



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 18, 2020**  
**WEBEX MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Roll Call

Chair Dixie Yann convened a meeting of the Fairmont State University Board of Governors on June 18, 2020, beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. via WebEx.

At the request of Chair Yann, Serena Scully, Chief of Staff, conducted a roll call of the Board of Governors. Present for the meeting were board members Wendy Adkins, Maiya Bennett, Dr. Chris Courtney, Jon Dodds, David Goldberg, Rusty Hutson, Deborah Prezioso, Jay Puccio, Kevin Rogers, Dr. Budd Sapp, John Schirripa and Dixie Yann.

Others present were President Martin and President's Executive Leadership Team members Lyndsey Dugan, Richard Harvey, Joy Hatch, Merri Incitti, Christa Kwiatkowski, and Jacqueline Sikora. Tim Oxley, Dean, School of Business; Laura Clayton, Associate Dean, School of Nursing; Chris Kast, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Steve Roof, Dean, College of Science and Technology; Amanda Metcalf, Interim Associate Dean, School of Education, Health and Human Performance; Jessica Sharps, Executive Director of University Relations and Marketing; Victoria Cann, Social Media and Digital Content Specialist; Ryan Courtney, Interim Athletic Director; Pat Snively, Senior Associate Director of Athletics; Jacob Abrams, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness; Jessie Mazzie, IT Manager; Sherry Mitchell, SciTech Advisor; Multiple faculty members: Fran Kirk, Susan Cato-Chapman, Dan Eichenbaum, Pam Pittman, Donna Long, M.E. Gamble, Erica Harvey, Elizabeth Wotring-Nelson, Matt Hokom, Greg DeVito, and Julie Reneau. Multiple community members were also present.

B. Public Comment

Chair Yann advised that public comments had been received and had been forwarded to all board members prior to the meeting. She requested that Serena Scully post all public comments received as an attachment to the meeting minutes.

C. Approval of Agenda

Budd Sapp made a motion to approve the agenda. David Goldberg seconded. The motion passed.

D. Approval of 2020-2021 Meeting Dates

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to approve the agenda. Kevin Rogers seconded. The motion passed.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2020**

Jon Dodds made a motion to approve the minutes of May 21, 2020. Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

**III. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Deborah Prezioso, Chair)**

Mrs. Deborah Prezioso, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, advised that the Academic Affairs Committee has two items for the agenda and asked that Dr. Richard Harvey, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, give an update.

Dr. Harvey presented the curriculum proposal for Bachelor of Science in Strategic Leadership (BSSL).

Dr. Budd Sapp made a motion to accept the following:

A. Curriculum Proposal for Bachelor of Science in Strategic Leadership (BSSL)

John Schirripa seconded. The motion passed.

B. Discussion Concerning Status of Discontinuation of Music and Theater Programs

Chair Yann advised that over the last few weeks, the members of the Board of Governors have been engaged in reviewing the comments and other statements from the community regarding the Board's May 21, 2020 decision to discontinue the Theater and Music Academic programs.

Chair Yann advised that for many years, the Theater and Music Academic programs have not been sustainable per the HEPC guidelines. The programs were allowed to continue despite declining numbers and increased cost to the institution. Because the Board recognizes the need for an arts-based presence on campus and in the community, before taking action, the Board tasked the Administration with creating

options to retain such a presence. Those options were discussed at the Academic Affairs committee level as well as with the full Board.

Chair Yann verified that the Board's actions were within the law and part of the fiduciary responsibility in which the Board was tasked. However, because of the technical issues which existed during the April 27, 2020 Academic Affairs meeting and the May 21, 2020 Board meeting, the Scenario Reconfigurations have been published on the Fairmont State University website. By providing this information, it is the Board's hope to educate the public on institutional processes and to clear up any confusion surrounding the May 21, 2020 vote.

Chair Yann asked that any Board members who would like to discuss the Theater and Music Academic programs please do so.

Wendy Adkins discussed her agreement with Chair Yann's comments and provided some insight to her vote regarding the programs. Mrs. Adkins advised that she attended at least five meetings in which the Theater and Music programs were discussed during some of those meetings she heard the public's comments; she has also reviewed all of the public comments submitted by the community which focused on the loss of the arts in Marion County. Mrs. Adkins also discussed the fiduciary duty that she has to the University in regards to the viability of the programs, and confirmed that the Board was provided graduation and enrollment numbers for the past five years, the program reviews created by the faculty and submitted in November 2019, and the costs associated with operating the programs. She also stated that she was aware that the Theater and Music programs were placed on corrective action by the Board in May 2019 and that those faculty members were aware of that action.

David Goldberg advised that he agreed with Mrs. Adkins' comments and that he feels it is the responsibility of Board members to ensure the fiscal viability of programs. While like Mrs. Adkins, he too has been a patron of the Arts, he believes the Theater and Music programs are not financially viable. That is the reason for his vote to discontinue the programs. He believes the Community option will keep music and theater opportunities at the University.

Deborah Prezioso discussed that she has been on the Academic Affairs committee for over three years. She stated that at one of the first meetings she attended, there were concerns presented regarding the Music and Theater programs. She also advised that over the last two years, the Academic Affairs committee has taken the time to review and discuss both the Music and Theater programs.

