



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
AUGUST 17, 2017  
BOARD ROOM, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR FALCON CENTER  
1201 LOCUST AVENUE, FAIRMONT, WV

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Roll Call

Chair Dixie Yann convened a meeting of the Fairmont State University (FSU) Board of Governors on August 17, 2017, beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Falcon Center, and 1201 Locust Avenue, Fairmont, West Virginia.

At the request of Chair Yann, Serena Scully conducted a roll call of the Board of Governors. Present for the meeting were board members Holly Fluharty, Aaron Hawkins, Bill Holmes, Deborah Prezioso, Budd Sapp, Bryan Towns, Alyssa Welling, and Dixie Yann. Chris Courtney was present following the roll call. John Schirripa and Frank Washenitz were absent.

Others present were Interim President Jones and President's Council members Cindy Curry, Christina Lavorata, John Lympny, Tim McNeely, Tim Oxley, Misty Poe, and Al Skudzinskas. Tom Tucker, Assistant Vice President for Facilities; Stephanie Slaubaugh, Construction Manager; Ryan Courtney, Director of Internal Operations; RJ Gimbl, President of the Fairmont State Foundation; Monica Cochran, Director of Procurement; Debbie Stiles, Budget Director; Robynn Shannon, Director of Institutional Assessment and Advancement; Amantha Cole, Director of Planning and Grants; Jack Kirby, Director of Graduate Studies; Alicia Kalka, Director of Housing and Residence Life; Richard Harvey, School of Business Dean; and Ashley Tasker, School of Business Faculty.

B. Public Comment

Bill Holmes reported that no one had signed up for public comment.

C. Approval of Agenda

Bryan Towns made a motion to approve the agenda. Aaron Hawkins seconded. The motion passed.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2017**

Bryan Towns made a motion to approve the minutes of June 15, 2017. Budd Sapp seconded. The motion passed.

## **III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- A. Chair Yann gave a special welcome to Alyssa Welling, new student representative on the Board of Governors.
- B. There were many groups/camps/clubs on campus all summer. It was wonderful to see the level of community engagement.
- C. Chair Yann gave an update on the Presidential search. There are eight semi-finalists who will be participating in Skype interviews on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Following those interviews, 3-5 candidates will be brought to campus. For the October 19<sup>th</sup> BOG meeting, the search committee will provide their evaluations to the board. The process is still on track to bring the new President on board January 1, 2018.

## **IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Interim President Jones discussed the upcoming meeting between Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community and Technical College. The Presidents and VP level administrators are getting together to discuss issues and problems and discuss what can be done to help relations between the two schools.
- B. He also discussed the upcoming meeting with representatives from the Foundation, the Alumni Association, and Fairmont State to see how to best move forward and how we can improve the alignment and relationship between all involved.
- C. Dr. Jones introduced Dr. Harvey, Director of Harrison County Operations. Dr. Harvey is working to better align the Caperton Center, Byrd Center, and CVB locations.
- D. Interim President Jones also discussed the topic of international students. We currently have 84 international students, which is not enough. We will be bringing a company to campus (Edu Alliance) on August 31<sup>st</sup> who will hopefully give us ideas to strengthen in those areas.
- E. He also mentioned online education and the opportunity we have to expand in that area. Synergis will be coming to campus on September 7<sup>th</sup> to work with various people and will provide information on a potential partnership.

## V. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

### A. Constituent Report (Ashley Tasker)

Ashley Tasker is a current faculty member in the School of Business, along with Program Coordinator for the Healthcare Management program. Dr. Tasker originally began at FSU as part of the Title III grant, three years ago.

Ashley has been a part of the course redesign, peer mentoring program, and active learning strategies for the School of Business. Prior to these initiatives/programs, the D-F-W rate was 51% in a basic economics course; once these initiatives/programs were implemented, the D-F-W rates declined to 23.7%.

### B. RJ Gimbl, President and CEO of the Fairmont State Foundation, reported that the second year of the revitalized Fairmont Fund continues to move forward. The all alumni mailing from May raised approximately \$16,000 from 130 donors.

Mr. Gimbl stated that they have closed and are tracking approximately \$500,000 in major gifts this calendar year. Not included in that total is an additional \$105,000 in gifts and pledges to support renovations in the Feaster Center.

RJ mentioned the reception being hosted during homecoming for the 1967 football team, along with the two pre-game events planned for the Shaw house before football games this fall.

