



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2020
WEBEX MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

Chair David Goldberg convened a meeting of the Fairmont State University Board of Governors on October 15, 2020, 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 David Goldberg, Dr. Gina Fantasia, Jason Pizatella, Deborah Prezioso, Jay Puccio, John Schirripa, and Dixie Yann. Wendy Adkins, Maiya Bennett, and Jon Dodds were present following roll call. Rusty Hutson and Kevin Rogers were absent.

Others present were President Martin and President's Executive Leadership Team members Greg Bamberger, Cindy Curry, Lyndsey Dugan, Dr. Peter Gitau, Dr. Rick Stephens, Dr. Joy Hatch, Merri Incitti, Christa Kwiatkowski, and Dr. Jacqueline Sikora. Others present included Dr. Susan Ross, Executive Director of Academic Programs; Dr. Amanda Metcalf, Associate Dean, School of Education; Dr. Richard Harvey, Dean of Continuing Education and Community Engagement; Jessica Sharps, Executive Director of University Relations and Marketing; Jacob Abrams, Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness; John DeVault, Executive Director, Academic Advising Center; Katie Byers, Marketing and Communications Coordinator; Hannah Mersing, Assistant Director of Communications; and Alicia Kalka, Executive Director of Resident and Student Life.

B. Public Comment

Chair Goldberg advised that one public comment had been received and forwarded to all board members prior to the meeting.

C. Approval of Agenda

John Schirripa made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Gina Fantasia seconded. The motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2020

Jason Pizatella made a motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2020 and September 10, 2020. Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

III. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Wendy Adkins, Chair)

Mrs. Wendy Adkins, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, was absent for the committee report. Dr. Rick Stephens reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met on Monday, September 28th and he asked that Dr. Amanda Metcalf present the two agenda items.

Dr. Metcalf advised that the West Virginia Department of Education request that the two curriculum proposals that had previously been approved by the board be separated. The certificates have not changed; they have only been separated.

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

- A. Curriculum Proposal: Post-Master's Educational Leadership – Principal Certificate
- B. Curriculum Proposal: Post-Master's Educational Leadership – Superintendent Certificate

John Schirripa seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Stephens advised that there has been an excellent job done in communication regarding COVID and faculty. Faculty feel very informed and appreciate the communication.

Dr. Fantasia advised that Dr. Stephens has done a good job keeping the dialog open with the faculty senate and addressing concerns.

IV. BYLAWS COMMITTEE (Deborah Prezioso, Chair)

Deborah Prezioso, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, advised that the Bylaws Committee met on September 22nd and asked that Dr. Jacqueline Sikora provide an update.

Dr. Sikora advised that Policy GA-05 had been previously presented to the board and has completed the public comment process. Following receipt of the public comments, an update was made to the policy, via the Bylaws Committee.

Jason Pizatella made a motion to accept the following:

A. Policy GA-05: FOIA

Revised by Committee following Public Comment Period

Dixie Yann seconded. The motion passed.

V. ENROLLMENT, HOUSING & STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE (Kevin Rogers, Chair)

Kevin Rogers, Chair of the Enrollment, Housing & Student Life Committee, was absent. President Martin advised that the committee met on October 6th and asked that Dr. Jacqueline Sikora and Dr. Joy Hatch provide updates.

Dr. Jacqueline Sikora shared an update on housing. Housing is currently at 76% occupied. At the committee meeting, it was discussed that the requests to be removed from housing have all been reviewed. Most of those requests were related solely to COVID.

Dr. Sikora did advise that a large number of students have signed up for bed renewal for Spring 2021; the numbers are very encouraging.

Pierpont occupancy is at 76 students this year in our housing population.

Mr. Goldberg inquired about Pierpont and their enrollment as a total compared to how many students are currently in housing. Dr. Sikora advised that we do not yet, have Pierpont's enrollment information – but as today is census day we should have that information within a few weeks, once it's made public by the HEPC.

