



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 21, 2021  
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 October 21, 2021, 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 Maiya Bennett, Jon Dodds, Dr. Gina Fantasia, David Goldberg, Jason Henderson, and Kevin Rogers. Wendy Adkins, Rusty Hutson, Jennifer Kinty, Jason Pizatella, Deborah Prezioso, and Jay Puccio were present via WebEx.

Others present were President Martin and President's Executive Leadership Team members Greg Bamberger, Lyndsey Dugan, Ken Fetting, Dr. Dianna Phillips, Dr. Joy Hatch, Merri Incitti, Christa Kwiatkowski, Dr. Jacqueline L. Sikora, and Matt Swain. Others present included Dr. Amanda Metcalf, Dean, College of Education; Dr. Chris Kast, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Robert Baker, Faculty; Dr. Chuck Shields, Faculty Senate President; Dr. Susan Ross, Executive Director of Academic Programs; Jacob Abrams, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness; Bob Cable, Athletic Trainer; Emily Swain, Special Assistant to the Provost; Gary Bennett, President of the Fairmont State Foundation; Marissa Mauro, Fairmont State Foundation; Alicia Kalka, AVP of Enrollment; and Delegate Phil Mallow.

B. Public Comment

Serena Scully advised that no public comment had been received or requested.

C. Approval of Agenda

Gina Fantasia made a motion to approve the agenda. Kevin Rogers seconded. The motion passed.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2021**

Rusty Hutson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2021 meeting. Jason Henderson seconded. The motion passed.

**III. ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Jason Pizatella, Chair)**

Jason Pizatella, Chair of the Athletic Affairs Committee, advised that the Athletic Affairs Committee has not met since the last board meeting but asked that Mr. Greg Bamberger provide an update.

Mr. Bamberger provided an update on the master plan. The final plan was shared electronically. The indoor facility was made smaller but is still large enough for the needs of the department. Phase 1 current estimated cost is \$2,000,213.

Mr. Bamberger advised on current vacant positions. As of Monday, we will have a new Sports Information Director – Blake Smith. At the beginning of the academic year, the department posted positions for three full-time athletic trainers. These permanent positions remain unfilled. Presently, there is one full-time athletic trainer and four temporary athletic trainers providing coverage for all events.

Mr. Bob Cable provided information regarding the nationwide shortage of athletic trainers. He explained the pandemic had changed the nature of the profession and that the workforce shortage was only going to continue to increase. Athletic trainers no longer wished to work long hours and weekends and were choosing to enter other related careers to achieve a more traditional work schedule.

Rusty Hutson inquired about the impacts on the department related to the open athletic trainer positions.

Dr. Gina Fantasia asked about the current salary for the athletic trainer positions and any comparison to offered at other institutions.

Mr. Bamberger advised that our starting athletic trainer salary is slightly over \$45,000 – higher than starting athletic trainer salaries at local division one institutions.

Mr. Bamberger advised that he will submit updated salary information to the Athletic Affairs committee once the recent salary survey is completed.

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

Wendy Adkins, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, advised that the Academic Affairs Committee met on September 20 and asked that Dr. Dianna Phillips provide the following update and respond to questions by the Board.

The HEPC Graduate Studies Report is a required report from the University to HEPC each year and was provided electronically for the Board. The report includes new programs, initiatives by faculty, and more.

Dr. Phillips provided information regarding faculty promotion and tenure and what is reviewed in the process. The process is now electronic, beginning with the faculty creating their application/portfolio, concluding with the President's final decision, and the Provost sending appointment letters.

Faculty Promotion – Change in rank (i.e., assistant professor to associate professor)  
Faculty Tenure – Indefinite academic appointment that can be terminated only for cause or under extraordinary circumstances

Mr. Goldberg inquired and Dr. Phillips confirmed that the information provided was for faculty in tenure track positions, not staff.

Dr. Phillips discussed the Healthcare Management articulation agreements. Dr. Phillips advised she met with Pierpont this week, and those agreements are in the process of being signed.

Dr. Phillips also discussed the faculty handbook. The process continues to be a joint effort between the her, and the Faculty Handbook Committee, led by Dr. Robert Baker. The process is on track to be completed by December 2021.

Dr. Phillips shared the list of programs currently in process for a program review in early 2022. Those programs reviews will be discussed with the Academic Affairs Committee and then the full board.

A group of senior leaders in Academic Affairs has been created – the Academic Leadership Team (ALT). The team includes Deans, Department Chairs, President of the Faculty Senate, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of the Library, and Director of Honors Program. This group was created to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of academic operations.

Dr. Phillips advised that the National Security and Intelligence program is a program of distinction and has four full-time faculty with terminal degrees. The enrollment for Fall 2021 was 110 students.

Dr. Phillips ask Ms. Merri Incitti to present information regarding the upcoming HLC accreditation visit. Ms. Incitti advised that just five years ago, the University was placed on monitoring in three areas. Currently, the University has been removed from that monitoring.