Fairmont State has received funding from the Bowers Trust in the amount of \$15,000. This award is assisting in the purchase of lab equipment in natural sciences as well as creating a summer camp for high school age students to have hands on experience with the equipment and its applications.

### C. Construction Project Updates (Tom Tucker and Stephanie Slaubaugh)

Stephanie Slaubaugh, Construction Manager, gave an update on the various projects that are currently underway and have recently been completed on campus.

MMA and MMB in the library have completed renovations.

The parking lot paving projects at Feaster Center, Squibb Wilson, Pence Hall, and University Terrace have all been completed.

Turley Center and Wallman Hall are currently being re-roofed.

There were 18 contractors at the pre-bid for the Charles Pointe location earlier this week.

The MS4 Project is still underway. They are working with the City of Fairmont on the rehabilitation project for a local stream.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Budd Sapp moved to accept the following Consent Agenda:

- A. Financial Reports for period ending May 31, 2017

Bryan Towns seconded. The motion passed.

**VII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Aaron Hawkins, Chair)**

Mr. Aaron Hawkins, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee asked that Dr. Christina Lavorata, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, give a brief update.

Dr. Lavorata presented the Graduate Studies Report and deferred to Dr. Jack Kirby. Dr. Kirby provided a brief summary of information in the report.

**VIII. ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Frank Washenitz, Chair)**

Frank Washenitz, Chair of the Athletic Affairs Committee, was absent. Tim McNeely, Athletic Director, give an update for the Athletic Affairs Committee.

Mr. McNeely advised that season football tickets have been mailed out. He also mentioned that there is a current plan being made for the Presidential Suite for home games.

Last year athletics began inviting school-aged kids to the home games. Complementary tickets are given out to the kids who come with an adult. They will be continuing this for the upcoming season.

Tim also advised that the Athletic Master Plan has reached the next step and athletics is almost ready to announce the successful vendor.

**IX. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE (Dixie Yann, Chair)**

Dixie Yann reported that the By-Laws committee has not met.

**X. ENROLLMENT/HOUSING-STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE (Bill Holmes, Chair)**

Bill Holmes, Chair of the Enrollment/Housing-Student Life Committee asked that Tim Oxley, Vice President of Student Services, give an update for the Enrollment/Housing-Student Life Committee.

Dr. Oxley provided handouts regarding enrollment and student housing.

Fairmont State is down 170 undergraduate students from this time last year, with the largest portion being returning students.

Housing is at 99.3% total occupancy; there are only 8 empty beds.

Dr. Oxley provided an enrollment summary for the timeframe of 2011-2017. The trend line has been declining almost every year since 2011 in overall headcount. There has also been a large decrease in transfer students, 35% from 2011 to present.

He also discussed that his units are currently looking at our retention efforts and are continuing to move forward with new initiatives.

Budd Sapp mentioned multiple positions that used to be on campus that are no longer staffed (i.e. Online Learning and Multicultural Affairs office). He, along with other board members, feel this is one of the reasons for the drop in total headcount.

**XI. FINANCE COMMITTEE (John Schirripa, Chair)**

John Schirripa, Chair of the Finance Committee, was absent. Al Skudzinskas provided information on the Appropriation Request and Capital Appropriation Request.

Bill Holmes moved to approve the following:

A. FY 2019 Appropriation Request

Aaron Hawkins seconded. The motion passed.

Chris Courtney moved to approve the following:

A. FY 2019 Capital Appropriation Request

Aaron Hawkins seconded. The motion passed.

**XII. STUDENT HOUSING COMMITTEE (Aaron Hawkins, Chair)**

Aaron Hawkins, Chair of the Student Housing Committee thanked Stephanie Slaubaugh and Tom Tucker for all of their hard work.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Dixie Yann, Chair)**

Dixie Yann reported that the Executive Committee has not met.

**XIV. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Aaron Hawkins made a motion to go into Executive Session "Under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss personnel matters."

Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

Aaron Hawkins made a motion to rise from Executive Session. Budd Sapp seconded. The motion passed.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Bill Holmes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Budd Sapp seconded. The motion passed.

Dixie Yann 10/12/17 FSU Board of Governors' Chair  
Dixie Yann Date

Aaron Hawkins 10/24/17 FSU Board of Governors' Secretary  
Aaron Hawkins Date