



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 17, 2022  
CONFERENCE ROOMS, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR FALCON CENTER  
1201 LOCUST AVENUE, FAIRMONT, WV  
WEBEX MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

Chair David Goldberg convened a meeting of the Fairmont State University Board of Governors on February 17, 2022, beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Rooms, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Falcon Center, at 1201 Locust Avenue, Fairmont, West Virginia, and via WebEx.

**Note: With this meeting being conducted in person and via WebEx, there was no way to ascertain all other participants but the following Fairmont State Board of Governors members, and Fairmont State University administrators, staff, and faculty participating via WebEx or present included:**

At the request of Chair Goldberg, Serena Scully, Chief of Staff, conducted a roll call of the Board of Governors. Present for the meeting were board members Jon Dodds, Dr. Gina Fantasia, Jason Henderson, Jennifer Kinty, Jason Pizatella, Deborah Prezioso, and Kevin Rogers. Wendy Adkins, David Goldberg, Rusty Hutson, and Jay Puccio were present via WebEx. Maiya Bennett was present following roll call.

Rusty Hutson had to leave the meeting at 11:00 a.m.  
Wendy Adkins had to leave the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Others present were President Martin and President's Executive Leadership Team members Greg Bamberger, Ken Fettig, Dr. Joseph Han, Dr. Joy Hatch, Merri Incitti, Christa Kwiatkowski, Dr. Cailey Murray and Dr. Dianna Phillips. Others present included Dr. Laura Clayton, Dean, College of Nursing; Dr. Tim Oxley, Dean, College of Business and Aviation; Dr. Chris Kast, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Richard Harvey, Dean of Continuing Education; Janet Floyd, Faculty; Joel Kirk, Chief Flight Instructor; Emily Swain, Special Assistant to the Provost; Gary Bennett, President of the Fairmont State Foundation; Tim Liebrecht, Director of Development Fairmont State Foundation; Marissa Mauro, Fairmont State Foundation; Jessica Sharps, Executive Director of University Relations and Marketing; Alicia Kalka, AVP of Enrollment and Housing; Robin

Yeager, Director Falcon Center; Monica Cochran, Director of Procurement; Heidi Aloe, Budget Manager; Janel Kittle, Recreation Program Coordinator; Spencer Flanagan, Assistant Director Falcon Center; Suttle & Stalnaker representatives; and members of the local media.

**B. Public Comment**

Serena Scully advised that one person signed up for public comment.

Joel Kirk, Chief Flight Instructor, expressed his concerns regarding the instability and doubt he feels regarding the future of the Aviation program, and in light of the potential merger.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Jason Pizatella made a motion to approve the agenda, in an amended order. Kevin Rogers seconded. The motion passed.

**XI. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to go into Executive Session Under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4(b)(9) and (b)(12) to consider matters involving or affecting the purchase, sale or lease of property, advance construction planning, the investment of public funds or other matters involving commercial competition, which if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the state or any political subdivision and to discuss strategic planning regarding Pierpont CTC, personnel and all pending litigation.

Dr. Gina Fantasia seconded. The motion passed.

Rusty Hutson made a motion to rise from Executive Session. Gina Fantasia seconded. The motion passed.

Chair Goldberg advised that no action or votes were taken in executive session.

Chair Goldberg advised that there was discussion regarding Pierpont legislation currently at the Senate and House.

Chair Goldberg also advised there was a discussion of an inquiry shared from General Counsel.

Jason Pizatella discussed the two bills at the legislature that would combine Fairmont State University and Pierpont CTC – making Pierpont a College of Fairmont State University.

Under the bill, the legislation would increase the Fairmont State Board of Governors from 12 members to 15 members, create a transition committee and make Pierpont CTC a college of Fairmont State University, led by a dean.

Chair Goldberg advised that if the legislation is approved, no immediate employment reductions or changes will be made.

Rusty Hutson made a motion to accept the following:

- A. Approval of the integration of Pierpont CTC and Fairmont State University as the legislation is drafted.

Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2021, AND JANUARY 27, 2022**

Jason Pizatella made a motion to approve the December 2, 2021, and January 27, 2022 meeting minutes. Dr. Gina Fantasia seconded. The motion passed.

