



The Road to STATE'S REAFFIRMATION 2015



WVSU Board of Governors

As we learn more about the reaffirmation of accreditation each week in *The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015*, we will examine how select elements of West Virginia State University (WVSU) campus life and culture interact with the Self-Study Report. It is essential that the University governing board's deliberations reflect priorities to preserve and enhance the institution. Therefore, let us examine the Board of Governors (BOG) at West Virginia State University, as well as the members who comprise the Board.

Following the BOG Bylaws Article 2A.1, the BOG meets a minimum of six times annually. All Board meetings are open to both the entire University community and to the public and typically discuss issues that are designed to further the University's mission to meet the higher education and economic development needs of the state and region through innovative teaching and applied research. Common agenda items include reports from Board committees, reports from the University President, updates from President's cabinet members, and faculty and student presentations, reflecting the BOG's active participation in preserving and enhancing the University.

The BOG, which maintains seven standing committees (Academic Policies, Audit, Executive, Finance, Institutional Advancement, Recruitment and Retention and Presidential Review), discusses and reviews all academic programs, the University's budget and financial management of that budget and the overall growth and future direction of the University. These committees in turn present reports to the full Board for discussion and consideration of policies that improve the operations of the University. In academic year 2013-2014, the BOG established a Presidential Review Ad Hoc Process Committee for the purpose of evaluating the President of the University in 2013 and to develop an evaluation procedure consistent with West Virginia Code § 18B-1B-6. As a result of that work, the committee drafted BOG Policy #61, which was approved in June 2014, thus establishing a seventh standing committee with the purpose of ensuring the University President is evaluated consistent with the policy's guidelines and state law.

Issues affecting operations of the University are brought before the BOG at the regularly scheduled meetings. The Chair of the BOG may also call for a special meeting if needed. In recent years, approval items of interest to both internal and external constituencies that have been brought before the BOG include a new athletic complex, acquisition of the former West Virginia Rehabilitation Center property, a new residence hall, refinancing of existing bonds, academic program reviews, academic program proposals (Master of Public Administration), intents to plan (Bachelor of Fine Arts and Music, Bachelor of Science in Nursing), revised and new BOG policies, property purchases, the University's new strategic plan Vision 2020 and tuition and fee increases.

The Board has also received numerous briefings on items such as the establishment of an admissions committee, articulation agreements with other universities as well as local and regional community and technical colleges, reduction of time to degree completion to 120 credit hours, strategies for working with high schools from surrounding counties to increase student enrollment through extended recruitment and enhanced retention efforts, and reviewing plans developed by the WVSU Foundation to increase the number of alumni donors. The sampling of issues that were openly discussed and voted on via motions as documented in the committee and full Board meeting minutes reflects the Board's ability to make decisions in the best interests of the University to preserve and enhance the institution.



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Members of West Virginia State University's Board of Governors include:

- Mr. Tom Susman, Chair, President, TSG Consulting;
- Dr. Ann Brothers Smith, Vice Chair, retired educator;
- Mr. Leon Vincent Williams, Esq., Secretary, Attorney at Law;
- Ms. Megan Guetzloff, Student Representative, Sophomore Chemistry major;
- Dr. Thomas F. Guetzloff, Faculty Representative, Professor, Chemistry;
- Mrs. Debra Ann Jarvis, Classified Staff Representative, Interim Associate Registrar;
- Mr. Paul A. Konstanty, Esq., Member Attorney, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC;
- Mr. William Lipscomb, Re-Entry Specialist, KISRA;
- Ms. E. Gail Pitchford, President, Charleston Area Medical Center Foundation;
- Mr. Larry Salyers, Senior Vice President, United Bank;
- Mr. Gary L. Swingle, CPA/PFS, President and Investment Advisor Representative, A & F Financial Advisors, LLC; and
- Dr. John F. Thralls, retired higher education administrator.

For more information about *The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015*, please click [here](#) to discover in-depth information about the process, read the University's Self-Study Report, and more!

For questions or comments regarding the University's reaffirmation of accreditation process or the self-study report, please send all inquiries and information to reaffirmation@wvstateu.edu or call (304) 204-4300.