Dr. Joy Hatch confirmed that today is the census date, a snapshot of all students' enrollment up to October 15th. That number will become the official enrollment number used for state reporting for Fall 2020.

Dr. Hatch presented current enrollment data. First-time freshman, dual enrollment, other students (non-degree seeking students), and graduate students are up from this time last year; which equates to overall enrollment being up this year compared to the previous year. In-state and out-of-state students both increased. Specifically, compared to early Fall 2019 data, out-of-state enrollment grew by 2%, with 120 students taking advantage of the newly introduced Metro tuition rate, and first-time freshman posted enrollment gains of 3%. The number of students enrolled in graduate programs outpaced early Fall 2019 enrollment by approximately 15%. The number of high school students engaged in dual enrollment course offerings topped last Fall's figures by over 50%. The University is also retaining more students, with

almost 70% of full-time first-time freshmen enrolled in Fall 2019 continuing their education through Fall 2020, an improvement of over 6 percentage points over previous year retention rates. Among several metrics, the University's overall enrollment growth also benefitted from 49.7% admissions yield rate, compared to 34% from Fall 2019.

VI. FINANCE COMMITTEE (John Schirripa, Chair)

John Schirripa, Chair of the Finance Committee, advised that the Finance committee met on September 30th and asked that Christa Kwiatkowski, CFO, provide a brief update.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised the July and August 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.

David Goldberg inquired if there was a concern regarding forecasting. Christa advised that she currently does not have a great concern. She advised that she meets every other week with housing, athletics, and the Falcon Center and continues to closely monitor them all.

Mr. Goldberg also inquired about how the University is controlling the spending. He advised that although the University is being very careful, monies are still being invested in the physical plant, faculty, new hires, etc. President Martin concurred with Chairman Goldberg and advised that the University is not in a cost-cutting mode – but has remained in a cost-containment mode since her arrival. She expressed gratitude to faculty, staff, and students for embracing the strategies.

John Dodds made a motion to accept the following:

A. Financial Reports for the periods ending July 31, 2020 and August 31, 2020

Wendy Adkins seconded. The motion passed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

President Martin welcomed two new Executive Leadership team members: Vice President for Student Success, Dr. Peter Gitau, and Director of Athletics, Greg Bamberger.

Fairmont State made its debut in US News and World Report with multiple rankings in the nation's Top 100 schools.

Dr. Martin advised that the final CARES Act distribution has been downloaded, and the application has been taken down. As of October 13th, over 3,185 applications

were received, and 2,346 were deemed to be eligible. Fairmont State was able to disburse 1.714 million dollars.

President Martin shared that even in the midst of a pandemic, University enrollment is up over 1.2%, the yield rate is up 13%, and the retention rate is up by 6.6%.

This past Monday, the University implemented the Governor's directive to begin surveillance testing. Ten percent (10%) of the campus population will be tested weekly by stratified sampling. Currently, 156 samples have already been returned to the university; all were negative, meaning that the COVID-19 virus was not detected. We currently have two active cases of COVID-19 – both individuals are off-campus.

Dr. Martin expressed her gratitude for the two milestone gifts celebrated last month, both for the School of Nursing; the Mon Health commitment of \$1 million, and the half a million-dollar gift from Rusty & Kimberly Hutson.

President Martin reminded everyone of the Day of Giving that is scheduled for October 29th. The Foundation has secured a significant amount of challenge gifts.

President Martin asked that the VP of University Relations and Marketing, Lyndsey Dugan, provided a brief update. Mrs. Dugan advised that multiple videos have been created to showcase the innovating things that our faculty have created throughout the semester.

Mrs. Dugan shared information regarding marketing, advertising, communication plans, and campaigns that will help move the prospective students through the admissions process for the upcoming year – as many changes had to be made because of the pandemic.

