



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2021**  
**WEBEX MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Roll Call

Chair David Goldberg convened a meeting of the Fairmont State University Board of Governors on February 18, 2021, beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. via WebEx.

At the request of Chair Goldberg, Serena Scully, Chief of Staff, conducted a roll call of the Board of Governors. Present for the meeting were board members Wendy Adkins, Jon Dodds, David Goldberg, Dr. Gina Fantasia, Rusty Huston, Jason Pizatella, Deborah Prezioso, and Dixie Yann. Jason Pizatella was present following roll call at 9:01. Maiya Bennett was present following roll call at 9:15. Kevin Rogers and John Schirripa were absent. David Goldberg left the meeting at 9:57 and returned at 10:55.

Others present were President Martin and President's Executive Leadership Team members Greg Bamberger, Cindy Curry, Lyndsey Dugan, Dr. Rick Stephens, Dr. Joy Hatch, Merri Incitti, Christa Kwiatkowski, and Dr. Jacqueline L. Sikora. Others present included Dr. Amanda Metcalf, Dean, School of Education; Dr. Tim Oxley, Dean, School of Business and Aviation; Dr. Chris Kast, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Laura Clayton, Dean, School of Nursing; Dr. Richard Harvey, Dean of Continuing Education and Community Engagement; Susan Ross, Executive Director of Academic Programs; Jacob Abrams, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness; Julie Cryser, President of the Fairmont State Foundation; Kim Pellillo, Fairmont State Foundation Board Member; Alesia Allison, Fairmont State Foundation Director of Operations; Hannah Mersing, Assistant Director of Communications; Janet Floyd, Faculty Athletic Representative and Faculty; and Alicia Kalka, Executive Director of Resident and Student Life.

B. Public Comment

Serena Scully advised that no public comments had been received.

C. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Gina Fantasia made a motion to approve the agenda. Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2020, AND DECEMBER 16, 2020**

Dixie Yann made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2020, and December 16, 2020. Jon Dodds seconded. The motion passed.

**III. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Wendy Adkins, Chair)**

Mrs. Wendy Adkins, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, asked that Dr. Rick Stephens provide an update.

Dr. Rick Stephens advised that there are multiple program reviews on the agenda. He advised that the below programs are being requested to be continued at the current level:

- B.A. in Education
- B.A. in Psychology
- B.S. in Aviation
- B.S. in Exercise Science

Dr. Stephens discussed that two of the programs are being presented for continuation with corrective action. The request is for the two programs to report back to the Board of Governors in one year on plans developed to increase enrollment in the majors and implementation progress. The Board will review progress and determine further action at that time.

- B.A. in Communication Arts
- B.A. in Spanish

Mrs. Dixie Yann asked if the Spanish program was approved for corrective action previously. Dr. Stephens advised that he was unsure, but a reset button has been implemented for the program reviews. Ms. Merri Incitti and Dr. Susan Ross have developed a new schedule for program reviews, and all academic areas have been made aware of their review dates.

Dr. Gina Fantasia asked if the administration would be taking a full look at the two programs being asked to be reviewed again in one year. She inquired if there would be a review of resources, etc. Dr. Stephens advised that both programs would have a complete review, including a resource review.

Rusty Hutson made a motion to accept the following:

- A. Specially Accredited 5 Year Program Review
  - B.A. in Education – Continuation at Current Level

**B. 5 Year Comprehensive Program Reviews**

B.A. in Communication Arts – Continue with Corrective Action (Report to Board in One Year)

B.A. in Psychology – Continuation at Current Level

B.A. in Spanish – Continue with Corrective Action (Report to Board in One Year)

B.S. in Aviation – Continuation at Current Level

B.S. in Exercise Science – Continuation at Current Level

Wendy Adkins seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Stephens asked that Dr. Susan Ross present the Academic Forgiveness Policy. Dr. Ross advised that the policy is an update to a current policy. The policy clarifies how academic forgiveness can be applied. The policy is consistent with WV HEPC Series 22 and BOG policy 15.

Dr. Gina Fantasia made a motion to accept the following:

**C. Academic Forgiveness Policy**

Rusty Hutson seconded. The motion passed.

**IV. ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Rusty Hutson, Chair)**

Mr. Rusty Hutson, Chair of the Athletic Affairs Committee, advised that the Athletic Affairs Committee met on January 28<sup>th</sup> and asked that Mr. Greg Bamberger provide an update.

