



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 6, 2018**  
**CHARLES POINTE**  
**100 MARKETPLACE AVE., SECOND FLOOR SUITE**  
**BRIDGEPORT, WV**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Roll Call

Chair Bill Holmes convened a meeting of the Fairmont State University (FSU) Board of Governors on December 6, 2018, beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. at Charles Pointe, 100 Marketplace Avenue, Second Floor Suite, Bridgeport, West Virginia.

At the request of Chair Holmes, Serena Scully, Special Assistant to the President, conducted a roll call of the Board of Governors. Present for the meeting were board members Dr. Chris Courtney, Holly Fluharty, Dr. Mark Hart, Bill Holmes, Bailey McInturff, Deborah Prezioso, Jay Puccio, Kevin Rogers, Dr. Budd Sapp, John Schirripa, and Dixie Yann. Frank Washenitz was absent.

Others present were President Martin and President's Executive Leadership Team members Cindy Curry, Lyndsey Dugan, Richard Harvey, Stacey Jones, Christa Kwiatkowski, Tim McNeely and Jacqueline L. Sikora. Tom Tucker, Asst. VP of Facilities; Stephanie Slaubaugh, Construction Manager; Chad Fowler, Acting Athletic Director; Ryan Courtney, Director of Internal Relations; Pat Snively, Associate Athletic Director; Pam Stephens, Director, Center for Educational Support Programs; Victoria Cann, Social Media and Digital Content Specialist; Corey Hunt, Director of Strategic Initiatives; Carolyn Fletcher, Director of Accounting; Ladai Harris, Financial Reporting Manager; Joanie Raisovich, Director of Technology Commons; Amantha Cole, Director of Planning and Grants; Tim Oxley, Interim Dean of the School of Business; students Dillon Bradley and Tyler Keller; and Suttle & Stalnaker representatives. Members of local media were in attendance as well.

B. Public Comment

Dr. Chris Courtney reported that no one had signed up for public comment.

### C. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Budd Sapp made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Chris Courtney seconded. The motion passed.

Chairman Holmes requested to amend the agenda to allow the auditors to present immediately following the approval of the agenda.

John Schirripa made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Dr. Budd Sapp seconded. The motion passed.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2018

Dr. Budd Sapp made a motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2018. Jay Puccio seconded. The motion passed.

## III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- A. Chair Holmes recognized the passing of two friends of Fairmont State University; Franc Stern and Rebecca Phillips.
- B. Chair Holmes welcomed the newest board member – Mr. Kevin Rogers.
- C. Mr. Holmes talked about the Charles Pointe facility and remarked how nice the facility is. He thanked everyone who helped in any way with the facility.
- D. Chairman Holmes advised that faculty senate invited the board of governors to their November meeting and a few board members did attend. Chair Holmes mentioned that he would like Faculty Senate to attend the February board of governors meeting and have a social after the meeting.
- E. Mr. Holmes also mentioned that at the faculty senate meeting, it was brought to the board's attention that in board policy 54, there should currently be a Textbook Affordability Committee. Mr. Holmes recommended that the board rescind policy #54 and update the policy as to construct the Textbook Affordability Committee as a sub-committee that would fall under the Academic Affairs Committee.
- F. Chair Holmes also gave an update on the Foundation's search for a new President/CEO of the Foundation. It was a failed search; however, Mr. Gary Bennett, who had been serving as interim has now been appointed permanent Foundation President.

#### **IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- A. President Martin discussed the transformation of the University over the last year. Under the board's leadership, and the support and work of faculty, staff and students, there have been tremendous strides and great achievements made.
- B. Dr. Martin welcomed the newest member to the executive leadership team - Jacqueline L. Sikora, University General Counsel.

#### **V. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Construction Project Updates (Tom Tucker and Stephanie Slaubaugh)

Stephanie Slaubaugh, Construction Manager, advised that the Charles Pointe facility is in the final steps of completion.

The bookstore renovations and Starbucks renovations are currently in process. The project is moving along swiftly.

The fire marshal is scheduled to be on campus next week.

The MS4 year 4 report is due to be submitted in January 2019. The project will then move into year 5.

#### **VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Deborah Prezioso moved to accept the following Consent Agenda:

Financial Reports for periods ending September 30, 2018 and October 31, 2018.

Kevin Rogers seconded. The motion passed.

#### **VII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Deborah Prezioso, Chair)**

Deborah Prezioso, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee asked that Dr. Stacey Jones, Vice President for Institutional Effective and Strategic Initiatives, present the agenda item.

Dr. Stacey Jones presented information on the Institutional Compact. Dr. Jones discussed the WV HEPC compact areas, trends, recommended targets/goals, and primary strategies as well as answered questions.

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to accept the following:

A. The 2018 Update and Report for the Institutional Compact

Dixie Yann seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Richard Harvey advised that there have recently been three new positions approved and accepted. Dr. Susan Ross, Executive Director for Academic Services; Beth Thompson, Director of the Tutoring and Testing Center and Dual Enrollment; and Pam Stephens, Director of the Center for Educational Support Programs and Coordinator of the RBA degree program. She will be located at Charles Pointe.

Dr. Chris Courtney questioned if there had been any movement on the Athletic Training program. Dr. Harvey advised that there is currently no update; however, he will be happy to provide the program proposal and budget.

**VIII. ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Jay Puccio, Chair)**

Jay Puccio, Chair of the Athletic Affairs Committee asked that Chad Fowler, Acting Athletic Director, give an update for the Athletic Affairs Committee.