Mrs. Dugan shared that the WV Executive Fall 2020 Issue will feature the Fairmont State University aviation program. Also, Fairmont State had a double feature in the fall issue of WV Living; Dr. Martin was named one of the WV Living's Wonder Women of 2020. The story on community through public art of the mural painted at Palatine Park by Joel Dugan and his students is also featured.

The 2020 Winter Term marketing campaign launched on October 1st. This is the first Winter Term at Fairmont State.

Mr. Goldberg inquired how the board and university leadership team could help push out the marketing and communications to reach more people via social media. Mrs. Dugan advised that if everyone could follow the University on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Snapchat, and TikTok and like/share those posts – that would be greatly appreciated.

President Martin also advised that SGA, under the leadership of Zack Taylor, is creating a Christmas with a Falcon campaign (to be launched after the Day of Giving). SGA has worked with area elementary schools and has identified 165

students who will have nothing on Christmas day. The SGA will launch their campaign to help those children; \$100 will sponsor one child.

VIII. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential and deliberative matters regarding University strategic priorities, personnel matters, including the President's evaluation, financial matters related to capital campaign planning, allocation of funds for legislative liaison, and legal matters related to bond obligations and building development and a report by General Counsel.

Wendy Adkins seconded. The motion passed.

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to rise from Executive Session. Wendy Adkins seconded. The motion passed.

Chair Goldberg advised that no actions nor votes were taken in executive session.

Jon Dodds, Chair of the Evaluation and Goals Committee, advised that regarding last year's presidential evaluation, the committee completed the evaluation, it was provided to the board and the President, and it was discussed in executive session.

Dr. Gina Fantasia advised that because she is a new board member and the evaluation was for the 2018-2019 calendar year, she has not seen the evaluation. She advised she would abstain from voting. Jason Pizatella also advised he would abstain since he too is a new board member.

Wendy Adkins made a motion to accept the following:

Move to approve the annual evaluation of the President dated January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019 as presented to the board, as well as the President, minus the two new members of the board.

Jon Dodds seconded. The motion passed. Two abstained.

The upcoming three-year Presidential review is required by HEPC. The evaluation is due by December 31, 2020. Jon Dodds recommended that AGB be contracted to perform the evaluation process.

David Goldberg advised that the process will be laid out to include input from faculty, staff, students, the community, alumni, and board members. The evaluation is the responsibility of the board; the information gathered would be brought back through the consultant, the ad-hoc committee, and the board.

Jon Dodds made a motion to accept the following:

Move to approve AGB consulting to facilitate and organize the 3-year evaluation of President Martin per HEPC Series 5.3.

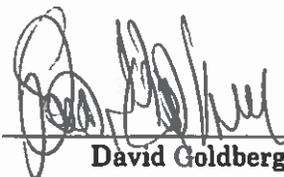
Wendy Adkins seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Gina Fantasia advised that she feels that the *ad hoc* Presidential Evaluation Committee should thoroughly discuss the parameters of the consultant's engagement, how that consultant will interact with the board, and who the consultant should be.

Jason Pizatella asked to verify if the person chairing the evaluation committee works for the institution. David Goldberg advised that he does. Mr. Pizatella inquired regarding whether an employee of the institution should serve as the Chair of the *ad hoc* Presidential Evaluation Committee. Mr. Goldberg acknowledged Mr. Pizatella's concern but affirmed that the Chair does not directly report to President Martin. Mr. Goldberg also shared that the Committee Chair had been appointed by the previous Chair, Mrs. Dixie Yann, and that the decision was made for continuity's sake. Mr. Goldberg also confirmed that the committee is also comprised of Mrs. Yann, Mrs. Prezioso, Mr. Rogers, and Mrs. Adkins, who will assist in the process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Gina Fantasia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Pizatella seconded. The motion passed.

 11/8/2020 FSU Board of Governors' Chair
David Goldberg Date

 11-6-2020 FSU Board of Governors' Secretary
Deborah Prezioso Date