

Fairmont State University Board of Governors – Academic Affairs Committee
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 9:00am
Hardway 219 and Teams
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: President Davis, Dr. Allen Bedford, George Wolf, Dr. Susan Ross, Cheryl Lewis, Trish DeNoon

Teams: Wendy Adkins, John DeVaul, Drew Paton, Dr. Lindsey Guinn, Dr. Alicia Kalka, Greg Bamberger, Jason Pizatella, Harrison Linkous, Dr. Angela Schwer, Dr. Brian Selmeski

Absent: Jennifer Kinty

A. Call to Order

- a. Wendy called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 am
- b. Most of the meeting time will be spent on agenda item F and as Board members, it is requested that you use your professional experience and knowledge on how support and feedback can be provided for the AIP

B. Update of Academic Administrator Searches

- a. Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
 - i. Dr. Abbey Zink begins April 13th
 - ii. First time we will have an employee fully focused on faculty affairs as Dr. Oxley has been a split position between Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and the Dean for the College of Business & Aviation
- b. Director of Library Services
 - i. Interviews concluded this week
 - ii. Renovations in the library are substantial and will elevate the presence of the library
- c. Dean, College of Business and Aviation
 - i. On-campus interviews will be Aprils, 14th, 15th, and 17th
- d. Dean, College of Nursing
 - i. Survey results are being collected and analyzed
 - ii. This is one of the most difficult administrative positions to hire
 1. A decision should be made within a week or two

C. Review and Recommendation: Community Health Substantive Change

- a. Dr. Bedford turned the meeting over to Dr. Ross to discuss the Community Health substantive changes

- b. The Program Review process provided information about the Community Health program last year
 - i. the program viability was reviewed
 - ii. the program curriculum was reviewed
- c. A Name change is being requested
 - i. New name would be B.S. in Public Health
- d. Looking at program structure
 - i. We already have a minor in geographic systems and have a need in health research in geographical area
- e. Requesting two concentrations
 - i. Community Health
 - ii. GIS Public Health Research
- f. This is not a new program, but rather building on something that we already have
 - i. this will be an action item at the Board of Governors meeting next week
- g. Wendy asked if there were current concentrations or if these were new
 - i. Dr. Ross stated that these are new
 - 1. The program curriculum was not flexible, and this will allow more flexibility especially for transfer students
 - 2. The current program is credit heavy and required a minor
 - ii. Wendy asked if there were any questions or concerns. None were stated.
 - 1. Wendy recommended that this be taken to the Board to ask for approval

D. Aviation Program Update

- a. Jeremy Griffin is returning as the Chief Flight Instructor and has been approved by the FAA to oversee flight operations
- b. Dr. Bedford is working with Aviation Department Chair, Joe Ferguson, and CoBA Dean, Tim Oxley, to build a business plan for the Aviation program
 - i. The program should be self-sufficient if not profitable
- c. Jason thanked Dr. Bedford on behalf of the Board and stated that it has been a large topic among the community and state
- d. Jason asked if there has been a timeline on the Pierpont construction and access to the building
 - i. President Davis stated that it will be 2-3 years

E. Update on 5-year Academic Program Reviews

a. Non-Specialized Accredited Programs:

i. College of Education, Health, & Human Performance

1. Exercise Science, B.S.

ii. College of Liberal Arts

1. Communication Arts, B.A.
2. Psychology, B.S.
3. Spanish, B.A.
4. National Security & Intelligence, M.A

b. Specialized Accredited Programs

i. College of Education, Health, & Human Performance

1. Education, B.A.

ii. College of Business & Aviation

1. Healthcare Administration, MHA

c. Final reports will come in within the next month

d. Thanked Dr. Ross for rebuilding the Program Review process last year and providing a constructive way to review their programs

e. Will be presenting to the Board of Governors in June for approval

f. Already in the next Program Review cycle as well

F. Review and Discussion of the Strategic Objectives within proposed Academic Implementation Plan (AIP)

a. We want to enhance regional relevance and the best way to do that is through partnerships

b. Working groups have representation from across campus

c. Faculty Senate Executive Committee developed the mission statement

d. This is August 2026 – June 2029

e. Objective 2: George Wolf and Dr. Bredeson and Dr. Bedford have been meeting to discuss student success

i. George Wolf wrote Student Success Philosophy, and it is being circulated for approval

ii. This will be shared philosophy among the three areas

f. Kris Warner is excited about MAP-Map and GIS hub idea and thinks that it can be done

- g. Dr. Bedford would like for Board to think about what they are involved in and how we can build partnerships
- h. For the Community Advisory Board Wendy immediately thinks of the United Way Director because of all of the aspects of the community they are involved with
 - i. Thinks that Director of United Way can help identify who the community voices are and where people are needed
 - ii. Dr. Selmeski thinks that there will be more involvement as plan comes online but we need to be ready to engage once it takes shape
 - iii. Wendy stated this is a chance for internships, externships, etc.
 - iv. Individuals appreciate Fairmont State students because they come out as practical thinkers not just academically prepared
 - v. Dr. Bedford stated that we want the Board to hold us accountable for achieving the AIP objectives and AIP Key Results
- i. Wendy recommends that Dr. Bedford have others email their recommendations and ideas to him by May 1st
- j. Wendy stated that she could tell a lot of time and thought has gone into the document and a job well done
- k. Wendy encouraged Board members to share thoughts about what maybe you wish you had when you were in school, needs of communities, and alumni who can be brought in to help their clients/customers

G. Adjournment

Wendy adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:20am and thanked everyone for their participation

Wendy Adkins, Committee Chair

Date