

West Virginia State University Board of Governors
Erickson Alumni Center, Grand Hall
January 27, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Smith called the meeting of the West Virginia State University Board of Governors to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Guetzloff, Mr. Konstanty, Mr. Lipscomb, Mrs. Pitchford, Dr. Smith, Mrs. Squirts, Mr. Swingle, Dr. Thralls, and Mr. Williams. Several members of the administration, faculty, and staff were also present.

2. Verification of Appropriate Notice of Public Meeting

Dr. Smith verified the appropriate notice of public meeting.

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

4. Roundtable Discussions

Dr. Smith said the meeting was being held in accordance with West Virginia Code to provide an opportunity for campus constituent groups to share their thoughts and ideas about the University. Each group was allotted time on the agenda to participate in a roundtable discussion.

- Item 4.a: Dr. Smith welcomed the classified staff members in attendance. She also acknowledged Mrs. Squirts for her service as the classified staff representative on the Board. Dr. Smith opened the floor for discussion and asked Classified Staff Council Chair Robin Tabor for general comments. Ms. Tabor stated this year has been a rebuilding stage for classified staff; all positions on the Classified Staff Council have been filled and the incumbents are active. Sean McAndrews expressed concerns about student-athletes' schedules, particularly with classes offered during times that conflict with practice schedules. President Hemphill said Provost Jayasuriya has been in discussion with faculty about this issue. Provost Jayasuriya stated several changes have been made in terms of class scheduling. Student-athletes are now allowed to register with seniors to provide more class options. In addition, several evening classes will be offered during morning hours. There is also an initiative to have Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes, beginning in the fall. Provost Jayasuriya said a change in the blocks, actual times, and lengths of classes are also being considered.

Ms. Tabor commented about proposed legislation that calls for a market study on salaries for classified staff, as well as non-classified staff and faculty. The University is currently on the 2001 salary schedule, and the proposed legislation is intended to bring staff salaries more in line with the current market; however, there is an expectation that the institutions must identify funding to support the salary schedule.

Dr. Thralls commented that the salary schedule is a tough issue and continued budget cuts make it more difficult to fund salary increases. He expressed concern about increasing tuition to help fund salary increases. President Hemphill stated that, if the bill passes, the University would be mandated to meet the salary schedule. Ms. Tabor said the Classified Staff Council worked on revitalizing the tuition and fee waiver for classified staff, which was recently approved by President Hemphill. She stated that professional development is another area where classified staff would like to receive more funding from the University. Ms. Tabor said classified staff members attended meetings held throughout the state regarding the potential PEIA increase. Ms. Tabor said another major concern she has heard from classified staff is future outsourcing. She also asked where the University stands in terms of percentages of classified and non-classified staff, and Mr. Jones stated he would provide that information. Dr. Smith thanked staff for participating and encouraged them to reach out via email or through the Board's liaison, Ashley Schumaker.

- Item 4.b: Dr. Smith welcomed the faculty members in attendance. She also acknowledged Dr. Guetzloff for his service as the faculty representative on the Board. Dr. Smith acknowledged Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Tim Ruhnke and opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Ruhnke said this is his last year on the Faculty Senate. He commented that there are many challenges facing the University and noted the importance of remaining focused on the tasks ahead and continuing the level of communication. Dr. Ruhnke complemented Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jayasuriya and the Dean's Council for their leadership and expressed his appreciation for their support. Dr. Thralls commented that the self-study for the reaffirmation of accreditation reaches to the core of the University, which is the faculty, and the assessment review team spoke to the quality of the faculty.

Dr. Richard Ford stated, on behalf of the State Advisory Council of Faculty, that the openness of the Board and opportunities for faculty to meet with them are appreciated. Mr. Williams inquired if the different disciplines relate well in terms of sciences versus liberal arts. Dr. Frank Vaughan felt there is less interaction across the different disciplines than there should be due to the campus layout. Through discussion, there was a consensus among the group that cross disciplines and interacting with other faculty could better serve students. Dr. Ford said the faculty's morale reflects on the students, and they recognize the commitment to the University. Students are showing more pride in attending State. There is also a sense in the community that the University has gained traction in terms of being recognized for its progress and high quality academic programs. The faculty expressed appreciation for President Hemphill's ambitions and vision and hope his successor has the same outlook and drive. There is also a considerable increase in academically strong students with higher ACT scores who are enrolling, and the University was not experiencing this five to six years ago. More students are also presenting research projects. Dr. Guetzloff gave kudos to the faculty for their work on the general education curriculum restructuring. Mr. Swingle thanked the faculty for working

with the administration. President Hemphill said he appreciates that there is a mutual respect among the faculty and the administration.

