

Meeting Minutes
West Virginia State University Board of Governors
Full Board
134/135 James C. Wilson University Union
September 23, 2021
2:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order and Oath of Office**
Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. He administered the oath of office to Chris Jackson, who was elected as the new staff representative on the Board of Governors.
- II. Roll Call**
The clerk called the roll. Members present were Mr. Davis, Mr. Flores, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Jones, Ms. Lansdowne, Mr. Payne, Dr. Pietruszynski, Mrs. Pitchford, Mr. Raines, and Dr. Smith. Mr. Kelley was absent due to a court obligation that could not be excused.
- III. Verification of Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting**
Mr. Jones verified the Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
Mr. Jones asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings held on June 17, 2021, July 16, 2021, July 30, 2021 and August 13, 2021 collectively. Mr. Flores so moved, and Mrs. Pitchford seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- V. Recognition of Former BOG Members**
Mr. Jones recognized former Board members for their service – Katherine “Kitty” Dooley; Dr. Frank Vaughan, Faculty Representative; James Buchanan, Staff Representative; and Rachel Harper, Student Representative. Mr. Jones then presented a resolution to the family of Joey Oden naming him as Dean of Students posthumously. Mrs. Oden expressed her appreciation to the Board and University.
- VI. Report from the Vice President and Chief of Staff**
Mr. Cage presented on initiatives and plans to move the University forward. The presentation included three priority areas of focus –continuity of operations and institutional stabilization, community building, and external engagement.
- VII. Reports from Board Committees**
 - Endowment Committee**
Mrs. Pitchford provided an executive summary on the agenda items that were discussed.

Executive Committee
Mr. Jones provided an executive summary on the agenda items from the committee’s meeting held on September 2, 2021. The committee took action on the appointment of the Interim Vice President for Research and Public Service and Dean and Director of Land-grant Programs, which will be recommended to the full Board later on the agenda.
 - University Affairs Committee**
Dr. Pietruszynski reported that he was elected as committee chair. He provided an executive summary on the agenda items that were discussed.

Advancement and External Affairs Committee

Dr. Smith provided an executive summary on the agenda items that were discussed.

Governance Committee

Mr. Raines provided an executive summary on the agenda items that were discussed.

Business Affairs Committee

Mr. Flores reported that he was elected as committee chair. He provided an executive summary on the agenda items that were discussed.

Risk Management

Mr. Payne provided an executive summary on the items that were discussed.

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

Mrs. Pitchford 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. Mr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Flores motioned to arise from the executive session and reconvene into the regular session, and Mrs. Pitchford 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 or motions were made in executive session, and no votes were taken.

IX. Possible Action on the Appointment of an Interim President and Ratification of the Executive Committee's Action on the Appointment of Interim Vice President for Research and Public Service and Dean and Director of Land Grant Programs

Mrs. Pitchford moved that the Board of Governors appoint Ericke S. Cage as Interim President of West Virginia State University based upon an agreed contract with Mr. Cage and acceptance by the Higher Education Policy Commission. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Pitchford moved that the Board of Governors ratify the action of the Executive Committee regarding the appointment of Ami Smith as Interim Vice President for Research and Public Service and Dean and Director of Land Grant Programs. Dr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

X. Decision on Whether to Re-engage AGB to Conduct WVSU's Presidential Search

Mr. Davis moved that the Board reengage AGB to conduct the presidential search. Dr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

XI. Action on Granting Supplemental Compensation to the Vice President and Chief of Staff for Performing Additional Duties as Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Payne moved that the Board approve supplemental pay for Ericke S. Cage as Chief Operating Officer up until the appointment as Interim President. Mrs. Pitchford seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

XII. Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


E. Gail Pritchard, Secretary

Approved:


Charles E. Jones, Chair