## **III. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. President's Report**

President Martin advised that the HB4008 funding formula has passed the House. The Senate bill has not yet passed.

Yesterday the HEPC approved changes to the attainment of the Promise Scholarship: reduced test score requirements, will allow summer awards, and will now pay \$5,000 a year.

President Martin shared that the URM team was awarded the prestigious Crystal Award for the Fairmont State University view book by the West Virginia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America earlier this month. The URM team was also awarded honorable mention for our COVID-19 newsletter and communication campaign.

Dr. Martin introduced Dr. Joseph Han, who is leading the Facilities Management Division. Dr. Han shared information regarding the scope of work and philosophy that the Facilities department employees will support.

Dr. Han also shared the results of an internal survey that was completed by employees regarding priorities and how best to move forward to meet the needs of the University.

Dr. Han discussed preventative maintenance and how Facilities will be working with vendors moving forward to ensure they are abiding by their contracts.

Jennifer Kinty asked if the University has adequately allocated funds to Facilities to allow them to complete that work that needs completed. Dr. Han advised that he is working to create a comprehensive list of requests and needs. He will be in a better position once that is done to allocate funds and project needs.

#### B. Foundation Update – Gary Bennett

Mr. Gary Bennett, President of the Fairmont State Foundation, introduced Tim Liebrecht, the Foundation's new Director of Development.

Mr. Bennett shared that as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, assets totaled 47.2 million. Over the last six months, the Foundation has received 3.255 million in gifts and revenue.

The Foundation received an anonymous endowment for \$287,000 for the Nursing Program.

#### IV. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Wendy Adkins, Chair)

Wendy Adkins, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, advised that the Academic Affairs Committee had not met and asked that Dr. Dianna Phillips provide an update.

Dr. Phillips shared some good news.

- The University has been selected to host the Governor's Honors Academy for the next three years.
- Fairmont State is also hosting a Fullbright Scholar from Siberian Federal University from Russia.
- Science & Technology faculty has secured a \$750,000 STEM grant to support underserved populations in the field of STEM careers.

Dr. Phillips advised the promotion and tenure committee met this year and successfully completed their work. Five faculty members were up for promotion and all five were affirmed. Two faculty were up for promotion and tenure and both were affirmed.

There have been 12 faculty members hired from August 2021 to present. There are currently 13 open searches.

The faculty handbook committee has been seated and has begun work on the 2022-2023 faculty handbook.

Dr. Phillips also shared that she held a deans retreat that resulted in a focus on ensuring a robust hiring process and outcomes, and emphasis data democratization - ensuring that valid and reliable data is available to the Colleges and that we are using the data to inform decision-making.

Ms. Merri Incitti provided information regarding the upcoming HLC accreditation visit. We are in the last ten days of report writing, so the criterion committees are working hard to gather their data and prepare reports. Our report is due to HLC in final format by the middle of April (6 months before the visit). The visit is scheduled for October 16-18.

#### **V. ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Jason Pizatella, Chair)**

Jason Pizatella, Chair of the Athletic Affairs Committee, advised that the Athletic Affairs Committee met on January 27<sup>th</sup> and asked that Mr. Greg Bamberger provide an update.

Mr. Bamberger advised that athletics is wrapping up with winter sports, and the spring teams are gearing up.

The NCAA Convention recently took place in January. A new constitution was approved for Division II (first time since 1996). There were some new transfer rules approved as well.

Mr. Bamberger advised that the Assistant SID position will be filled soon. The search for permanent, full time, athletic trainers are still ongoing; however, through part time support, all teams' needs are addressed and filled.

#### **VI. BYLAWS COMMITTEE (Deborah Prezioso, Chair)**

Deborah Prezioso, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, advised that the Bylaws Committee met on January 25<sup>th</sup> and asked Dr. Cailey Murray, Interim General Counsel, to provide an update.

Dr. Murray advised that Policy 17 has been updated to be more relevant as the policy had not been updated for several years. The redlined version, and the final version of the policy were included in the board packet.