- Item 4.c: Dr. Smith welcomed the students in attendance. She also acknowledged Mr. Payton for his service as the student representative on the Board. Dr. Smith acknowledged Student Government Association (SGA) President Briana Edwards and opened the floor for discussion. Ms. Edwards said the students have been looking forward to the meeting and hope for more engagement opportunities moving forward. SGA Vice President Josh Means said the honors program has been a great asset for students and helps them grow professionally and academically. Some of the courses have allowed students to excel and make them more competitive when applying for graduate school. Shealyn Shafer agreed and said the honors program is growing every day. Ms. Edwards said, when looking for the next president, the students hope to have someone who is very engaged with students and the SGA. A non-traditional, commuter student inquired about plans for class schedules for students such as him who work full-time during the day. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jayasuriya stated that scheduling blocks are being reviewed to help provide more options to ensure that students are enrolling in courses and able to graduate in the four-year period.

Dr. Thralls inquired about the sense of community among the students and the diverse population in terms of traditional, non-traditional, commuter, and on-campus students. Ms. Edwards said she has met students and became friends with people she never imagined connecting with before coming to State. Mr. Means said he commutes, and he was not as engaged during his first year on campus; however, with the increased focus on student engagement, he has become much more involved. Students have expressed the sense of community they felt when visiting campus. Ms. Shafer said she was recruited to play basketball, and when she toured campus she was impressed by the level of engagement and excitement of the faculty in her field of study. D'Von Dorsey stated he was also recruited for athletics, and he did not want to be here at first; however, he quickly learned that it is a great University, and he loves the family-oriented environment and positive support he receives from faculty and staff. Mr. Swingle asked students how they see themselves connecting to the University after graduating. Senaia Harris said she is from the Kanawha Valley and chose State because of its history and status as an HBCU, and she felt that would play a key role in her staying connected after graduating. Ms. Edwards said the connections she has made through the SGA is one of the main things that will bring her back to the campus to see how things have grown and expanded from where they were since her time at State.

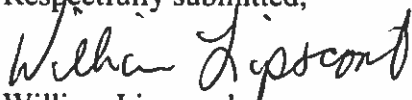
Dr. Guetzloff inquired about facilities students would like to see that the University does not have currently. Students expressed that the University Union is small and there is not a large area for students to gather for recreation. Many students felt a recreation center would be more welcoming to commuter students, as well to help them connect to the University during their down time in between classes. Students also said that more apartment-style housing or campus houses would be appealing to


many students. Dr. Guetzloff also inquired about changes in the dining hall and retail areas. The students generally felt that the cafeteria improved, but the retail spaces were a downgrade, and many students still leave campus for meals if they do not eat in the dining hall. The lines in the cafeteria are long, and seating is limited. There were also concerns expressed about food service staff being able to properly prepare an adequate amount of food for the number of students being served. Ms. Edwards said the Dining Services Committee has done well to address issues brought before them, although the response time is often slow. The students commented that meal plans previously could be used for the retail areas and food truck, but now only flex dollars may be used. Vice Presidents Jones and McCarthy said they would look into this issue, because the meal plan should be accepted at all food service locations on campus. Takeiya Smith said she is a leader in the campus social justice chapter, and the group currently has three areas of focus – improving the percent ratio of African American to Caucasian students, increasing the number of African American professors, and increasing the number of diversity/race and gender courses in the curriculum. She stated that the group is not clear on who to approach to begin addressing their concerns. President Hemphill said students should always contact Vice President McCarthy, and she will get them connected with the appropriate staff and help navigate the different governance components of the University. Provost Jayasuriya clarified that the number of race and gender courses were not reduced, and the only change made to the curriculum as it relates to those courses is that they are no longer a requirement for all students. He said this decision was made based on feedback from students. Dr. Smith thanked the students for taking time to attend the meeting and for choosing West Virginia State University.

5. **Next Meeting Date**
January 28, 2016

6. **Adjournment**
With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


William Lipscomb
Secretary

Approved: 
Dr. Ann Brothers Smith
Chair