The HLC accreditation visit will take place in 2022.

Mr. Goldberg advised that he, Rusty Hutson, and President Martin are continuing discussions with Pierpont regarding the Aviation program.

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

Deborah Prezioso, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, advised that the Bylaws Committee met on September 28 and asked that Dr. Jacqueline Sikora provide an update.

Dr. Sikora advised there were three documents in the packet regarding Policy 17. She advised that Policy 17 was considered for revision because it has not been updated since December 2002, it contains language found in other BOG and institutional policies, and procedural language which is most appropriate in institutional operations policies.

Maiya Bennett made a motion to accept the following:

A. Policy 17 – Student Rights and Responsibilities for Public Comment (30 Days)

Jon Dodds seconded. The motion passed.

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

Jay Puccio, Chair of the Enrollment, Housing & Student Life Committee, advised that the Enrollment Committee did not meet but asked Mr. Ken Fettig, Vice President for Student Success, to provide an update.

Mr. Ken Fettig shared the following information:

Fall 2021 enrollment is down compared to Fall 2020. He advised that this information was submitted to HEPC, but is not the official census data.

Mr. Goldberg inquired regarding how the institutions numbers related to a decrease in returning students and how our numbers compare to other institutions. Mr. Fettig advised that we would not have information from other institutions until December.

Mr. Hutson asked if we know the reason why our numbers related to returning students have declined. Mr. Fettig stated the pandemic had an impact because we could not connect with students who were working in an online environment vs. the

face-to-face environment. Other pandemic-related issues, including vaccination status, also impacted the numbers.

Mr. Fettig presented the Fall 2022 application numbers, which are trending positively.

Fall 2021 housing – 813 students have been assigned, which is 69.1% occupied based on an 1176 configuration and 76.8% occupied based on a 1058 configuration.

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

Rusty Hutson, Chair of the Finance Committee, advised that the Finance Committee met on October 12 and asked Mrs. Christa Kwiatkowski, CFO, to provide a brief update.

Mrs. Kwiatkowski provided a summary of the July and August financials.

Maiya Bennett made a motion to accept the following:

B. Financial Reports for the periods ending July 31, 2021, and August 31, 2021

Dr. Gina Fantasia seconded. The motion passed.

The fiscal year 2021 audit was issued on October 14<sup>th</sup> (one day early). Mrs. Kwiatkowski indicated that Fairmont State University's external auditors, Suttle and Stalnaker, will be at the next Finance Committee and Board meetings to present the audit. Mrs. Kwiatkowski indicated that this year's financial statement presentation is much different than prior years due to the separation from Pierpont, the bond refunding, and the Foundation, which is now included as a discretely presented component unit. Mrs. Kwiatkowski shared a brief overview of the change in financial position over the last four fiscal years. She advised the board that since 2017, the University had experienced a \$20.5 million turnaround in a net positive position.

Mr. Hutson inquired if Pierpont is currently up to date with their payments. Mrs. Kwiatkowski advised that they are indeed current on both the bond payments and the fee for service payments.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (David Goldberg, Chair)**

David Goldberg, Chair of the Executive Committee, advised that the Executive Committee met on October 13 and discussed correspondence that he received from a former employee.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. President Martin provided an update and expressed her appreciation for everyone helping to keep the Falcon Family safe. The current academic semester has only four weeks remaining.

President Martin reminded everyone of the Fairmont State University Day of Giving that will take place next Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Martin advised that on October 20<sup>th</sup>, we received a letter from HLC recommending approval for Fairmont State to offer the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care.

- B. Mr. Gary Bennett, President of the Fairmont State Foundation, gave an update.

Mr. Bennett advised that the audit for June 2021 has been completed. The return on investment was 24.73%.

The Day of Giving is set for October 28<sup>th</sup>. The goal for this year is \$325,000. Multiple matches and challenges have already been made.

## **IX. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Deborah Prezioso made a motion to go into Executive Session Under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) to discuss confidential and deliberative matters regarding personnel matters related to correspondence received by the chair.

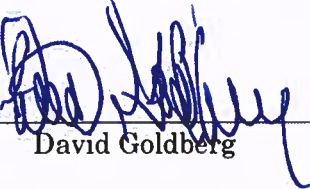
Maiya Bennett seconded. The motion passed.

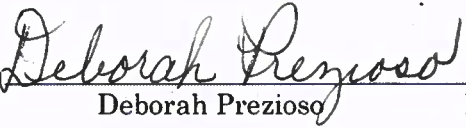
Kevin Rogers made a motion to rise from Executive Session. Dr. Gina Fantasia seconded. The motion passed.

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Gina Fantasia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Rogers seconded.  
The motion passed.

  
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David Goldberg                      Date 11/2/21                      FSU Board of Governors' Chair

  
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Deborah Prezioso                      Date 11/5/21                      FSU Board of Governors' Secretary