

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2025

The Shepherd University Board of Governors met on April 17, 2025, in a regular meeting. Members participating were: Gat Caperton, Dr. James Cherry, Henry Kayes, Jr., Susan Mentzer-Blair (audio-visual feed), Guillermina Garcia Moore, Kevin Murphy, Austin J. Slater, Jr., Dr. Stephanie Slocum-Schaffer, Paul Teter, and Karl Wolf.* Also present were Shepherd University President Mary J.C. Hendrix, members of the executive leadership team, and others. Board members David Avella and Jonathan Mason were absent from the meeting.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Carrie Messenger made public comments regarding constituent-member voting rights being removed by new legislation. The Chair thanked Dr. Messenger for sharing her comments. He said he wants to make it crystal clear that the Board understands that the faculty, classified employees, and student government representatives work hard to represent their constituents. He further stated that the Board and University President had made efforts to support these representatives during the legislative process but had felt it was important and might be more effective to do so through private communications rather than public statements. He acknowledged that some people had perceived otherwise and emphasized that they were incorrect in those assumptions.

2. RECOGNITION OF EMERITUS/EMERITA FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Jack DeRochi, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented to the Board: Dr. Kathleen Reid, Professor of Economics, *Emerita*, and Dr. James B. (JB) Tuttle, Associate Professor of Education, *Emeritus*. Ms. Tammy Gill, Director of Human Resources Operations, presented to the Board: Ms. Sharika Abdul-Muhaimin, Administrative Associate, *Emerita*.

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M (Caperton), S (Slocum-Schaffer), PASSED, all members participating by virtual feed were polled, 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 February 13, 2025,
as presented in the Agenda materials of April 17, 2025.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hendrix provided an overview of the University's progress on meeting goals for 2024-2025, and updates on the outcome of Administrative Prioritization, the East Campus Gateway Project, the Agri-business Building at Tabler Farm, newly awarded grants, and Day of Giving. An update was also provided on the Governor's Special Initiatives and the 2025 Legislative Session. Dr. Hendrix noted that the new Vice President for Development and Annual Giving will join the staff on June 2, 2025.

5. **DINING HALL / MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING PRESENTATION**

Dr. Scott Barton, Vice President for Finance and Administration, and Mr. Eric Lewis '95, provided the Board with an update on the Dining Hall / Multipurpose Building project.

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

On behalf of the Academic Programs and Development Committee, Dr. Slocum-Schaffer provided a brief update of the Committee's discussions which included an Academic Affairs Division Update and a University Foundation Update. Dr. Slocum-Schaffer invited Dr. DeRochi to provide a Dual Enrollment update as well as his vision for his new role.

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

On behalf of the Enrollment, Student, and Community Affairs Committee, Ms. Mentzer-Blair invited Mrs. Holly Morgan-Frye, Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Community Relations, to provide a brief update of the Committee's discussions which included the Campus Safety Annual Data Report, the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) Annual Report, an Athletics Division Update, and a Student Affairs Division Update. Ms. Mentzer-Blair invited Mr. Will Bell, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, to provide an enrollment update. Following that, Chief Maraugh was invited to the podium to provide an update regarding specific items in the Campus Safety Annual Data Report and discussion among members ensued.

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

On behalf of the Finance and Facilities Committee, Mr. Kayes provided a brief update of the Committee's discussions which included the Human Resources Annual Data Report, a FY2026 Capital Initiatives Preliminary Discussion, a FY2027 Capital Funding Priorities Preliminary Discussion, and a FY2026 Proposed Annual Budget Preliminary Discussion. Dr. Slocum-Schaffer noted that we have heard for years that Shepherd has too many full-time faculty members. She highlighted in the report that Shepherd has a 27-to-1 student-to-full-time-faculty ratio. She further stated that our peer institutions generally have smaller ratios, and several much smaller ratios. She also noted that faculty salaries at Shepherd are below those of our competitors.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

Slater commented that the Waiver Committee should be reconvened.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

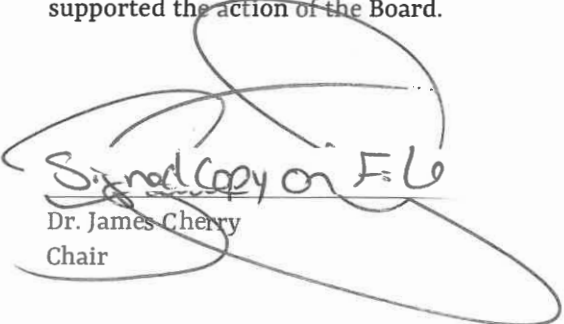
M (Caperton), S (Moore), PASSED, all members participating by virtual feed were polled, that the following resolution be adopted by the Board:

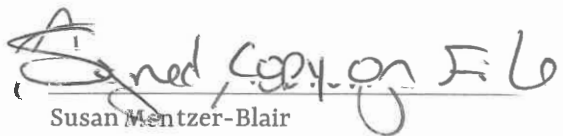
RESOLVED, That pursuant to Section 4 of Article 9A of Chapter 6 of the W V Code, that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of matters relating to personnel matters as to one or more specific persons and as to matters that would be an invasion of privacy if publicly discussed.

Upon arising from the Executive Session, the Board meeting was adjourned.

* The West Virginia Legislature adopted HB3279, which relates to boards of governors, on April 12, 2025. The Legislature adopted the bill as "effective from passage." HB3279 was approved by the Governor on April 30, 2025. To the degree that HB3279 is deemed to apply to board of governors meetings and actions occurring after April 12 but prior to April 30, it is noted that seven of nine gubernatorial appointees were present and participated in the meeting. On each vote, all seven appointees who were present voted in the affirmative, and on each vote, each constituent member voiced support for the pending motion.

As to each motion or resolution adopted by the Board, each of the three constituent representatives supported the action of the Board.


Dr. James Cherry
Chair


Susan Mentzer-Blair
Secretary