Jennifer Kinty made a motion to accept the following:

A. Policy 17 – Student Rights and Responsibilities

Dr. Gina Fantasia seconded. The motion passed.

## **VII. ENROLLMENT, HOUSING & STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE (Jay Puccio, Chair)**

Jay Puccio, Chair of the Enrollment, Housing & Student Life Committee, advised that the Enrollment Committee met on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and asked Mr. Ken Fettig, Vice President for Student Success, to provide an update.

Mr. Ken Fettig shared the following information:

For Fall 2022, the submitted applications, completed applications, admits, and enrolled numbers are up from this time last year.

Dr. Fantasia inquired about current enrollment figures and requested to see those numbers. President Martin advised that those numbers will be shared Mr. Jacob Abrams, Director of Institutional Research will provide those data at the March 2022 Academic Affairs committee meeting.

Jacob Abrams shared reporting requirements and advised that enrollment data is currently listed on the Fairmont State website.

Mr. Fettig shared information regarding highlights of the strategic initiatives focus areas for enrollment management.

Mr. Fettig shared information regarding the goal to be more present in WV high schools. A high number of visits have been made, many times with Fairmont State being the first institution in the schools since pre-pandemic. President Martin, he and other members of his staff have been on the road continuously.

FAFSA completion is still down statewide. Currently, about 32.9% of high school seniors have completed a FAFSA in West Virginia.

Mr. Fettig also shared that housing applications are up from this time last year.

## **VIII. FINANCE COMMITTEE (Rusty Hutson, Chair)**

Rusty Hutson, Chair of the Finance Committee, was absent. Christa Kwiatkowski, CFO, advised that the Finance Committee met on February 8<sup>th</sup> and provided a brief update.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski provided a summary of the November and December financials, indicating that all funds were currently in stable condition. Mrs. Kwiatkowski provided additional updates on days cash on hand and debt service payments. Currently, E&G funds totaling \$24.9M, excluding \$6.4M in capital funds, provides 177 days cash on-hand, which is very stable and reasonable at the mid point in the year. Auxiliary funds currently total \$8.7M, excluding \$1.1M in capital project funds, which provides 253 days cash on hand, which is very strong. Pierpont has provided the first half of its required debt service payments according to the bond indentures and the final separation agreement.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski also provided details that the annual fee for service payments received from Pierpont in the amount of \$650,000 for FY22 provides occupancy of 57,801 square feet of space on Fairmont State's Locust Avenue and NAEC campuses, which is a cost of \$11.24 per square foot. Pierpont pays monthly and has paid through January.

Jennifer Kinty made a motion to accept the following:

- A. Financial Reports for the periods ending November 30, 2021 and December 31, 2021

Deborah Prezioso seconded. The motion passed.

Representatives from Suttle & Stalnaker advised they do not have any concerns about Fairmont State University's financial position. They further indicated that Fairmont State had a very strong net position at the end of fiscal year 2021, particularly an unrestricted net position.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski shared a CFI comparison of WV higher education institutions. Fairmont State's CFI is 5.07 (Foundation not included) and 5.69 (Foundation included). Fairmont State has the highest CFI of all WV four-year institutions.

Fairmont State also has the highest days cash on hand of all WV four-year institutions, which was 270 days on June 30, 2021.

## **IX. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair Goldberg advised that the Executive Committee met on February 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed many topics, including pending legislation regarding the integration of Fairmont State and Pierpont CTC, committee reports, news reports that questioned Fairmont State's financial health and accreditation.

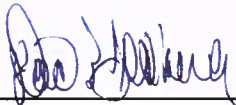
Chair Goldberg also asked Mr. Bamberger to research alcohol being served at athletic events.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to be discussed.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Jason Pizatella made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Kinty seconded. The motion passed.

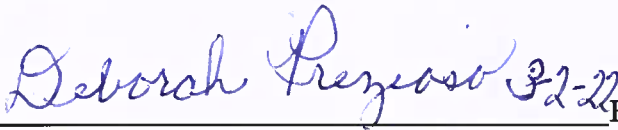


David Goldberg

2/25/2022

Date

FSU Board of Governors' Chair



Deborah Prezioso

Date

FSU Board of Governors' Secretary