Mr. Fowler advised that all the fall sports have recently concluded with many accomplishments.

Winter sports are currently up and running.

The \$1000 club will be launching soon with many different giving levels.

**IX. BYLAWS COMMITTEE (Dixie Yann, Chair)**

Dixie Yann advised that the bylaws committee has not met but will meet prior to the February meeting.

**X. ENROLLMENT/HOUSING-STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE (Bill Holmes, Chair)**

Bill Holmes, Chair of the Enrollment/Housing-Student Life Committee asked that Lyndsey Dugan, VP of University Relations, Marketing and Recruitment, give an update.

Mrs. Lyndsey Dugan advised that inquiries are up 34% from last year, applications are up 69% from last year, and admits are up 75% from last year.

Mrs. Dugan also discussed the recruitment activity including campus visits, college fairs, high school visits, and day on campus events.

Mr. Tim McNeely gave an update on housing; compared to this time last year, we are up 4.3%. Regarding next fall's current housing occupancy, we are at 45.9%, a 9% increase from this time last year.

**XI. FINANCE COMMITTEE (John Schirripa, Chair)**

John Schirripa, Chair of the Finance Committee, provided a brief update.

The Finance Committee met on November 14 and reviewed the financial statements from September and October, along with the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ending June 30, 2018.

John Schirripa, asked Christa Kwiatkowski, CFO, to provide an update.

Mrs. Christa Kwiatkowski provided information on the September and October financials.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski also discussed the Composite Financial Indicator (CFI) score; the University is currently at a score of 2.0.

Suttle & Stalnaker representatives provided the audit along with their comments.

John Schirripa made a motion to accept the following:

A. Independent Auditor's Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2018

Dixie Yann seconded. The motion passed.

**XII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Bill Holmes, Chair)**

Chair Holmes advised that the executive committee has not met.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Cindy Curry presented information regarding the agenda item – "Holidays" draft policy. It has been the practice of the institution to close between Christmas and New Year's, and to place several (if not all) of the six assignable State allotted holidays around this interval in order to provide employees an extended leave time and to reduce operational costs. However, for December 2019, and at times in the future, non-state holidays (December 30, 2019 and December 31, 2019) will fall on regular working days and there will be an insufficient number of State allotted holidays available to employees. It is the purpose of the draft "Holidays" policy to afford the President the authority to close the institution, and require employees to utilize annual leave time during this period.

Dr. Budd Sapp presented concerns from faculty. Some individuals do not believe that if the University closes, it is right to require staff to take vacation days.

Mrs. Holly Fluharty advised that individuals are being given plenty of time to save the two days prior to the December 2019 dates. The two alternatives are to close the University without pay for staff or to open the University at significant expense to the institution and expect most staff members to take the two days off and take vacation days.

Staff currently earn 2 days per month of annual leave per calendar year, 14 days of federal holidays and 15 days of sick leave. They begin to accrue immediately upon hire. Faculty do not fall under these guidelines.

Dr. Chris Courtney made a motion to accept the following amended agenda item:

A. Holidays Policy Draft for 45-Day Comment Period

Holly Fluharty seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Richard Harvey discussed that the Aviation program is doing very well and would like to designate the program as the Aviation Center of Excellence (ACE).

Dixie Yann made a motion to accept the following:

B. Recognition of the Aviation Center of Excellence

Dr. Chris Courtney seconded. The motion passed.

Students Dillon Bradley and Tyler Keller presented information regarding textbook affordability solutions.

#### **XIV. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

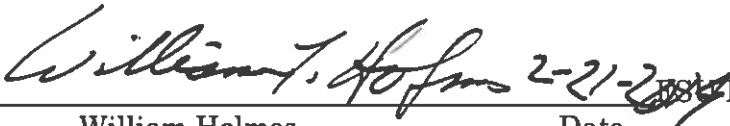
John Schirripa made a motion to go into Executive Session “Under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss personnel matters as well as to discuss the purchase, sale or lease of property, advance construction planning, the investment of public funds or other matters involving commercial competition.”


Dr. Chris Courtney seconded. The motion passed.

Dixie Yann made a motion to rise from Executive Session. Dr. Budd Sapp seconded. The motion passed.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

John Schirripa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Chris Courtney seconded. The motion passed.

 2-21-2019 FSU Board of Governors' Chair  
William Holmes Date

 2/21/19 FSU Board of Governors' Secretary  
John Schirripa Date

# Meeting Handouts





Proposed **Alignment of Institutional Goals, Strategies and Initiatives**

**Part I – HEPC Compact**

*presented to the **Board of Governors (BOG)***

120618

# Background



- HEPC *Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact.* Master Plan 2013 – 2020\*



- HEPC Compact initiative goals and strategies 2013 – 2018
- ***Extended HEPC Compact initiative goals and strategies 2013 - 2020\****
- Current three-year Complete College America (CCA) and state-wide derivative *West Virginia Momentum Pathways* 2018 - 2021

- Fairmont State University's ten-year strategic plan *Our Quest for Distinction: Strategic Plan 2018-2028*
- Existing Fairmont State University Compact goals and strategies submitted to HEPC covering 2013-2018
- ***Recommended Fairmont State University Compact goals and strategies for submission to HEPC covering 2019-2021***
- Fairmont State University's strategies for *SOARing Falcons Momentum Pathways* submitted to HEPC effective 2018 – 2021, and beyond

