

Fairmont State University Board of Governors – Academic Affairs Committee
Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 9:00am
Hardway 219 and Teams
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: President Davis, Allen Bedford, Brian Selmeski, Tanner James, Drew Paton, Cheryl Lewis, Jill Sole, Trish DeNoon, George Wolf, Susan Ross, Mary Sortino, Charlie Watson, Greg Rose, Gina Fantasia

Teams: Wendy Adkins, Angela Schwer, Greg Bamberger, Julie Reneau, Lindsey Guinn, Craig Jennings, John DeVaul, Jason Pizatella

Absent: Jonathan Board, Jason Henderson, Bryson Rigglesman

A. Call to Order

- a. Wendy called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 am
- b. Wendy stated that at the start of the meeting, there were not enough in attendance to constitute a quorum, however, the agenda items were all informational so the meeting could begin
- c. Wendy turned the meeting over to Dr. Bedford

B. Update on Dean Searches

- a. We are working with Academic Search for all three of the open Dean positions
 - i. Academic Search will be conducting the entire search process for the Dean of the College of Business and Aviation and will be helping with the profiles and promotion of the Deans for College of Liberal Arts and College of Education, Health, and Human Performance
 - ii. Academic Affairs is building the Leadership agenda for each position so that the incumbent has a place to start working from upon arrival to campus
 - iii. All three positions are expected to be filled and started by July 2027
- b. Dean for the College of Business & Aviation
 - i. The search launched on September 28th
 - ii. Finalist interviews will be held December 9th – 11th
- c. Dean of College of Education, Health, & Human Performance and Dean of College of Liberal Arts
 - i. Searches expected to launch by November 9th
 - ii. Finalist interviews will be in March 2027

C. Priorities Based on Academic Implementation Plan (AIP)

- a. The Academic Leadership Team, which consists of the Deans, Chairs, Provost Office and other Academic Leaders were surveyed to identify the top priorities for the Academic Implementation Plan
 - i. The top 7 priorities identified are:
 - 1. Finance (FI)
 - a. Strategies to improve margin; address incidents of salary compression and/or inversion
 - b. Wendy asked about when hiring if there is a formula that feeds a range of what we can pay faculty so that we can be competitive with other states
 - i. Dr. Bedford stated that we worked with Evergreen to conduct a study to make our salaried more competitive and are working to bring employees up to where they should be
 - 2. Student Outcomes, Experience, & Satisfaction (SI & CA)
 - a. Identification of current student segments and personas; analysis of student engagement and satisfaction; student progression to degree
 - i. Who are our students and understanding their needs, so they succeed
 - ii. Connects to AIP SO2
 - 3. Student Career Development (SI & CA)
 - a. Internships/co-ops; graduate employment outcomes
 - i. Making regional connections
 - ii. Creating academic portfolios
 - 4. Enrollment (FI & CA)
 - a. Program-level strategic enrollment management plans; curricular and marketing plans to achieve desired enrollment results
 - i. Need to identify various enrollment types and the needs for each type of student in order to be successful in the programs
 - ii. Currently building our program pages on the website
 - 5. Experiential Major Maps (SI)

- a. Model schedules that guide students toward intended career paths and to experiential learning opportunities
 - i. This is an engagement opportunity for students
 - 6. Fundraising (FI)
 - a. Fundraising “asks” in preparation for Day of Giving and grant opportunities
 - i. This will help build out strategic support
 - 7. Quality of Instruction (SI)
 - a. Standards for online teaching (ACUE, QM)
 - i. Assessment of student learning
 - ii. Each of the priorities were labeled with what kind of impact they have on the institution and the AIP
 - 1. FI – Financial Impact
 - 2. SI – Student Impact
 - 3. CA – Competitive Advantage
 - 4. OI – Operational Impact

D. Five-Year Program Review Process and Schedule

- a. This is a comprehensive evaluation of academic programs to determine the “health” and design subsequent interventions or actions if needed
- b. WV HEPC mandates that five-year program reviews to be conducted
- c. Program reviews fall under the purview of Dr. Ross’s office with the coordination conducted by Dr. Mary Sortino and Charlie Watson
- d. There is also an annual review for all other programs, but that review is not as in-depth
- e. Components of the review include:
 - i. Mission
 - ii. External Demand
 - iii. Internal Demand
 - iv. Quality of Outcomes
 - v. Financial Health
- f. The review also looks at how the program advances university priorities and makes distinctive contributions to the missions of the university
- g. Timeline for the review
 - i. February 2026 notifications of the reviews were sent to the Deans

- ii. December 1- Program submit Self Study to Department Chair and Dean
 - iii. December 15- Dean submits Self Study to Dr. Sortino
 - iv. January- February: Council reviews and meets with assigned program
 - v. March 1: Council submits drafts to provost office
 - vi. March 9, 10, 11: Program Exit Meetings
 - vii. April 7: Provost presents to Academic Affairs Committee of BOG
 - viii. April 22: BOG Meeting
 - ix. May 31: Submit to HEPC
- h. Programs for review for the 2026-2027 Academic Year are:
 - i. College of Business & Aviation
 - 1. Strategic Leadership, B.S.
 - a. Dr. Bedford stated that this program has been identified by Gray DI as having the potential for big enrollment opportunities
 - ii. College of Liberal Arts
 - 1. Criminal Justice, M.S.
 - iii. College of Science & Technology
 - 1. Architecture, B.S.
 - 2. Architecture, M.Arch.
 - 3. Occupational Safety, A.S., B.S.
 - 4. Surveying & Geomatics Engineering Technology, B.S.
 - iv. College of Education, Health, & Human Performance
 - 1. M.Ed.
 - a. Educational Leadership, M.Ed.
 - b. Exercise Science, M.Ed.
 - c. Instructional Design & Technology, M.Ed.
 - d. Professional Studies, M.Ed.
 - e. Reading Specialist, M.Ed.
 - f. Multi-Categorical Special Education with Autism, M.Ed.
 - 2. Master of Arts in Teaching

E. Discussion

- a. Wendy asked if any details could be shared about the HLC visit occurring in Spring 2027

- i. Dr. Bedford stated that the dates for the on-site visit have not been received yet but that the Board would be involved and invited to the meetings
- ii. Wendy asked that as soon as the dates are provided that the information be provided to Cheryl so that she can send the details to the Board members
- iii. Dr. Selmeski stated that we do not get the dates until late in the process, but we would let everyone know as soon as possible
- iv. Dr. Selmeski let attendees know that we are currently reviewing the draft assurance argument

F. Adjournment

Wendy adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:34am and thanked everyone for their participation

Wendy Adkins, Committee Chair

Date