

## **SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2021**

The Shepherd University Board of Governors met on December 16, 2021, in a regular meeting. Members participating were: David Avella (audio feed), Gat Caperton, Jim Cherry (audio feed), Elana Gutmann, Henry Kayes, Jr., Ramona Kissel, Eric Lewis, Jonathan Mason, Susan Mentzer-Blair, Timothy Nixon, and Karl Wolf. Also present were Shepherd University President Mary J.C. Hendrix, members of the executive leadership team and others.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**M (Gutmann), S (Mason), PASSED**, all members participating by audio feed were polled (Members Cherry and Mentzer-Blair absent at this time), that the following resolution be adopted by the Board:

**RESOLVED**, That the Shepherd University Board of Governors approves:

- 1) The Minutes of the Meeting of November 4, 2021; and
- 2) The Energy Savings Program, the application for and commitment to a WV HEPC loan pursuant to the Energy and Water Savings Revolving Loan Fund Program, the Lease Financing Resolution, and the expenditures of the funds so derived for the Energy Savings Program, each as presented in the Agenda materials of December 16, 2021, and in the meeting of December 16, 2021, and authorizes the President or the Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into contracts with CMTA and with Crews and Associates to implement the same, subject to final adjustments and approval as to form by counsel.

Ms. Mentzer-Blair joined at this time.

3. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hendrix pointed out the Board of Governors packet cover and the EndZone pass photo. She noted that as a high priority, Shepherd administration is working to update our academic infrastructure. Dr. Hendrix said we have classrooms with chairs and tables from when Dr. Cherry was here, as well as classrooms with stained and soiled carpet. She noted we are replacing classroom monitors, etc., one classroom in each instructional building. Financial support for the initiative is led by \$78,000 from the President's Club, the President's University Support account in the Foundation, and from funds raised on Giving Tuesday. She noted these types of upgrades will be placed on the Capital Budget going forward and that IT equipment for 10 classrooms has been ordered. President Hendrix then reviewed highlights of the ongoing initiatives for advancing Shepherd from among the comprehensive list provided in the President's Report.

4. **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES COUNCIL (CEC) ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Cecelia Mason, Chair of the CEC and Staff Writer, Office of University Communications, presented to the Board the CEC Annual Report. The Report focused on the conversion of classified staff to non-classified staff, guest speakers at the monthly CEC meetings, the CEC Scholarship Fund, staff development funds, classified and non-classified employee salaries, and the Governor's announcement of pay raises.

Chair Lewis said it was his pleasure to speak to the CEC. He noted the Board just heard about the potential raises and said they would love to be able to give raises to staff. He noted the University will be in touch with legislators, and the actual allocation of funding support for raises remained uncertain.

Dr. Cherry joined at this time.

5. **REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

On behalf of Finance and Facilities Committee, Mr. Kayes provided a brief update of the Committee's discussions which included the Campus Services Annual Report, preliminary discussions of possible tuition and fee increases, a CMTA Update, and an Enrollment Management and Marketing Update.

Mr. Kayes then asked Mr. Chauncey Winbush, Vice President for Athletics, to provide the Board with an update on adding additional sports at Shepherd and the facilities improvements needed for those additions. Chair Lewis said this has been discussed on and off for years and especially throughout the past few months. He noted that Legislators asked for a resolution from the Board to describe the Shepherd University request.

**M (Mason), S (Mentzer-Blair), PASSED**, all members participating by audio feed were polled, that the following resolution be adopted by the Board:

**RESOLVED, WHEREAS**, the Shepherd University Board of Governors finds that the student-athletics program is a vital and successful component of the student life, University community environment and enrollment enhancement at Shepherd University; and

*WHEREAS*, Shepherd's student-athletes are competing with noteworthy success in our athletics conference and in NCAA playoff events; and

*WHEREAS*, Shepherd's student-athletes routinely achieve outstanding success in academic progression and degree achievement;

The Shepherd University Board of Governors finds that:

- 1) Shepherd's current facilities to support student-athlete performance training are inadequate to reasonably support our existing fifteen teams and definitely inadequate to support additional teams;
- 2) Shepherd's primary region of student recruitment includes popular interest among prospective college recruits in additional sports beyond Shepherd's current offerings such as Men's and Women's Swimming, Women's Field Hockey, Acrobatics and Tumbling, and Men's Lacrosse, which can readily enhance the University's

recruitment of new students, which can increase enrollment by as much as one hundred twenty-five students and which could enhance the experience of current students;

- 3) Expansion of athletics offerings at Shepherd is only viable with the enhancement of current sports facilities and training facilities and the addition of certain new sports facilities and training facilities;
- 4) The facilities upgrades are currently anticipated to include an addition to the Boone Field House (adding a larger workout facility, enhanced locker rooms and additional athletic training/treatment facilities), a new lacrosse/field hockey/soccer field and a new multi-use locker/training facility adjacent to the existing soccer field and new lacrosse/field hockey/soccer field;
- 5) The additional facilities will also enhance the local community and serve as a driver of economic activity by allowing additional youth sports camps, drawing families and potential future students to campus and to Shepherdstown in much larger numbers than currently possible; and
- 6) The new facilities are estimated to cost \$10-\$11 million.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, by the Shepherd University Board of Governors, that the Board requests that the Governor and Legislature of West Virginia provide assistance of at least \$10 million in funds for athletics facilities enhancements at Shepherd, to provide a foundation for supporting the expansion of student-athletic programs and student enrollment.

6. **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Academic Programs and Development Committee, Mr. Wolf noted Ms. Lingenfelter's prospective retirement in the Fall. He then provided a brief update of the Committee's discussions which included the University Development Annual Report. Board members noted their deep appreciation of Ms. Lingenfelter's work and commitment.

Mr. Avella disconnected from the meeting at this time.

7. **REPORT OF THE ENROLLMENT, STUDENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Enrollment, Student and Community Affairs Committee, Mr. Caperton provided a brief update of the Committee's discussions which included the Student Affairs Annual Report, an Enrollment Management Update with encouraging outlooks for the Fall, and the Marketing/Branding Initiative Update.

8. **HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION (HLC) REAFFIRMATION ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT UPDATE**

Dr. Jason Best, Assistant Provost for Distance Education and Strategic Research Initiatives and Higher Learning Commission HLC Accreditation Liaison, provided the Board with a brief update on the November 2021 HLC Reaffirmation Accreditation Site Visit and the preliminary feedback as to the re-accreditation review. Final action by HLC will occur in 2022.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Lewis noted the Board is in great debt to Dr. Best and Team. He thanked the faculty, staff, finance, marketing, and the Enrollment Management teams. He noted that football had a great run as has basketball and volleyball. Chair Lewis noted we all need to keep working to keep the ship turned in the right direction.

Mr. Wolf thanked Dana Costa for finally getting the Herald Mail to cover Shepherd.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**M (Wolf), S (Caperton), PASSED**, that pursuant to Section 4 of Article 9A of Chapter 6 of the WV Code, it was moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of matters relating to confidential legal matters and potential real property transactions.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Kayes recused themselves from the Executive Session, and did not return thereafter.

Following an executive session discussion, the Board arose from the Executive Session and then adjourned.

Signed Copy on File

Eric Lewis  
Chair

Signed Copy on File

Jim Cherry, Ph.D.  
Secretary