

Meeting Minutes
West Virginia State University Board of Governors
Full Board
Erickson Alumni Center, Grand Hall
April 16, 2026
9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Governor Flores called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m.

II. Roll Call

The clerk called the roll. Members present were Governor Flores, Governor McKibben, Governor Greenhowe, Governor Purdue, Governor Saffore, Governor Nicholson, Governor Raines, Governor Jackson, and Governor Pennington. Members absent were Governor Sprouse and Governor Jordan.

III. Verification of Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting

Governor Flores verified the Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting.

IV. Approval of February 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Governor Flores asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 4, 2026, February 5, 2026, March 2, 2026 and March 20, 2026, meetings. Governor McKibben so moved, and Governor Saffore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. President's Report

President Cage presented the President's Report and spoke on the pride of the people of the institution and the support from them. He acknowledged the first cohort of the Doctoral Education program with three employees that will be graduating this spring – Dr. Roy Simmons, Dr. Eric Jackson, and Dr. Sue Woodard. This program is an example of the university investing in its people. There are two words that describe the university: renewal and refinement of which these efforts have been applied in the past year. Renewing the institution and refining how it operates, this is evident in the work that is being done in the classrooms, structurally across campus, and in the community.

- Legislative Update – FY27 Budget Achieves WVSU Priorities and more: Overall, the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, which takes effect July 1, 2026, appropriates more than \$18.4 million to WVSU; the budget provides \$250,000 to expand the University's LPN-to-BSN program; the budget also retains full funding for Healthy Grandfamilies at \$800,000. The university was able to secure \$5 million which helped to satisfy the State match of the federal Land-grant funds. There was an increase in the base budget thanks to the support of the legislature and Governor Morrissey of which will allow for a \$1 thousand increase in employees' compensation. A bold statement was made in regard to the Nursing program, after being vetoed but later supported.
- West Virginia Collaboratory, a program that was vetoed but would have created a research service for the state legislator and ensured the WVSU was recognized and had a seat at the table.
- USDA MOU Signing – as the Chair of the APLU Council of 1890 University Presidents and the 1890 Foundation Board, President Cage traveled to Washington, D.C. for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the USDA and the Association of

Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Council of 1890 University Presidents; the council primarily addresses all matters pertaining to strengthening teaching, research and Extension programs at the 1890s.

- **HBCU AwareFest** – participated in the State of HBCU’s Executive Summit in Atlanta, GA during the month of March.
- **Thurgood Marshall College Fund HBCU Fly-In** – held on March 24, 2026 in Washington, D.C.; featured a panel discussion with the U.S. Representatives, Burgess Owens and Alma Adams; participated in a fireside chat with Nicholas Kent from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education; as well as a roundtable with U.S. Senators Raphael Warnock and Katie Britt. This was a pivotal event for HBCU Presidents and Chancellors from across the country.
- **State of Tomorrow** – traveled to Atlanta, GA to meet with alumni which at this time made a sizeable contribution and discussed pushing the university forward; another meeting will take place in South Carolina with the alumni in that area as well.
- **ARD Research Symposium** – more than 50 students, faculty and staff members attended the 22nd Association of Research Directors Biennial Research Symposium in New Orleans in March; the event showcased students and faculty research across the 1890 Land-grant University System; presented the Evans-Allen Memorial Lecture and convened the largest of 1890 university presidents and chancellors in the history of the symposium; two WVSU students received awards in the student competition; there was a historical participation from the 1890 Council of Presidents with 15 total in attendance; this was the largest ARD Symposium in its history with just under two thousand participants celebrating the research and innovation brought forth by the 1890 institutions.
- **Black & Gold Gala** – was an excellent event, well-done with a condensed program honoring Tom Haywood and the late Kitty Dooley.
- **Poca Valley Athletic Complex** – one of the newest partners and renaming of the athletic complex was formally recognized during the Spring Game.
- **AG Lab Update** – significant progress is being made with the university entering into the design development phase as early as next Friday; final construction phase is scheduled for September 2029.

VI. Approval of Program Review - Education

Governor Flores called for a motion to approve the program review for the Education academic program as presented to the Board. Governor McKibben so moved, and Governor Saffore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VII. Approval of Program Review - Psychology

Chair Flores called for a motion to approve the program review for the Nursing program reviews as presented. Governor Greenhowe so moved, and Governor McKibben seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VIII. Approval of FY 2027 Budget

Governor Flores asked for a motion to approve the FY 2027 Budget. Governor Nicholson so moved, and Governor Greenhowe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IX. Approval of Governor’s Salary Increase

Governor Flores asked for a motion to approve the Salary Increase. Governor Greenhowe so moved, and Governor McKibben seconded the motion. The motion carried.

X. Approval of Easement Related to East Hall

Governor Flores asked for a motion to approve the easement related to East Hall. Governor Nicholson so moved, and Governor McKibben seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

Governor Flores asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Governor Perdue 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 Greenhowe seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Governor Flores asked for a motion to arise from the Executive Session and reconvened into the regular session. Governor Perdue motioned for approval, Governor Greenhowe seconded the motion. The motion carried. Governor Flores 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.

XII. Acceptance of Presidential Annual Review Summary Report

Governor Flores asked for a motion to approve the Presidential Annual Review Summary Report. Governor Nicholson so moved, and Governor Saffore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

XIII. Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lee Greenhowe, Secretary

Approved:


Ian Flores, Chair