# Background (con't)



Fairmont State University Goals and Strategy Alignment Information - December 2018					
	# Goals	Tier 1 Outcomes T1	Tier 2 Outcomes T2	Tier 3 Outcomes/ Actions T3	# Strategies
HEPC Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact. Master Plan 2013 – 2020*	3	10	32		11
HEPC Compact initiative goals and strategies 2013 - 2020*	3	10	32		11
Existing Fairmont State University Compact goals and strategies submitted to HEPC covering 2013-2018	3			46	
Fairmont State University's ten-year strategic plan Our Quest for Distinction: Strategic Plan 2018-2028	15			81	21
Current three-year Complete College America (CCA) and state-wide derivative West Virginia Momentum Pathways 2018 - 2021	5	5			5
Fairmont State University's strategies for SOARing Falcons Momentum Pathways submitted to HEPC effective 2018 – 2021, and beyond	5	5			5
<i>Legend</i>					
Externally generated					
Externally generated (duplicate or derived)					
Fairmont State University generated					
Externally Reported or accounted					
CCA Focus Recommended for HEPC Compact Strategies and QFD Success: SP2018-28					

Distinct Goals, Initiatives, Strategies\*

~ Metrics

Strategic Institutional Goals 34

Outcomes (T1) 10

Outcomes (T2) 32

Outcomes (T3) 127

Strategies 42

Hundreds

\* DRAFT 1 Estimate based on 'official' reporting and/or other documented sources (explicit and implicit)

Recommendation is to begin to bring into alignment our  
**Goals, Strategies and Initiatives**  
*for improved institutional*

- **Focus**
- **Effectiveness**
- **Optimization of resources**

*and most importantly to*  
ensure emphasis remains on our broader mission  
***a positive impact on our students' success and overall experience at  
Fairmont State University***



- HEPC *Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact.* Master Plan 2013 – 2020\*



- HEPC Compact initiative goals and strategies 2013 – 2018

- Fairmont State University's ten-year strategic plan *Our Quest for Distinction: Strategic Plan 2018-2028*

- Existing Fairmont State University Compact goals and strategies submitted to HEPC covering 2013-2018

- ***Extended HEPC Compact initiative goals and strategies 2013 - 2020\****

- ***Recommended Fairmont State University Compact goals and strategies for submission to HEPC covering 2019-2021***

- Current three-year Complete College America (CCA) and state-wide derivative *West Virginia Momentum Pathways* 2018 - 2021

- Fairmont State University's strategies for *SOARing Falcons Momentum Pathways* submitted to HEPC effective 2018 – 2021, and beyond

## ***Ensuring Fairmont State University's Continuous Improvement***

# Specifically, today your consideration is requested to adopt the presented HEPC required Compact Goals and Strategies

Michael J. Farrell, Esq.  
Chair



West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
1018 Kanawha Boulevard East, Suite 700 • Charleston, West Virginia 25301  
(304) 558-2101 phone • (304) 558-1011 fax  
[www.wvhepc.edu](http://www.wvhepc.edu)

Carolyn Long  
Interim Chancellor

September 21, 2018

Dr. Mirta Martin  
President  
Fairmont State University  
1201 Locust Avenue  
Fairmont, WV 26554

Dear President Martin:

With the Higher Education Policy Commission's current Master Plan, *Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact.* scheduled to expire at the end of 2018, West Virginia Code requires each institution to submit a final report to the Commission highlighting the progress you have made over the past five years as a result of the innovative strategies implemented through your institutional Compact.

We recognize past reporting requirements for the Compacts could become burdensome and time-consuming. Thanks to your input and with full support of our Policy and Planning team at the Commission, we are proposing a new and more succinct format for your final report. We are therefore asking each institution to provide a brief written report that highlights your successes over the five-year Compact cycle, along with a discussion of any challenges you faced that resulted in modifications to your Compact strategies. We are also asking for an assessment of those areas in which more work is still needed and recommendations on how the Commission and our staff can better support your efforts to improve efficiency and student success.

Beyond sharing your successes through a written report, we believe that it is essential to publicly acknowledge your efforts and successes at an upcoming Commission meeting. Each institution will be invited to deliver a brief (5-10 minute) presentation on your Compact successes, either in person or virtually via Zoom, at the November 2018 or February 2019 Commission meetings. The presentation is optional, but would provide you with an opportunity to further highlight the great work you do.

Please plan to submit your final Compact report prior to **December 31, 2018**. Each institution has its own discretion as to the format, but we do request a length of no more than five pages. In addition to the narrative, please also include the following data elements in your final report. These metrics are the only required quantitative elements that cannot be derived from other data file submissions.

- o Fall Low-Income Student Headcount (2017-18 Academic Year)
- o Number of STEM Education Degrees Awarded (2017-18 Academic Year)
- o Total Dollar Value of Licensure Income in FY17 (Round to Whole Dollars)
- o Total Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications Generated by the Institution in FY17
- o Total Number of Start-up Companies Created in FY17

- o Total Number of Patents Issued in FY17

To assist with the preparation of your final report, I have included with this message an Excel workbook with your most recent Compact data.

You are likely aware that the Commission voted at its August 24, 2018 meeting to reauthorize our current master plan for up to two additional years. As a first step in our work under the renewed Master Plan, Commission staff will work with you to establish revised goals on the plan's key quantitative metrics. Your current goals are included in the attached Excel workbook. We will send you a draft set of recommended 2020 goals for the current quantitative metrics and will work closely with you to finalize goals that are both realistic and attainable. Your revised goals must be approved by your Board of Governors before they are considered for approval by the Commission in February.