Mr. Bamberger presented the athletic strategic plan, which is set up in a phased approach.

Mr. Goldberg inquired as to why phase 3 would come before phase 4? Could the phases be switched? Mr. Bamberger advised that some of the individuals need to be relocated to the new facility before some of the improvements can be made in the Feaster Center

Dr. Gina Fantasia made a motion to accept the following:

**A. Athletic Strategic Plan Draft**

Rusty Hutson seconded. The motion passed.

**V. BYLAWS COMMITTEE (Deborah Prezioso, Chair)**

Deborah Prezioso, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, advised that the Bylaws Committee met on January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup> and asked that Dr. Jacqueline L. Sikora provide an update.

Dr. Sikora advised that current Policy GA-01 has been restructured into two separate policies because of the new Title IX regulations, which went into effect on August 14, 2020. The public comment period is over, and the comments received are included in the board packet.

Rusty Hutson made a motion to accept the following:

- A. Approval of Policy GA-01 – Rule Regarding Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Misconduct, Stalking, Retaliation, and Relationships (30-Day Comment Period Over)

Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to accept the following:

- B. Approval of Policy GA-06 – Rule Regarding Title IX Sexual Harassment (30-Day Comment Period Over)

Dr. Gina Fantasia seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Sikora advised that the Bylaws Committee met twice regarding Policy 35.

Dr. Fantasia asked if the policy would come back to the Bylaws Committee or the full board if there were significant comments following the upcoming meeting with the Foundation. David Goldberg advised that all comments including the Foundation's comments would be reviewed, included with the policy, and, if significant, brought back to the Bylaws Committee in March. Currently, the process is for all policies to return to the full Board for additional action or final approval following the thirty-day comment period.

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to accept the following:

- C. Approval for Public Comment – Policy 35: Gift Acceptance Policy

Jon Dodds seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Sikora advised that Policy 39 follows the Federal Drug Free Schools Act. The current policy has not been reviewed for a significant time and is not current with regulations.

Dr. Gina Fantasia made a motion to accept the following:

D. Approval for Public Comment – Policy 39: Drug Policy

Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

## **VI. ENROLLMENT, HOUSING & STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE (Kevin Rogers, Chair)**

Kevin Rogers, Chair of the Enrollment, Housing & Student Life Committee, was absent. Chair Goldberg asked that Dr. Jacqueline L. Sikora and Dr. Joy Hatch provide updates.

Dr. Sikora shared an update on housing. There are currently two students in the residence halls with active COVID test/results. There are a total of six total housing students in quarantine. Housing plans has hired a COVID coordinator to provide consistent and increased contact with students impacted by the COVID pandemic.

Currently, 738 students have been assigned for spring 2021. – 62.8% occupied; that is down 103 assignments compared to this time last year. We are also down 85 Pierpont students compared to this time last year. Pierpont has 43 students currently in housing. The total number of cancelations received is 295.

Dr. Sikora also shared that there are currently 523 assignments for fall 2021; 28 of those assignments are Pierpont students. Pence will remain offline for quarantine/isolation purposes. Morrow may also remain offline, depending on the need.

Alicia Kalka, Director of Housing and Residence Life, advised that her staff are currently reaching out to students this semester for a health and safety and well-check; which is another opportunity to help retain students.

The Housing and Residence Life team is also reaching out to students regarding midterm grades. If a housing student has two or more Ds or Fs, they will be contacted. The team talks to students and suggests that they visit the tutoring and testing center, meet with their advisor, etc.

Mrs. Kalka's team is also currently working to bring blessing boxes to campus to assist the campus community with needs they may have.

Dr. Joy Hatch shared a PowerPoint presentation and gave an enrollment update. Dr. Hatch discussed some of the strategies that are taking place to meet the future needs of the University. Some of the changes taking place in recruitment include increased name-buys, territory management, and repackaging and leveraging scholarships. There are also multiple digital marketing campaigns and much more frequent outreach and communication to students.

Dr. Hatch advised that there were 208 recruitment and admissions interactions with students yesterday, and last week there were 114,361 interactions. Today there is more communication on a much more regular basis with students than occurred last year at this time.

Dr. Hatch also advised that there are currently ten SOAR events scheduled, beginning this evening. The SOAR event is being digitally recreated and will provide students an opportunity to visit various areas. Students admitted to the University and attending a SOAR event receive a \$500 scholarship for four years.

