



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2026
TEAMS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

Chair Jason Pizatella convened the Fairmont State University Board of Governors meeting on April 23, 2026, beginning at approximately 9:02 a.m. in the Board Room, 3rd Floor Falcon Center, at 1201 Locust Avenue, Fairmont, West Virginia and via Teams.

Note: With this meeting being conducted in person and via Teams, there was no way to ascertain all other participants but the following Fairmont State Board of Governors members and Fairmont State University administrators, staff, and faculty participating via Teams included:

At the request of Chair Pizatella, Cheryl Lewis, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Governors, conducted a roll call of the Board of Governors. Present were board members Jason Pizatella, Lance Puccio, Drew Paton, Craig Jennings, Dr. Jason Noland, Dr. Angela Schwer and Harrison Linkous. JD DeVaul and Wendy Adkins were present via Teams. Jonathan Board, Jason Henderson, and John Schirripa were absent.

Others present were President Michael Davis and President's Executive Leadership Team members Dr. Brian Selmeski, Chief of Staff; Tanner James, General Counsel; Dr. Janna Bredeson, Vice President of Student Success; Dr. Allen Bedford, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs; Paul Steinhaus, Chief Information Officer; and John Nisbet, Interim Vice President of Finance & Administration/CFO. George Wolf, Vice President of Enrollment Management; and Greg Bamberger, Director of Athletics were present via Teams. Also present were Stephanie DeGroot, Director of Planning & Environmental Stewardship; Lenora Montgomery, Assistant Vice President of Facilities; Dr. Susan Ross, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs; Dr. Amanda Metcalf, Dean of the College of Education, Health & Human Performance; Marion Holmes, Senior Director for First Year Experience and Connections; Dr. Rebecca Giorcelli, Professor of Information Systems Management; Dr. Joseph Riesen, Professor of Mathematics; Jill Sole, Assistant to Chief of Staff and General Counsel; Dr. Lindsey Guinn, Executive Director of Institutional Research; and Marissa Mauro, President of Fairmont State Foundation.

B. Approval of Agenda

Chair Pizatella welcomed our new BOG members, Craig Jennings and Jonathan Board, appointed by Governor Morrissey on April 7, 2026. He also welcomed Jason Henderson to his second term on the Board of Governors.

Chair Pizatella amended the agenda to rearrange approval items to be first on the agenda due to time constraints of a few of the BOG members.

Drew Paton moved to approve the amended agenda. Lance Puccio seconded. The motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Lance Puccio moved to approve the February 25, 2026, minutes. Drew Paton seconded. The motion passed.

B. MARCH 31, 2026

Drew Paton moved to approve the March 31, 2026, minutes. Lance Puccio seconded. The motion passed.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. BYLAWS COMMITTEE (Drew Paton, Chair)

Drew Paton, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, advised that the Bylaws Committee met on April 6, 2026.

Tanner James, General Counsel, provided information on the following:

- Adoption of the Proposed Renumbering of BOG Polices at the April 6, 2026, Bylaws Committee Meeting
- Proposed adoption of BOG Policy “Emeriti Faculty and Staff” which is a policy required by HEPC.

Drew Paton moved to approve the Issuance of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for BOG Policy Titled “Emeriti Faculty and Staff” and initiating the 30-day comment period, with the understanding that if no public comments are received, then we will proceed with the adoption of the policy. Lance Puccio seconded. The motion passed.

- Evaluation of Potential Amendment of BOG Policy 31 “Tuition and Fee Waiver for 65 and Older”
 - WV Legislature approved the adoption of HB5110, which will go into effect on June 8, 2026, decreasing the eligibility age for tuition & fee waivers to 60, previously 65.

Drew Paton moved to approve the Amendment of BOG Policy 31 “Tuition and Fee Waiver for 65 and Older” and Initiating the Evaluation and Draft Process Pursuant to BOG Policy 1.1, “Tuition and Fees.” Lance Puccio seconded. The motion passed.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE (John Schirripa, Chair)

John Nisbet, Interim Vice President of Finance & Administration/CFO, provided information on the following:

- FY26 Budget YTD Update (July-Feb)
 - E&G Funds
 - Fund Manager Funds
 - Auxiliary Funds
- FY26 Cash Reserves (July-Feb)
- Capital Spend Down Update (As of April 6, 2026)

Stephanie DeGroot, Director of Planning & Environmental Stewardship, presented the following information on the Library Renovation Project:

- Floor Identities (Hum, Hatch, Hook)
- Saxby’s Concept
- Phase 1 on 2nd Floor
- Interior Mood Board & Design Concepts
- Phased Construction
- Anticipated Project Cost & Funding

Drew Paton moved to approve Phase 1 of the Library Modernization Project. JD DeVaul seconded. The motion passed.

C. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Wendy Adkins, Chair)

Wendy Adkins, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, advised that the committee met on April 8, 2026.

Dr. Susan Ross presented information on the Community Health Substantive Change.