You are also encouraged to revisit each of your Compact strategies and submit any necessary revisions. Modifications to your Compact must also be approved by your board. Your Compact is a living document and may be revised at any time, with approval from your board and the Commission. We plan to submit 2019-2021 Compacts for Commission approval at the April 26, 2019 meeting. If you plan to submit revisions, please do so before February 28, 2019.

Should you have questions about the Compact process going forward, please feel free to contact Dr. Zorrie Georgieva by phone at (304) 558-1112 or via email at [zorritsa.georgieva@wvhepc.edu](mailto:zorritsa.georgieva@wvhepc.edu). Dr. Georgieva and I are also willing to arrange a call to discuss the reporting process or the master plan renewal with your campus team. Please let me know if a conversation would be helpful and we will set up a time to talk.

I appreciate your efforts and look forward to working with you as you continue to provide exceptional educational opportunities to your students.

Sincerely,



Chris Treadway, Ed.D.  
Senior Director of Research and Policy

# Student Success and College Completion

National



AMERICAN DREAMS ARE  
POWERED BY COLLEGE  
COMPLETION



State



**WV Momentum Pathways Project**

Institution



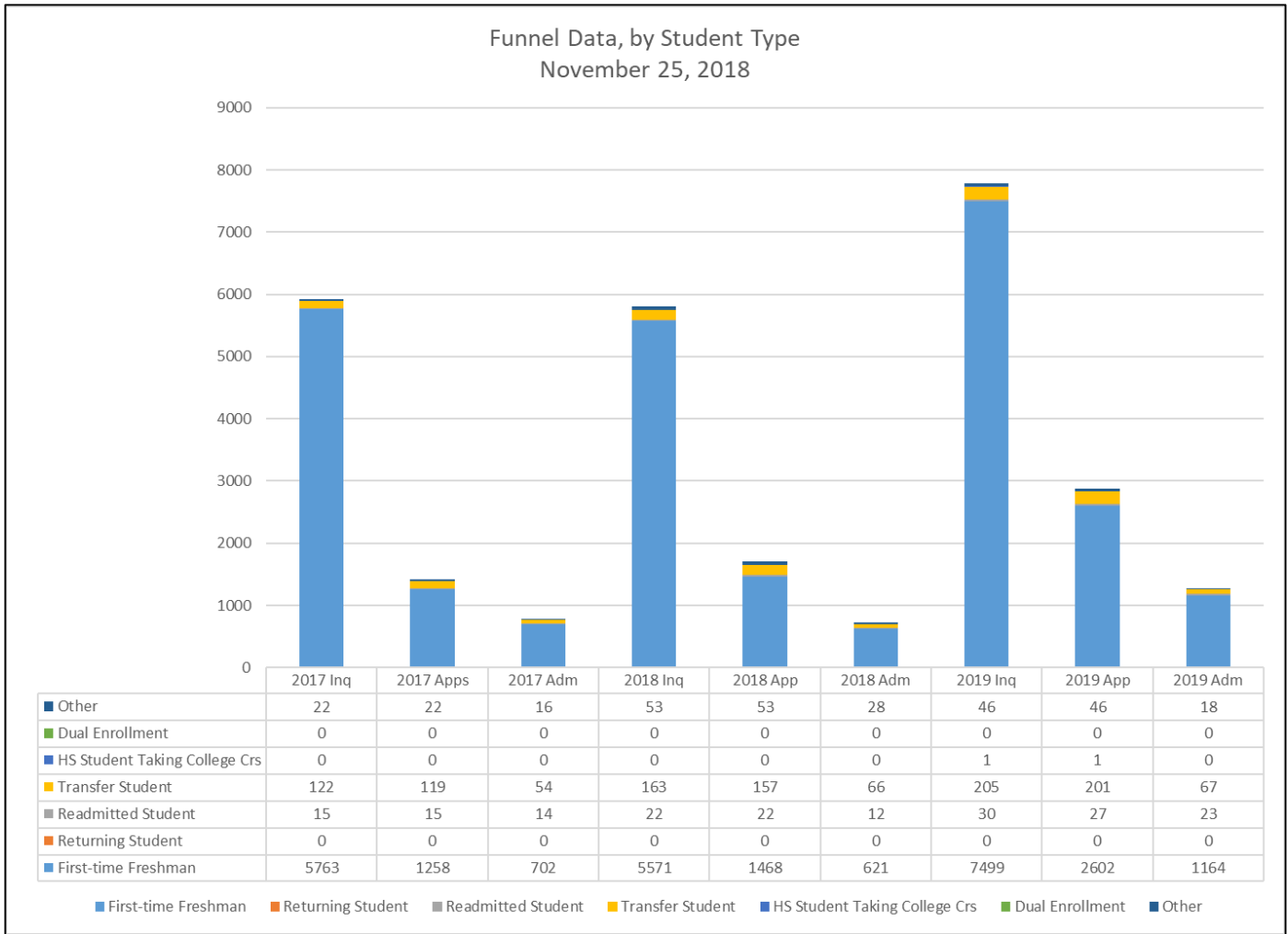
*SOARing Falcons Momentum Pathways*

# CCA | SOARing Falcons Momentum Pathways Strategies

- [1] 15 to Finish
- [2/3] Math and English Pathways and CoRequisite Support
- [4] Momentum Year
- [5] Program Maps and ProActive Advising



