

**Meeting Minutes**  
**West Virginia State University Board of Governors**  
**Full Board**  
**Erickson Alumni Center, Grand Hall**  
**September 7, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

- I. Call to Order**  
Governor Kelley called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call**  
The clerk called the roll. Members present were Governor Flores, Governor Goodwin, Governor Greenhowe, Governor Jackson, Governor Kelley, Governor Payne, Governor Pietruszynski, Governor Raines, and Governor Saffore. Governor McKibben was absent.
- III. Oath of Office**  
Governor Kelley administered the ceremonial oath of office to the new student representative, Darren Goodwin.
- IV. Special Recognition of Board Member**  
This item was tabled until a future meeting, as former Board member E. Gail Pitchford was unable to attend.
- V. Verification of Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting**  
Governor Kelley verified the Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting.
- VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes**  
Governor Kelley asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2023 meeting. Governor Greenhowe so moved, and Governor Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- VII. Report from the President**  
President Cage provided a report to the Board that included campus updates, new faculty and staff, summer business travel and alumni events, and new partnerships. He also gave an update on the progress with the strategic plan and shared highlights about the feasibility study for a capital campaign. Additionally, updates were given on the Doctorate in Education Leadership program and the WVSU Center.
- VIII. Approval of Policy**  
General Counsel Alice Faucett presented on BOG policies. She requested approval from the Board for the University to make changes to existing policies that need technical modifications, and there would be no substantive changes. Governor Kelley called for a motion and Governor Jones so moved. Governor Saffore seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Board will receive a follow-up report on changes.

Excused Absence Policy – This policy was drafted to establish a consistent process for faculty and staff regarding excused absences. Following Board discussion, Governor Pietruszynski moved for approval to distribute the draft policy for the 30-day comment period. Governor Jackson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Nepotism and Fraternization Policy – Ms. Faucett indicated that Section 4.1.C of the draft policy needs a decision on which language is preferred. It was the consensus of the Board to use the language after “or.” Governor Jones moved for approval to distribute the draft policy for the 30-day comment period once the language is updated for Section 4.1.C. Governor Jackson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**IX. Malden Project Update**

Delegate Larry Rowe presented on the Malden Project and provided background information on the properties. He reported that Senator Capito, Senator Manchin, and Congresswoman Carol Miller have proposed an earmark of \$398,000 in federal funding to restore the buildings in Malden. We will know on October 1 if the federal budget includes the earmark. The Board will be updated on the progress of this project.

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

Governor Pietruszynski motioned for approval to go into Executive Session under the authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss legal, personnel, and property matters. Governor Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Governor Saffore motioned to arise from the executive session and reconvene into the regular session, and Governor Flores seconded the motion. The motion carried. Governor Kelley asked for the record to reflect that the board only discussed items related to the topics listed, that no decisions or motions were made in executive session, and no votes were taken.

**XI. Approval of West Virginia State University Yellow Jacket Enterprises, Inc. Affiliation Agreement**

Assistant Vice President Trey Jones presented on the Affiliation Agreement for Yellow Jacket Enterprises, Inc. (YJE). He noted that the concept of YJE was shared at the last Board meeting then provided an overview of the approval process. The entity allows for private/public partnerships that are not allowed being a state institution. A CPA is working on the 501 C-3, which will back date to the filing of the Articles of Incorporation. Following in-depth discussion, Governor Flores moved that the Board approve the Yellow Jacket Enterprises, Inc. Affiliation Agreement as presented. Governor Saffore seconded the motion. Governor Raines voted “nay.” The motion carried.

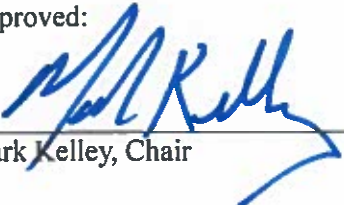
**XII. Adjournment**

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Tracy McKibben, Secretary

Approved:

  
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Mark Kelley, Chair