Dr. Budd Sapp advised that although focused reviews are verified by the HEPC, most faculty members on campus are not familiar with those types of reviews and did not understand what it meant for their programs to be under a focused review.

Dr. Sapp also advised that he feels that the Provost's office is responsible for ensuring each program is aware when they are up for a review and it was not the fault of the individual programs that in the past, reviews were not submitted on time in accordance with HEPC requirements.

Dr. Sapp also stated that during the May 21, 2020 executive session of the board meeting he was at a doctor's appointment and therefore did not have the opportunity to discuss the scenarios – thus, his decision to abstain from the vote.

Jon Dodds acknowledged that he had received and read all of the public comments that were received. He also agreed with Mrs. Adkins and Mr. Goldberg's comments regarding the Music and Theater programs.

David Goldberg made a motion to accept the following:

Discontinue the academic programs in Music and Theater, including Music and Theater Education, with a one-year teach-out of these programs per HEPC guidelines; the restructuring of the Academy of the Arts, Community Theater and Community Music/Choir programming, and the retention of the Fairmont State University Marching Band.

Wendy Adkins seconded.

11 approved, 1 opposed (Dr. Budd Sapp), 0 abstained. The motion passed.

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

John Schirripa, Chair of the Finance Committee, advised that the Finance committee met on June 3 and asked Christa Kwiatkowski, CFO, to provide a brief update.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised the April financials have been provided in the board packet. In addition, a financial summary document that summarizes the detailed information in the board packet was shared.

Mr. Schirripa requested that for the next meeting, Mrs. Kwiatkowski show information regarding the COVID expenses and associated lack of revenue.

David Goldberg requested that Mrs. Kwiatkowski also forecast the revenue shortfalls regarding COVID prior to the next board meeting.

David Goldberg made a motion to accept the following:

A. Financial Reports for the period ending April 30, 2019

Jon Dodds seconded. The motion passed.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised that in the best interest of the University and its students, the request regarding fees for FY 2021, includes no increases.

David Goldberg made a motion to accept the following:

B. Requested Fees for FY 2021

Rusty Hutson seconded. The motion passed.

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to accept the following:

C. Capital Projects for FY 2021

Dr. Budd Sapp seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Budd Sapp made a motion to accept the following:

D. FY 2021 Education and General (E&G) Budget

E. FY 2021 Fund Manager Budgets

F. FY 2021 Auxiliary Budgets

Rusty Hutson seconded. The motion passed.

John Schirripa requested that Mrs. Kwiatkowski track the projected revenues based on enrollment and share with the Finance Committee prior to the next meeting.

**V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Jay Puccio, Chair)**

Jay Puccio advised that the Nominating Committee met on May 28 and agreed upon a new slate of officers.

Dr. Budd Sapp made a motion to accept the below Board of Governors' Officers:

David Goldberg – Chair

Rusty Hutson – Vice-Chair

Deborah Prezioso - Secretary

John Schirripa seconded. The motion passed.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Yann asked if there was any new business to bring before the Board.

Dr. Budd Sapp inquired regarding the enrollment numbers for Fall courses and why the break-even point for undergraduate and graduate courses were the same. President Martin advised that the enrollment for Fall courses is an ongoing issue being addressed with the deans almost daily. She advised that we are currently at about 60-70% enrolled, so the final decision as to whether or not some courses will be taught cannot yet be made and shared with faculty. It is imperative, she said, that faculty actively reach out to new and returning students so they can be enrolled.

Dr. Sapp also asked about the budget cuts. He inquired if the budget cuts would affect promotion and tenure. President Martin advised that promotion and tenure are in code and therefore will not be cut.

Dr. Sapp asked if there was a plan for faculty to return to their offices within the next 4-6 weeks to obtain items that they may need. President Martin advised that the procedure that has existed since the pandemic started has not changed. Individuals who need to come onto campus should contact Chief Swain to make arrangements. In addition, Chief Swain, in conjunction with the National Guard and the local health department, are designing a roadmap for returning to campus that will provide more information. In the meantime, faculty should continue to reach out to Chief Swain to make individual arrangements.

Dr. Sapp also inquired if new faculty contracts would be honored if enrollment numbers were not hit. President Martin advised that the University has issued letters of appointments for new faculty. It is the University's expectations that based on the deans' justification for the positions, the classes will run. It is still expected that all faculty and staff should be actively trying to yield the incoming and returning class.

### **VIII. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to go into Executive Session "I move this board to go into executive session to discuss confidential, legal, personnel and deliberative matters regarding University strategic priorities and the on-going COVID-19 response as well as a report by the General Counsel."

Wendy Adkins seconded. The motion passed.

Chair Yann advised that the meeting will resume following executive session.

Jon Dodds made a motion to rise from Executive Session. Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

Chair Yann thanked Dr. Chris Courtney for his service and generosity to the Board over the last eight years. Dr. Courtney's term has expired but he will continue to serve until replaced.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

David Goldberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Schirripa seconded.  
The motion passed.

Dixie Spann 6/18/2020 FSU Board of Governors' Chair  
Dixie Yann Date

Deborah Prezioso 7/15/2020 FSU Board of Governors' Secretary  
Deborah Prezioso Date