

**Minutes**  
**West Virginia State University Board of Governors**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**June 11, 2020**  
**12:45 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. and asked for the roll call.

Members Present: Mr. Davis, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jones, Mr. Kendrick, Mr. Lipscomb, Mrs. Pitchford, Dr. Smith, Ms. Smoot, and Dr. Vaughan

Members Absent: Mr. Kelley and Mr. Payne

**2. Verification of Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting**

Mr. Jones verified the Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting.

**3. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Mrs. Pitchford motioned for approval of the agenda as presented. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**4. Review and Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2020 Meeting**

Mrs. Pitchford motioned for approval of the minutes of the May 8, 2020 meeting. Dr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**5. Report from the University Interim President**

**5a.** Mr. Jones commended Interim President Byers, the administration, students, faculty, staff, and community for working collaboratively as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. Interim President Byers thanked the Board for entrusting him to serve in this capacity. He said there have been eight presidents and interim presidents over the years that he has been at the University, and it has been a pleasure to work with them. He would be honored to work with the incoming president once selected to assist in the transition. Interim President Byers expounded on the transition report that was included in the Board materials. He acknowledged Mr. Eric Jackson, Dr. Scott Woodard, and Dr. Paige Carney for their new roles in the administration. He informed the Board that the Vice President for Research and Public Service position remains vacant. He brought the Gus R. Douglass Land-Grant Institute back to the Cabinet level to keep the administration abreast of work in research and extension. Dr. Ulises Toledo and Dr. Ami Smith are overseeing those areas, respectively. For reorganization changes, the EEO and Title IX office will report directly to him. He decided to reorganize the administrative model to elevate the provost position and responsibilities, which provides the president position more time to fundraise while the provost and vice presidents carry out administrative functions under the president's directive. Institutional Research, Assessment and Effectiveness (IRAE) and Information Technology now report to the Provost's office.

**5b.** The Leadership Team was expanded to cover all facets of the University. The group has been primarily discussing the reopening of the University for face-to-face classes. Subcommittees were formed to provide recommendations for carrying out the plan to reopen, "Focus on West Virginia State University." Mr. Justin Cherry, Mr. Joe Saunders, and Mr. Joe Davenport will review the recommendations to ensure legality and safety. On June 15, the Leadership Team will convene to finalize the plan. Interim President Byers

said that he also asked a small group of alumni and former employees to serve on a subcommittee to provide feedback on the plan. “Focus on West Virginia State University” is Plan A, Plan B is a hybrid of face-to face and online classes, and Plan C would offer all classes online. Several entities including the Kanawha County Commission, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, National Guard, and others have offered to provide assistance as the University works to reopen the campus safely. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, the presidents of the public four-year institutions meet and they provide each other updates on their plans. Most institutions have not rolled out a plan due to the fluidity of the pandemic. Interim President Byers said that Dr. Yvette Underdue Murph provided him with a marketing plan for recruitment, and resources have been identified to fund the plan. After the situation that occurred in Minneapolis, he addressed the Cabinet and Academic Deans via a recorded message about how he felt about the University’s position and responsibility. The video was shared publicly, as well.

Summer school is at the halfway point and going well. The dates for fall semester were changed in response to COVID-19. Classes will be held August 10 through November 20, and commencement will be held on November 21. The information was released to the campus and broader community so appropriate planning could take place, presuming the University reopens with face-to- face classes as planned. Interim President Byers said that Mr. John Shawler was contracted to prepare a Factbook, as the University has not had a collective document about IRAE data for a few years. Since being named Interim President, Dr. Byers said he has received emails and calls from nearly 1,000 people indicating that they wish to support him. He is working on a fundraising endeavor where he is reaching out to various individuals, including those who expressed a desire to support the University financially under his leadership. Dr. Smith commended Interim President Byers for taking the idea of engaging a team effort for the plan to reopen school. She also thanked Dr. Woodard and Dr. Carney for their leadership. Dr. Vaughan echoed her sentiments.