*Thank you for your assistance and leadership in  
**Ensuring Fairmont State University's  
Continuous Improvement***



Undergraduate	11/20/2016	11/19/2017	11/25/2018
Conversion Rate	<b>24%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>37%</b>
Admit Rate	<b>56%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>44%</b>
Yield Rate	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### Inquiries

- Up 34% from last year
- Up 31% from two years ago

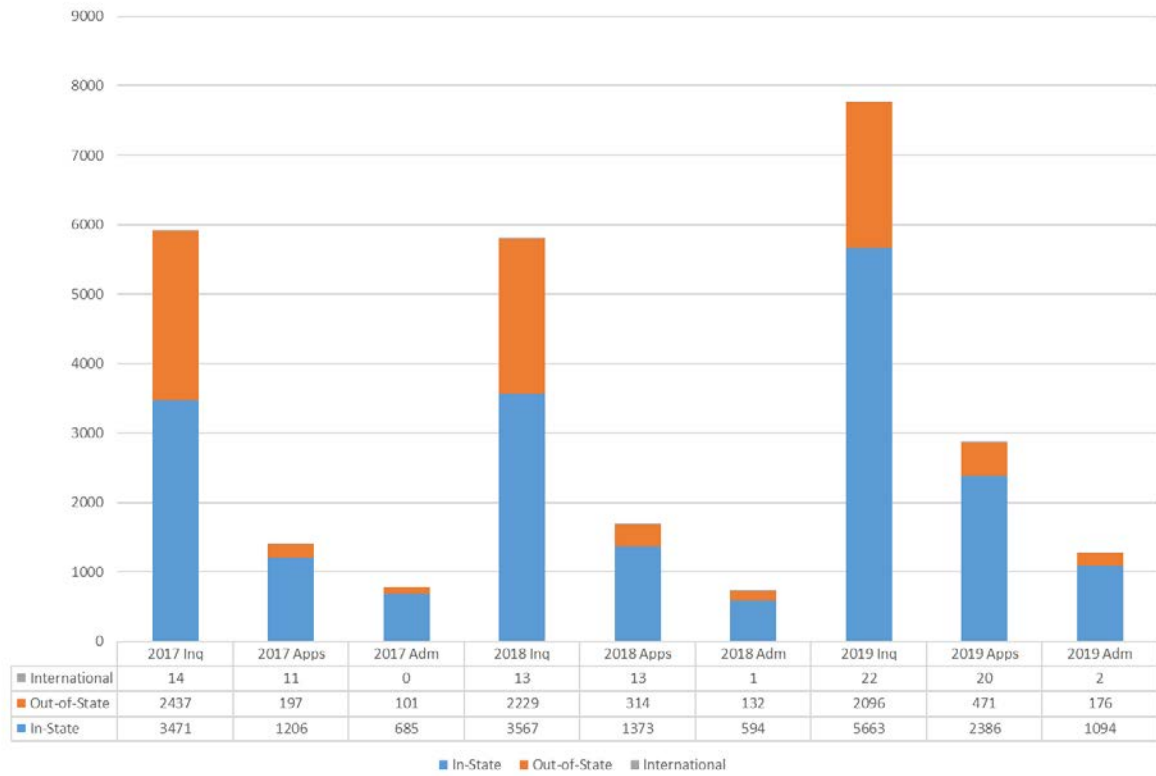
### Applications

- Up 69% from last year
