy B-50)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Meal Breaks. Dr. Jackson reported the current Policy B-50 for “Meal Breaks” establishes clear, compliant standards for timing, administration, and compensation of meal breaks for employees and to ensure alignment with state and federal law. This policy was last updated in 2008.

The revisions to Policy B-50 modernize the College’s meal-break standards to ensure clear compliance with current state and federal wage-and-hour requirements. The updates clarify the distinction between paid and unpaid meal breaks, explicitly align break duration and compensation with the Fair Labor Standards Act and West Virginia Code, and strengthen expectations for supervisors regarding scheduling, documentation, and enforcement. The revised policy removes outdated or ambiguous language, provides clearer guidance on compensable work during meal periods, and adds compliance and accountability provisions to reduce institutional risk while ensuring employees receive required breaks and appropriate compensation.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to “Meal Breaks” 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 B-50 “Meal Breaks”

Mr. Seese seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy Updating the Policy for Academic Credit, Micro-Credential Pathways & Continuing Education Units (Policy C-09)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Academic Credit, Micro-Credential Pathways & Continuing Education Units. Dr. Jackson reported the current Policy C-09 for “Academic Credit, Micro-Credential Pathways and Continuing Education Units” establishes instructional standards for academic credit, CEUs, and micro-credential pathways. This policy was last updated in 2009.

The proposed revisions to Policy C-09 modernize WVU Parkersburg’s framework for assigning academic credit while formally recognizing micro-credential pathways and the continued awarding of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The updated policy aligns institutional practice with WVCTCS Series 22 and the federal credit-hour definition (34 CFR 600.2), ensuring compliance with accreditation and Title IV requirements. It clarifies institutional oversight for credit-hour assignment, acknowledges the role of noncredit workforce training and state-recognized micro-credentials, and establishes clear pathways for the evaluation and potential conversion of noncredit learning to academic credit. Outdated and nonessential financing language has been removed to refocus the policy on academic governance, credit integrity, and credential transparency.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to “Academic Credit, Micro-Credential Pathways and Continuing Education Units” 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 C-09 “Academic Credit, Micro-Credential Pathways and Continuing Education Units”

Ms. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Board of Governors Policy Updating the Policy for Tobacco & Smoke-Free Campus (Policy F-60)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of the Board of Governors Policy updating the policy for Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus. Dr. Jackson reported the current Policy F-60 for “Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus” supports a tobacco- and smoke-free campus in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors on all campuses. This policy was last updated in 2014.

The proposed revisions to Policy F-60 significantly modernize and expand the scope of the College’s tobacco- and smoke-free policy. Most notably, the revised policy broadens prohibited products beyond traditional tobacco to include electronic smoking devices, recreational vaping products, heated tobacco products (such as IQOS), cannabis or marijuana derivatives, and any future nicotine-delivery devices not approved by the FDA for cessation. The updated language also clarifies that the prohibition applies to all college-owned, leased, or operated property, including buildings, vehicles, sidewalks, parking areas, and green spaces, rather than focusing primarily on indoor spaces. In addition, the revised policy explicitly permits FDA-approved smoking-cessation products, adds language encouraging access to cessation and wellness resources, and strengthens enforcement provisions by referencing student and employee conduct processes as well as potential fines imposed by the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department under the Clean Indoor Air Regulation.

Medical authorization for cannabis does not equal permission to use it at work or on campus. Our policy treats marijuana derivatives the same way we treat any substance that could impair safety or performance.

Overall, the changes shift the policy from a traditional smoking restriction to a comprehensive, forward-looking health and safety standard aligned with contemporary public-health practices and evolving nicotine technologies.

A notice of proposed rulemaking will be issued proposing the revision of this policy in regards to “Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus” 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. Shaver moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors approve an update to the Board of Governors policy F-60 "Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus"

Mr. Seese seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Approval of Four New Programs: Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration Accounting; Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration CPA Track; Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration Financial Management; Associate of Applied Science Emergency Medical Services
Dr. David Lancaster, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented to the Board the resolution for approval of four new programs: Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration Accounting; Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration CPA Track; Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration Financial Management; Associate of Applied Science Emergency Medical Services. Dr. Lancaster reported that based on stakeholder feedback and Peregrine capstone assessment data, it became evident that the current BASBA degrees provided a good overview of business principles and applications, however, in depth knowledge in specific areas was not achieved. Additionally, we had many students and potential students that were interested in sitting for the CPA exam that did not have the required course work. The Accounting and Financial Management degree was revised to provide students with two more rigorous options. The Financial Management concentration provides students with a more in-depth understanding of financial management. The other program has an Accounting concentration providing coursework that can provide students with a solid knowledge and understanding of Accounting principles and practices. The CPA focus provides the additional 30 credit hours of coursework that will allow students to sit for the CPA Exam. These revisions provide students with more marketable skills upon completion.

Recognizing the increasing demand for advanced medical services training in the Parkersburg, WV, community, WVU Parkersburg initiated efforts to establish an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The program's primary objective is to improve the quality of emergency medical care in the region by producing highly skilled EMS professionals. Key goals of the program include delivering advanced instruction in pre-hospital medicine, providing clinical and field internship opportunities with local EMS agencies, and strengthening the workforce pipeline for rural and underserved areas across West Virginia. This initiative addresses a critical need for improved access to trained emergency medical personnel in the region. Support for the program was strongly endorsed by local community partners, who recognized the critical need for highly trained EMS professionals in the region.

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

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

Resolved, that the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors approves the following programs: Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration Accounting; Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration CPA Track; Bachelor of Applied Science Business Administration Financial Management; Associate of Applied Science Emergency Medical Services

Ms. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. Board Comments/Announcement

Mr. Andrew Walker shared the following announcement:

The WVU at Parkersburg Foundation is planning two events for the college's 65th birthday celebration. The first event will be held in the summer, and the second event will be a gala to be held in the fall. Details and dates are still being finalized, but more information should be available by the March meeting.

9. Next Meeting

Chairman Hess shared the next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17, 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

Blaine Hess, Chair

Savannah Morgan, Vice Chair