## **6. Academic Policy Committee Recommendation**

**6a.** The Academic Policy Committee received information on the Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Program and voted to recommend the program to the full Board for approval. Mr. Davis motioned for approval by the full Board that the Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Program as presented. Dr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## **7. Adhoc Bylaws and Policies Committee Recommendations**

**7a.** The Adhoc Bylaws and Policies Review Committee received information on the Intent to Draft Proposed Revised BOG Policy #3-Academic Standards for Students to Participate in Intercollegiate Athletics. The Committee voted to recommend the proposed revised policy to the full Board for approval with the understanding that specific language regarding an NCAA waiver be added. Mr. Davis motioned for approval by the full Board that the Intent to Draft Proposed Revised BOG Policy #3-Academic Standards for Students to Participate in Intercollegiate Athletics with language from the NCAA waiver be included before distributing for comments. Ms. Dooley seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**7b.** The Adhoc Bylaws and Policies Review Committee received information on the Intent to Draft Proposed Revised BOG Policy #57-Deadly Weapons and Destructive Devices. The Committee did not vote on a recommendation. The item will be placed on the Committee’s next meeting agenda for consideration.

## **8. Report from the Board Chair**

**8a.** Mr. Jones said that proposed meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2021 were provided in the Board materials. Since the time of distribution, the academic calendar dates changed. To that end, Mr. Jones suggested that the December 11, 2020, meeting date be changed to November 20, 2020, which coincides with the new date for commencement. There being no objections, the amended proposed dates for Fiscal Year 2021 are September 3, 2020; October 22, 2020; November 20, 2020; February 3-4, 2021; May 14, 2021; and June 17, 2021. Mrs. Pitchford motioned that the Board approve the proposed meeting dates as amended. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**8b.** Mr. Jones stated that three officers are to be elected during the Annual Meeting each year and become effective on July 1. Dr. Smith proposed that the current slate of officers be re-elected. With no other proposals brought before the Board, the nominations were closed. Mr. Davis moved that the Board elect the current slate of officers to serve another term. Dr. Smith seconded the motion. Mr. Davis noted that Mr. Kelley, who was absent, previously indicated that he would accept a nomination to serve as an officer if one was made. There being no further discussion, the motion carried.

**8c.** Mr. Jones stated that the Board is to form a Presidential Review Committee each June, in accordance with the Board of Governors Bylaws and BOG Policy #61. He noted that although former President Jenkins resigned and a new permanent president is not yet in place, appointing the Committee is in compliance. Following Board discussion, Mr. Jones named the following membership: Mr. Gray, Mr. Davis, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Payne, and Ms. Dooley. Mrs. Pitchford moved that the Board approve the forming of the Committee and accept the appointments as presented. Dr. Vaughan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**8b.** Prior to the Board meeting, a resolution was drafted to recognize Ms. Smoot for her service as the student representative on the Board of Governors. The resolution was read aloud and a ceremonial copy of the resolution will be given to Ms. Smoot. Ms. Smoot thanked the Board for their support and left encouraging words for students. Ms. Dooley expressed her appreciation for Ms. Smoot's active involvement. She stated that Ms. Smoot was student teaching, dealing with the impact of COVID-19, and serving on the Board and Presidential Search Committee and was present for it all. The Board members thanked Ms. Smoot and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

## **9. Possible Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to Discuss Legal, Personnel, and Property Matters**

Mr. Jones clarified that no financial matters would be discussed or disclosed in closed session. Ms. Dooley motioned for approval to go into executive session, in accordance with West Virginia Code §6-9A-4, to discuss legal, personnel, and property matters. Dr. Vaughan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

A motion to arise from executive session and reconvene into the regular session was made by Mrs. Pitchford, and Dr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Jones asked for the record to reflect that the Board only discussed items related to the topics listed, that no decisions were made in executive session, and no motions or votes were taken.

## **10. Other Matters**

No other matters were brought before the Board.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

The next regular Board meeting will be held on September 3, 2020. Special meetings will be called during the summer months to address matters pertaining to BOG policies and the Presidential Search.

**12. Adjournment**

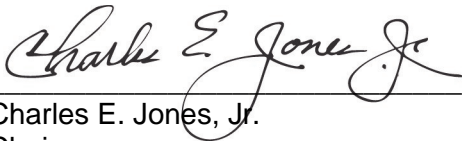
With there being no further business, Mrs. Pitchford motioned for adjournment. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine L. Dooley  
Secretary

Approved:



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Charles E. Jones, Jr.  
Chair