- Up 103% from two years ago

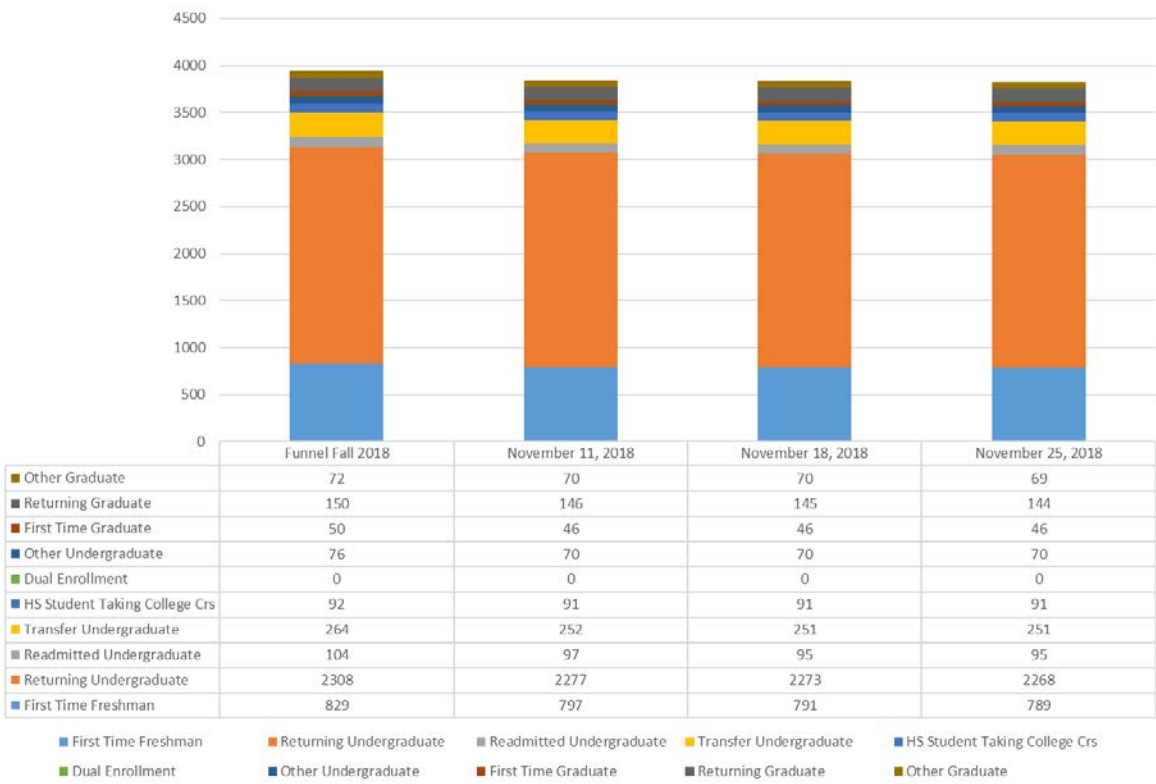
### Admits

- Up 75% from last year
- Up 62% from two years ago

Funnel data, by Residency  
November 25, 2018



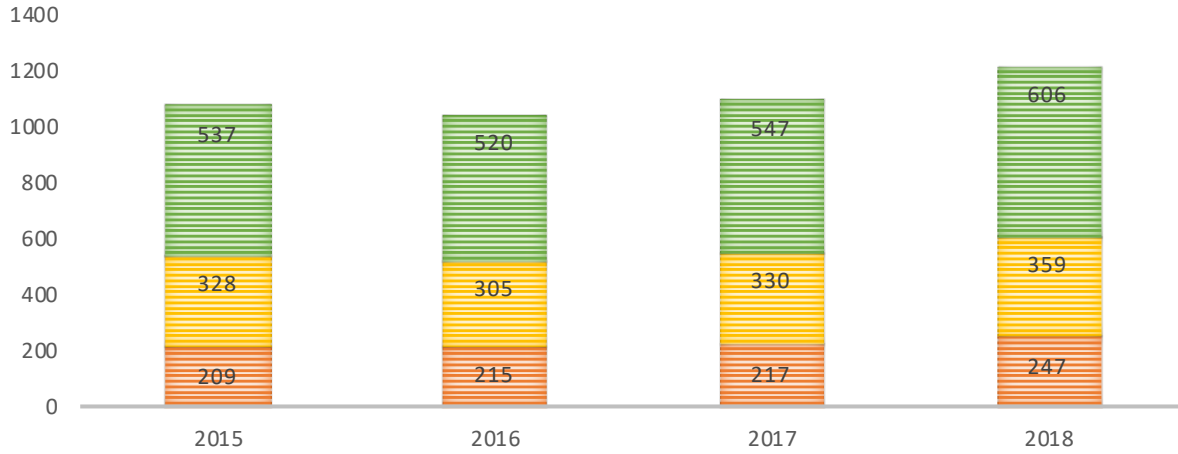
Fall 2018 Enrollment Monitoring





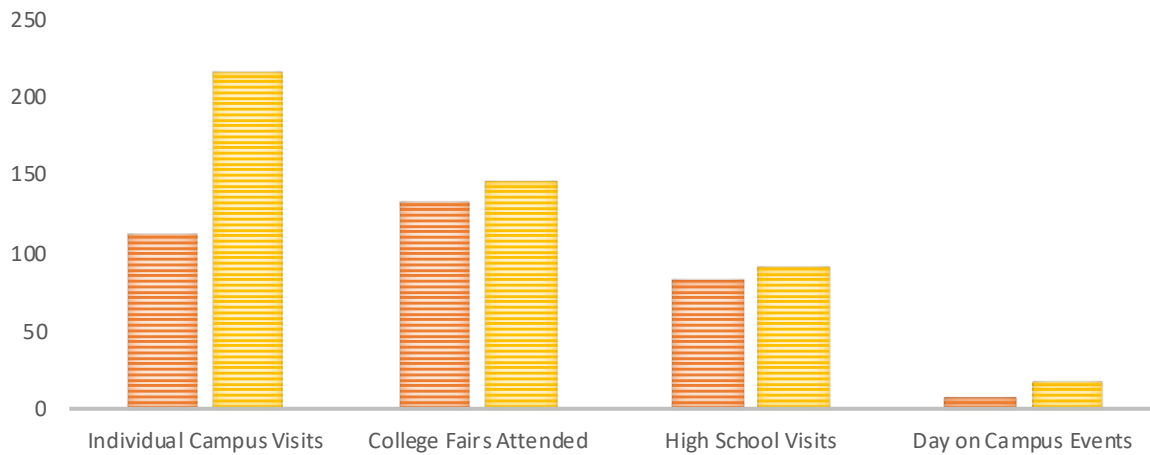
### FALL MAROON AND WHITE DAY ATTENDANCE

Prospective Students    Guests    Total Attendance



### RECRUITMENT ACTIVITY

2017    2018



## Housing and Residence Life Summary

November 27, 2018

Assignments are up for FY 19:

