

Fairmont State University Board of Governors – Academic Affairs Committee
Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 9:00am
Hardway 219 and Teams
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Michael Davis, Tanner James, Jason Noland, George Wolf, Cheryl Lewis, Trish DeNoon, Jill Sole, Abbey Zink, Susan Ross, James Matthews, Donna Long, Abby Chapman

Teams: Wendy Adkins, Craig Jennings, Jonathan Board, Angela Schwer, John DeVaul, Allen Bedford, Janna Bredeson, Alicia Kalka, Mary Sortino, Michael Ransom, Brian Selmeski, Lindsey Guinn, Laura Guglani, Jan Kiger

Absent: Jason Pizatella, Harrison Linkous, Drew Paton

A. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:02 a.m. by Wendy Adkins
- b. Adkins mentioned that the June meeting will be a heavy lift and reminded everyone that the committee makes no votes
- c. The committee ensures that all of the information needed is readily available to present to the full Board of Governors and they get a clear picture of the presentation
- d. Adkins then turned the meeting over to Dr. Bedford

B. Review and Recommendation – Five-year Program Review

- a. Bedford thanked Dr. Ross and Dr. Sortino for leading this year's Program Review process
 - i. Bedford mentioned that Dr. Ross has made this a more constructive process and a partnership with the programs which faculty have appreciated
- b. Adkins stated that she is confident in the information and recommendations provided on the program reviews based on the many constituents and steps involved in the review of the programs
- c. Bedford mentioned that we do need to create a better process for tracking alumni
- d. Bedford has asked that each of the programs work with CMCS to look at and create marketing opportunities
- e. Adkins asked that the process of the program review process be reviewed
 - i. Ross and Bedford explained the steps taken to get to the Board of Governor's Approval
- f. Review and recommendation of each program was provided
 - i. Communication Arts, B.A.
 1. Recommendation to continue the program at the current level of activity with action. Program specific actions include:
 - a. Curriculum and program development planning, with attention to evaluating the program title using market information and identifying opportunities to expand disciplinary offerings.

- b. Development of microcredential offerings and expanded experiential learning opportunities, including internships and applied learning experiences supported by the program's video and podcasting resources
- ii. Psychology, B.S.
 - 1. Recommendation to continue the program at the current level of activity with action. Program specific actions include:
 - a. Program assessment planning, with attention to reviewing and revising the assessment plan and updating the curriculum map to strengthen alignment among program-level student learning outcomes, curriculum, assessment measures, and continuous improvement activities.
 - b. Expansion of experiential learning opportunities, including consideration of an experiential learning major map and increased use and promotion of the behavioral science laboratory.
- iii. Spanish, B.A.
 - 1. Recommendation to continue the program at the current level of activity with action. Program specific actions include:
 - a. Explore options for a World Languages Consortium with interested partner institutions to expand access to language offerings and strengthen program sustainability.
 - b. Development of Spanish-language microcredential offerings aligned with student, community, and workforce needs.
- iv. National Security & Intelligence, M.A.
 - 1. Recommendation to continue the program at the current level of activity with action. Program specific actions include:
 - a. Curriculum and program assessment planning, with attention to reviewing the curriculum, strengthening the rigor and alignment of program-level student learning outcomes, and refining the assessment plan to support continuous improvement.
 - b. Development of a quality assurance plan for online instruction to support academic quality, consistency, and student learning across the fully online graduate program.
- v. Education, B.A.
 - 1. Recommendation to continue the program at the current level of activity with action. Program specifications include:
 - a. Development of measurable strategies to address recruitment challenges, strengthen connections with employers and graduates, and respond to changing labor-market conditions in public education.

- b. Evaluation of fluctuations in external financial support and identification of strategies to strengthen long-term program sustainability.
 - vi. Healthcare Administration, MHA
 - 1. Recommendation to continue the program at the current level of activity, with action. Program-specific actions include:
 - a. Curriculum planning, with attention to reviewing and revising the curricular structure to reduce complexity and support a clear and efficient pathway to degree completion.
 - b. Increased engagement with the *College of Business and Aviation Industry Advisory Council* and development of a healthcare-specific advisory council to strengthen alignment with employer and industry needs.
 - c. Strategic positioning of the program's licensure-related advantages to strengthen recruitment and distinguish the program within the regional market.
- g. All Program reviews were recommended to move to the Board of Governor's meeting on June 25, 2026

C. Review and Recommendation – Academic Implementation Plan

- a. The timeline for the Academic Implementation Plan is August 2026 – July 2029
- b. The Mission Alignment Statement was written by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- c. There are 5 Objectives that state where we want to be in five years. This plan does not include how we will get there
 - i. Objective 1: By the end of fiscal year (FY) 2029, 100% of academic programs will demonstrate alignment with regional workforce and/or community needs and support students' career aspirations.
 - ii. Objective 2: By end of FY2029, a collaborative, well-resourced, and future-ready academic support ecosystem contributes to at least a 5% increase in student fall-to-fall persistence and at least 3% improvement in academic progression rates across all programs.
 - iii. Objective 3: Engage at least 20% of employees in personalized career path support by end of FY2029.
 - iv. Objective 4: Enhance the reach and effectiveness of on-campus cultural programming and resources by 10% by end of FY2029.
 - v. Objective 5: Increase high quality community engagement by at least 20% through the division of academic affairs as measured in Master Academic Plan Map (MAP-Map) by end of FY2029.

D. Review and Recommendation - Financial cost outline for the Academic Implementation Plan

- a. There is a new template for the budget proposal which will be used for the presentation to the Board of Governors

- b. There is a request from Strategic Investments which are one-time expenses and will need to be approved by the Board of Governors
 - i. Items include but are not limited to: Courshedog; Gray DI; GIS Hub; expanding community engagement, internships, microcredentials, transfer, graduate, & testing center; Bridge Program; & Professional Development.
 - 1. The Bridge Program is remediation for Reading and Math skills as studies are indicating that there is a gap in students' skills needed to be successful in higher education
 - c. There is a request from Incremental Operating Funds which will be allocated through new funding or repurposing current funding
 - i. Items include but are not limited to: Gray DI Analytics, Career Services, Faculty Stipends, Courshedog, Student-facing Staff, PD, Awards, Incentives
 - ii. We are currently working on a couple grants to help with some of these services
 - d. Dr. Davis reminded the attendees that when the budget is approved, the expenses will need to still be brought back to the Board for actual approval once the details are confirmed
- E. Adjournment
- a. Adkins stated that Academic Affairs is quiet throughout the year and individuals this there is not much happening, but at the end of the year all of the hard work that has been happening behind the scenes comes to the Board and this product is outstanding
 - b. Adkins thanked the deans, chairs, and faculty who attended the meeting and worked on putting the program reviews together as well as those who worked on the committees
 - c. The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m. by Adkins

Wendy Adkins, Committee Chair

Date