Wendy Adkins moved to approve the renaming of B.S. in Community Health Promotion to a B.S. in Public Health. Lance Puccio seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Allen Bedford, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs, presented information on the following:

- Academic Administrator Searches Update
 - Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs (Dr. Abbey Zink)
 - Director of Library Services (Ms. Jacki Sherman)
 - Dean, College of Business and Aviation
 - Dean, College of Nursing (Dr. Deborah Struth)
- Aviation Program Update
 - Jeremy Griffin (New Chief Flight Instructor)
- 2025-2026 Academic Program Reviews
 - Non-Specialized Accredited Programs
 - Specialized Accredited Programs
 - Timeline for Program Reviews
- 5-year Academic Program Reviews
- Academic Implementation Plan
 - Timeline
 - Mapping
 - Five Focus Areas
 - Five Strategic Objectives

E. ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Greg Bamberger, Athletic Director, provided information on the following:

- Winter Season Wrap-up
- Spring Sport Updates
- Fundraising & Initiatives to Date
- Ticket Sales & Attendance to Date
- Personnel Updates
 - Director of Athletics-Bryan Spitzer (effective July1, 2026)
 - Women's Wrestling Coach
 - Men's Basketball Head Coach
 - Women's Soccer-Alex Zaroyan, Coach

F. ENROLLMENT, HOUSING & STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE (Lance Puccio, Chair)

Lance Puccio, Chair of the Enrollment, Housing & Student Life Committee, advised that the committee met on April 9, 2026.

Dr. Janna Bredeson, Vice President of Student Affairs, provided information on the following:

- Student Success & Persistence
- Student Belonging and Campus Engagement
 - Student Engagement Snapshot through the Engage Platform

- Student Participation and Reach
- Club Sports- Becky Wilson, Club Cheer Coach
- Auxiliary Updates
- Unit: Wellbeing & Housing
- Health Center, Student Outreach & Support, and Accessibility Services

George Wolf, Vice President of Enrollment Management provided information on the following:

- Fall Recruitment Update 2026
- Fall 2026 Funnel Goal Process
 - FY26 First Time Freshmen Funnel (Goals vs. Actuals)
- Orientation Update
 - New Student Orientation Registration
- Strategic Initiative: Out of State Recruitment
 - Current & Previous Year Active: FY24 Year Final
- Retention/Student Success Update
- University Student Success & Account Management
- Full Time Fall Undergraduate Enrollment
 - Strategic Goals, Budget & Actuals
- Other Divisional Information

G. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jason Pizatella, Chair of Executive Committee, advised the committee met on April 14, 2026.

Paul Steinhaus, Chief Information Officer, presented information on the Information Technology Implementation Plan.

- Current State of Information Technology (Hardware and Software)
 - 10-year IT spend compared to total University Budget
 - Educause benchmark is 4.5%-7.2%
 - Fairmont State University's spend has been 4.08% (2016-2025)
 - The University has underinvested in IT by \$2.3-\$17.8 (2016-2025)
- Technical Debt
 - Applications (108 applications \$2,100,000 + annual costs)
 - Institutional Risks
 - Infrastructure
 - Employee, Classroom, and Lab Equipment
- Associated Institutional Risk/IT Investment Areas
- Other Funding Opportunities/Cost Savings
- Information Technology Implementation Plan (July 2026-June 2029)
 - Objective 1
 - Objective 2

- Objective 3
- Objective 4
- Objective 5

Craig Jennings inquired about owning the hardware versus leasing from a provider.

- Budget Summary
 - Strategic Investments
 - Administration will bring expenditures to the Board of Governors for approval.
 - Plan to collaborate with other WV RPUs on a legislative request
- Risk
 - If we proceed with this plan, it will reduce our institutional risk to infrastructure, applications, devices, and ERP from High to Low

Drew Paton moved to approve the AY 2027-2029 Information Technology Implementation Plan. JD DeVaul seconded. The motion passed.

Chair Pizatella appointed the Nominating Committee to nominate officers at the June 2026 Board of Governors meeting:

- Wendy Adkins, Chair
- Craig Jennings
- JD DeVaul
- Dr. Jason Noland

IV. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. President's Report

President Michael Davis presented information on the following:

- Looking Back:
 - Day of Giving 2026 (February 26, 2026)
- Great Place to Learn:
 - Student Leaders
 - Sophie Stuart- SGA President (re-elected), Newman Fellow, Senate Intern
 - Bryson Riggleman-SGA Vice President, newly elected BOG Representative, Newman Fellow Nominee, Senate Intern
 - WV Professor of the Year Finalist
 - Dr. Rebecca Giorcelli
 - WV Council of Teachers of Mathematics-College Teacher of the Year
 - Dr. Joe Riesen
 - Career Fair

- Presidential Speaker, Annick Odom- (April 7, 2026)
- Great Place to Work:
 - Chief Financial Officer Search
 - Classification and Compensation Study- Year 1 complete
 - Administrative Policies
 - 4 Approved since February BOG Meeting (14 total)
 - 2 Pending Approval
 - 5 Undergoing Committee Review
 - Implementation Planning
- Great Place to Call Home:
 - University Events- Attended 69
 - Community Events-Attended 28
 - Presidential Communication
 - Student-Athlete Accolades
- Looking Ahead
 - Presidential Speaker- WV Secretary of Tourism, Chelsea Ruby (April 28, 2026)
 - Spring Commencement (May 9, 2026)

B. Foundation Update

Marissa Mauro, President of Fairmont State Foundation, presented information on the following:

- Fairmont State University Day of Giving (Raised \$880,000)
 - Impact
 - Successes
- Fundraising Fiscal Year Update (\$3,987,000)
- 2026-2027 Approved Scholarship Budget

C. Public Comment

Chair Jason Pizatella acknowledged that no public comments were submitted to the BOG members through the public comment email. Cheryl Lewis, Assistant to the President and Board of Governors, confirmed that there were no public comments submitted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Jason Pizatella made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Drew Paton seconded. The motion passed.

Jason Pizatella
Board of Governors' Chair

Date

Drew Paton
Board of Governors' Secretary

Date