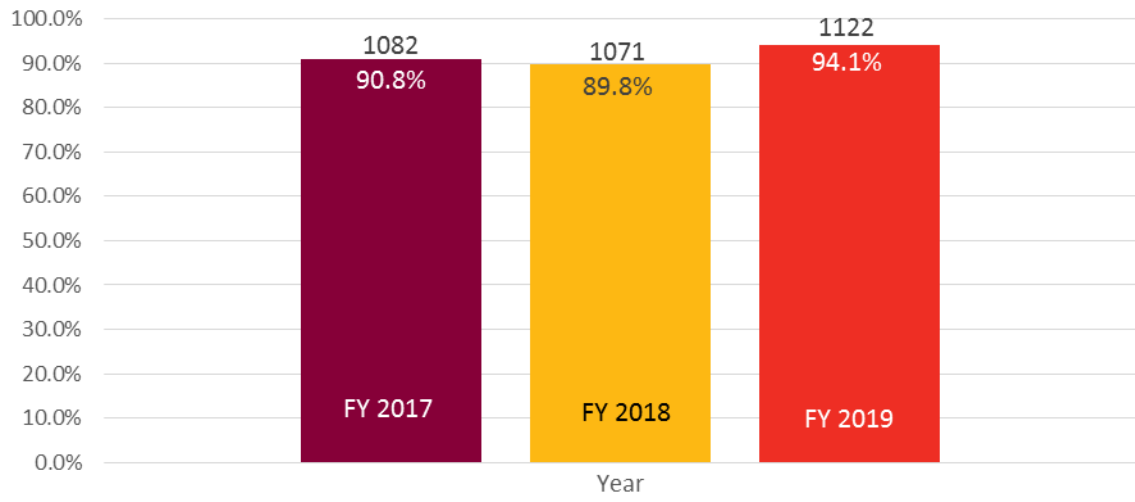
- 94.1% occupied based on 1192 capacity (+4.3% compared to FY18)

Housing Occupancy This Week in History for Current Term								
Year	Bryant Place	Morrow Hall	Pence Hall	Prichard Hall	University Terrace/ College Park	Total Occupancy	Total Capacity	Capacity Percentage
<b>FY17</b>	367	146	122	130	317	1082	1192	90.8%
<b>FY18</b>	378	136	88	139	330	1071	1192	89.8%
<b>FY19</b>	395	151	90	143	343	1122	1192	94.1%

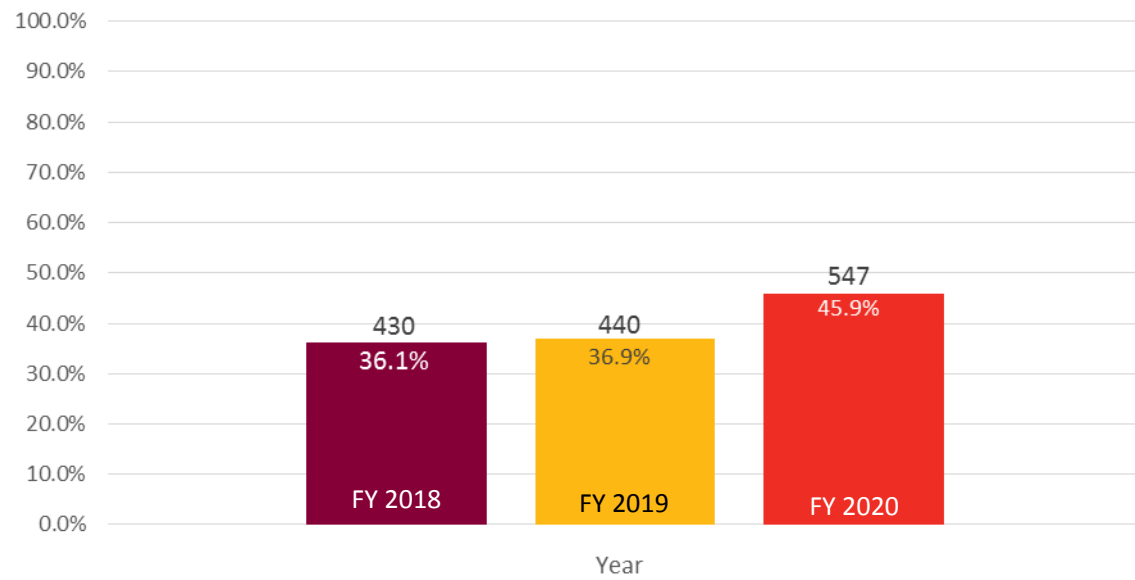
Housing Occupancy Information for FY19							
Institution	Bryant Place	Morrow Hall	Pence Hall	Prichard Hall	University Terrace	Total	Configuration Percentage
Fairmont	341	110	72	120	314	957	85.3%
Pierpont	54	41	18	23	29	165	14.7%
<b>Total Occupancy</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>1122</b>	

Future Term Occupancy This Week in History								
Year	Bryant Place	Morrow Hall	Pence Hall	Prichard Hall	University Terrace/ College Park	Total Occupancy	Total Capacity	Capacity Percentage
<b>FY18</b>	180	23	15	14	198	430	1192	36.1%
<b>FY19</b>	138	18	19	23	242	440	1192	36.9%
<b>FY20</b>	222	21	26	36	242	547	1192	45.9%

### Occupancy This Week in History Over the Last 3 Years Based on 1192 Capacity



### Future Term Occupancy This Week in History



**Fairmont State University**  
**Composite Financial Indicator (CFI) Score**  
**Fiscal Years 2014 to 2018**

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
<b>Financial Statements Unadjusted - including the Fairmont State Foundation (HLC Submission)</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>1.41</b>
<i>Financial Statements Unadjusted - excluding the Fairmont State Foundation</i>	1.22	-0.07	0.36	-0.46	0.74

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
		Exclude GASB 68	Exclude GASB 68	Exclude GASB 68	Exclude GASB 68 and GASB 75
<b>Adjusted Financial Statement data, as noted - including the Fairmont State Foundation (HLC Submission)</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>2.00</b>
<i>Adjusted Financial Statement data - excluding OPEB - including the Fairmont State Foundation</i>	2.72	1.14	1.37	1.29	n/a

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reviews financial and non-financial data for specific risk indicators on an annual basis. The financial data submitted in the Institutional Update generate a Composite Financial Index (CFI) score. For public institutions, HLC relies on the financial ratios recommended by *Strategic Financial Analysis for Higher Education: Identifying, Measuring & Reporting Financial Risks (Seventh Edition)*, by KPMG LLP; Prager, Sealy & Co., LLC; Attain LLC.