Mr. Rusty Hutson inquired about the Every Gift Matters Campaign and asked if the dollars from that could help the large loss of junior and senior students. Mrs. Kwiatkowski and Dr. Martin advised that EGM is earmarked to help bridge the gap between 2-year and 4-year scholarships and that many of the outstanding balances for those students are well above \$2,000 each. Utilizing the funds currently held for EGM would not be enough to equitably distribute enough dollars among all students to help keep them enrolled.

Dr. Gina Fantasia inquired if there has been communication to those students that they can apply for assistance. Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised that there has been.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised that there is currently just under \$188,000 in cash and just over \$100,000 in future pledges as of December 31, 2020 in the Every Gift Matters account.

Mr. Hutson requested that Mrs. Kwiatkowski provide information regarding the unpaid receivables and the aging of those accounts at the next finance committee meeting. Mr. Hutson also requested a discussion regarding the Every Gift Matters account and what those monies could be used for.

Dr. Fantasia commended Dr. Hatch and her staff for their efforts.

## **VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE (John Schirripa, Chair)**

John Schirripa, Chair of the Finance Committee, was absent. Mrs. Christa Kwiatkowski, CFO, advised that the Finance Committee met on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and provided a brief update.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised the November and December financials have been provided in the board packet. Mrs. Kwiatkowski provided a summary of the information provided in the board packet.

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to accept the following:

- A. Financial Reports for the periods ending November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020

Jon Dodds seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Hutson inquired about the upcoming bond payment. Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised that the payment will be made in April. Mr. Hutson asked if additional funds have been received from Pierpont since the Finance Committee and Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised that we have not. She also advised that the payments received from Pierpont have been later and later each time.

Mr. Hutson requested that Mrs. Kwiatkowski provide him detailed information regarding Pierpont and payment information from the last five years.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski shared a PowerPoint presentation that compared this fiscal year to the most recent fiscal years.

The second round of CARES Act funding has been received. The application opened on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and by Monday, over 1,000 applications had already been received – which is much higher than the first disbursement.

Regarding Pierpont, year-to-date payments through January of this year compared to January of last year are down over half a million dollars. Fairmont State is housing and feeding students without receiving any payments for those services from Pierpont.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

David Goldberg, Chair of the Executive Committee, advised that the Executive Committee met on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and multiple items were discussed:

- Information from Human Resources regarding staff employment and resignations
- COVID strategies
- Recent resignation from the VP of SS
- Provost search
- Pierpont and the ongoing discussion with the legislature
- Campus review regarding maintenance and program space

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Lyndsey Dugan, VP of University Relations and Marketing, provided an update.

Mrs. Dugan advised that her department is currently working on strategies to help mitigate the attrition in housing and enrollment.

University Relations and Marketing launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the fall 2021 marketing campaign in December. The main goal of that phase was to convert the current prospects into applicants.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the 2021 recruitment plan is focused on digital advertisement to targeted audiences.

President Mirta Martin advised that the University is 5 weeks into the semester, and has 10 weeks to meet the goal to finish the semester face-to-face. She expressed gratitude and pride for the faculty's efforts to teach our students in a face-to-face modality; she also expressed gratitude for the dedication and resilience of the staff and the students to get us this far.

Dr. Martin expressed how proud she is of winter sports. The winter sports have had a success rate of 93% contest completion, which exceeded expectations.

Dr. Martin also advised that state-wide, Promise Scholarship applications are down 42% from this time last year and FAFSA applications are down 21% from this time last year.

Currently, the McClain Scholarship applicants are being interviewed.

## **X. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Jon Dodds made a motion to go into Executive Session Under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), (b)(9), and (b)(12) to discuss confidential and deliberative matters relating to: Fairmont State University strategic planning, personnel and an update from general counsel.

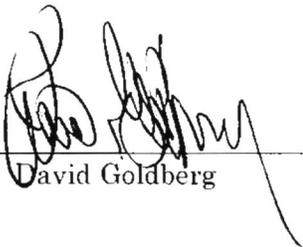
Wendy Adkins seconded. The motion passed.

Maiya Bennett made a motion to rise from Executive Session. Rusty Hutson seconded. The motion passed.

Chair Goldberg advised that no action or votes were taken in executive session.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Gina Fantasia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jon Dodds seconded. The motion passed.

  
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David Goldberg                      3/8/21                      FSU Board of Governors' Chair  
Date

  
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Deborah Prezioso                      3/12/21                      FSU Board of Governors' Secretary  
Date