

**Meeting Minutes**  
**West Virginia State University Board of Governors**  
**Erickson Alumni Center, Grand Hall**  
**September 5, 2019**  
**12:30 p.m.**

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

Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. The Clerk called the roll.

Members Present: Mr. Davis, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Jones, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Lipscomb, Mr. Payne, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Vaughan.

Members Absent: Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Pitchford, and Ms. Preterotto.

Before proceeding with the agenda, Mr. Jones asked the Board to join him and President Jenkins in recognizing Dr. Orlando F. McMeans for his service to the University. President Jenkins presented a Presidential Citation to Dr. McMeans for his long-standing service and commitment to West Virginia State University. Dr. McMeans is leaving to serve as Chancellor-Dean of the Southern University Agricultural Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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

Mr. Jones announced the Verification of Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting.

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

Mr. Kelley motioned to amend the Agenda to remove item six, Committee Reports. All Board members were present to participate in the Committee meetings held in the morning with no action for full Board consideration. Dr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Kelley motioned to accept the amended agenda. Ms. Dooley seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**4. Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Ms. Dooley motioned for approval of the minutes for the June 6, 2019 meeting. Dr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**5. Report from the University President**

President Jenkins shared several updates and accomplishments by students, faculty, and staff.

President Jenkins discussed his vision for West Virginia State University to become a premier regional research university that is recognized nationally for its quality education, innovative teaching, and experiential learning. The Criminal Justice online program was recently named the seventh most affordable program in the nation and the highest-ranking among all West Virginia colleges and universities by Best Schools. The University's seven fully online

programs make the University the highest ranked school in the state, further recognizing Interim Provost and Vice President, Dr. R. Charles Byers, the Deans, and faculty; President Jenkins expressed appreciation for all their work carving the niche for quality affordable education. The Education Department is recognized as one of the best teacher education programs in West Virginia. Fred Thomas, Jr., an alumnus, a life-long educator has invested in the Education Department by creating the Fred D. Thomas Learning Center to help prepare future teachers.

Dr. Byers is creating advisory councils for all majors. The councils will consist of experts within the profession to assist with the development of a curriculum to assist students with preparation and transition to career. The University is at a critical point where we must make sure students are receiving hands-on, real-world experiences. Field experiences such as our Education Department and the Teacher in Residence programs are critical in retention and the overall development of our students.

The University is going to examine how to expand experiential learning opportunities, stackable credentials and the importance of developing skills and credentials for success. Career Services is expanding to add its responsibility for ensuring students are prepared and provide followup for students following graduation.

The Research Rookies program, where students are provided with research opportunities has been successful and boasts a retention rate north of 80 percent. The University also working to expand the study abroad program. With an intentional commitment to student success and retention, through the Presidential Scholarship, funds totaling \$112,000 have been awarded to students. Ms. Deja Smoot, a recipient of this prestigious scholarship, was asked to stand to be recognized.

The University is focused on becoming more student-centered, having invested more than \$100,000 in upgrades for the fitness center and the installation of additional security cameras around campus.

The women's soccer team in their inaugural season is now 1-2. The first home game is during Homecoming on Saturday. President Jenkins expressed appreciation to Athletic Director Nate Burton for his work and leadership. Homecoming weekend is the kickoff for the student tailgate for football games. The SGA President, Colleen Miller, is leading the effort to create the tailgate atmosphere for our students. Admission to football games is free to all staff and faculty.

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

Ms. Dooley 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. Dr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

A motion to arise from executive session and reconvene into regular session was made by Ms. Dooley, and Dr. Vaughan 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.

**7. Other Matters**

There was a discussion about changing the April 2 Board meeting. Mr. Kelley motioned to remove the April 2 meeting date of the Board for a prep session for the HLC visit. Mr. Lipscomb seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Ms. Dooley shared that Board of Governors member General Kenneth Gray is the honoree for the Lunch and Laughs with Legal Legend on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Dooley will present a Presidential Citation to General Gray on behalf of President Jenkins.

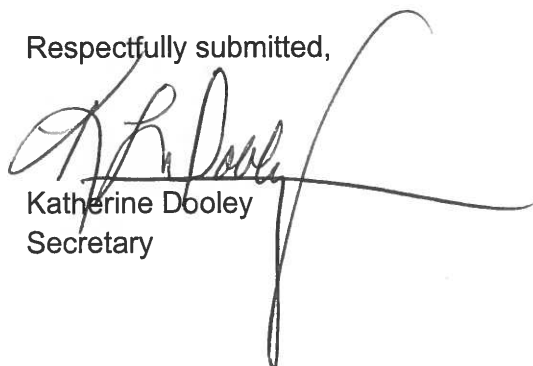
**8. Next Meeting Date**

October 24, 2019

**9. Adjournment**

Mr. Kelley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Vaughan seconded the motion, and the motion carried. With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Dooley  
Secretary

Approved:



Charles E. Jones  
Chair