**CFI Ranges**

HLC has identified ranges, or zones, of CFI values that indicate whether further review is required.

**Above the Zone: - 1.1 to 10.0**

No additional follow-up is required for institutions with a CFI that falls above the zone.

**In the Zone: 0 to 1.0**

***First Year – Within the Zone*** - If an institution reports a CFI that falls within the zone for the first time, HLC will issue a Letter of Concern. The institution is required to acknowledge receipt of this letter by submitting an institutional response from the CEO either confirming the financial information that was reported in the Institutional Update or requesting corrections and/or modifications to the financial information submitted. Any modifications to the data require supporting documentation.

***Second or Subsequent Year*** - If an institution reports a CFI that falls within the zone for a second or subsequent consecutive year, HLC will require the institution to submit a report and additional financial documents for review by a panel of HLC peer reviewers.

**Below the Zone: -4.0 to -0.1**

If an institution reports a CFI that falls below the zone, HLC will require the institution to submit a report and additional financial documents for review by a panel of HLC peer reviewers. In subsequent years, the institution will be required to submit a report for panel review following each Institutional Update until its CFI is above the zone.



# FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY™

---

## Student Government Association

### **Class Room Affordability Solutions for Students and Professors**

The purpose of the Student Government Association at Fairmont State University is to ensure that the students of this institution have a voice that is both heard and respected by faculty and administration. We actively listen to students and make sure the concerns are heard and addressed to the best of our ability. An issue that we have witnessed over and over again with little to no change is the exponentially increasing cost of textbooks and classroom materials. This is a reoccurring problem with many different parts to take into account, however, the price of college textbooks is often times one of the highest expenses for students that are not covered by financial aid. It is one of the few areas regarding affordability in which we have solutions to help. There are numerous options out there that professors can choose from that would save our students money and make the classroom more productive for both faculty and students.

**OpenStax-** This company publishes “high-quality, peer-reviewed, openly licensed college textbooks that are absolutely free online and low cost in print.” They have also developed a low-cost, research-based courseware that gives students the tools they need to complete their course the first time around.

**Cengage Unlimited-** For the price of \$119.99, students can receive access to Cengage’s Online library that consists of 20,000 + textbooks, learning platforms, and access codes. In addition, if a student wants a physical copy of the book, they can get it for the price of shipping—\$7.99. Students can keep up to 6 books in their digital locker after their subscription ends for a year.

**Open Textbook Library-** This website hosts an impressive list of free textbooks that can be downloaded and viewed online. The catalog is always being added to and consists of peer reviewed and openly licensed textbooks.

**Teaching Commons-** This website consists of thousands of titles along with course material at no additional charge. They provide high quality options that many top ranked universities have developed and published.

**OER Commons-** This portal gives access to many third parties that offer free and affordable education materials. It is an excellent resource that has textbooks and coursework from leading universities.

**Older Editions & Price Caps-** Encourage your students to use older editions if possible. This is a cheaper option and typically they include the same information as new edition. Another idea that has been adopted by several universities and enforced by some state legislatures is price caps. What



this does is put a maximum price that students can be required to pay for text books. This is a great option for departments who believe they can keep text books reasonably priced.

## Benefits of eBooks

- **Cost effective.** The exclusion of printed pages and overhead costs like shipping and storage reduces the overall cost for students by a substantial amount.
- **Easier to Carry.** With electronic books, as long as you've got a laptop, you've got your eBook. Instead of carrying the weight of multiple textbooks, just make sure you have a laptop, tablet, iPad, or even a smartphone.
- **They take up less space.** Instead of piling your textbooks on your desk, shelf, or floor, eBooks are stored on your laptop.
- **Printable.** If you want to focus on a specific page, image or chapter, you can print it out to make notes or highlight important content. This combines the best of both worlds.
- **Fonts can be resized.** You can choose the view of the eBook, similar to reading documents using Word or Adobe Reader.

## Benefits of Traditional Textbooks

- **It's what you're used to.** You've been using textbooks for the majority of your school life. You don't need to worry about technology, short battery life, or straining your eyes while glaring at screens.
- **You can resell them.** Whether it's back to your school bookstore, online, or to a friend or classmate, you can sell your textbooks to others. With the eBook, it is one code for one individual, available on one platform.
- **Tangible.** Interacting with a physical book, you can make highlights, changes, and keep track of pages and readings. Studies have shown that you retain more information from a tangible book than reading on screen.
- **Commonality.** Professors will tell you how to access the eBook, but the textbooks are common in bookstores, making them easier to find.

## Student Government is happy to hear more concerns or questions you have on this topic!

Dillon Bradley – dbradley4@students

304-888-2151

Tyler Keller - tkeller2@students

304-437-4754

Raychel Fitzwater- rfitzwater2@students