

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 19, 2025

The Shepherd University Board of Governors met virtually on June 19, 2025, for the annual meeting. Members participating were: David Avella, Gat Caperton, Dr. James Cherry, Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, Jonathan Mason, Susan Mentzer-Blair, Guillermina Garcia Moore, Kevin Murphy, Austin J. Slater, Jr., Paul Teter, and Karl Wolf. Also present were Shepherd University President Mary J.C. Hendrix, members of the executive leadership team, and others. Board member Henry Kayes, Jr., was absent from the meeting; Dr. Cherry joining after the meeting began, as noted herein, the meeting was convened by Vice Chair Slater.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

2. **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER**

The oath of office was administered by Chair Cherry to Dr. Heidi Hanrahan.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

M (Mentzer-Blair), S (Moore), PASSED, all members were polled (Dr. Cherry not yet attending), that the following resolution be adopted by the Board:

RESOLVED, That the Shepherd University Board of Governors approves:

- 1) The Addendum to the Minutes of the Meeting of February 13, 2025;
 - 2) The Minutes of the Meeting of April 17, 2025;
 - 3) The Athletic Program Philosophy; and
 - 4) The Ratification of the Approved Consent Agenda Resolution in the April 17, 2025 Meeting,
- each as presented in the Agenda materials of June 19, 2025.

Each of the three Advisory Members indicated that they supported adoption of this resolution of the Board.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hendrix provided an overview of the University's progress towards meeting its 2024-2025 goals, along with updates on the Great Colleges to Work for Committee, Shepherd's first Fulbright Scholar, student presentations at the WV Literary Symposium and the WV Innovation and Business Model Competition, the Groundbreaking for new Dining Hall/Multipurpose Building, and Shepherd's Hosting of international leaders in

Photobiomodulation. President Hendrix also remarked about the WV Auditor's Office visit to campus.

Dr. Cherry joined during the President's Report.

5. **FACULTY SENATE ANNUAL REPORT**

Dr. Larry Daily, President of the Faculty Senate and Professor of Psychology, presented to the Board the Faculty Senate Annual Report. Dr. Daily's report noted the Senate had a busy year dealing with several substantive issues, including Administrative Prioritization, the approval process for new academic programs, department chair compensation, dual enrollment, WV House Bill 3279, document shredding on campus, and the Technology Strategic Plan. Dr. Daily reaffirmed Dr. DeRochi's observations during the Academic Committee meeting that the faculty are committed to and engaged in the Retention Pilot Program. Ms. Mentzer-Blair her deep appreciation for outstanding faculty and staff at Shepherd.

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

On behalf of the Academic Programs and Development Committee, Mr. Caperton provided a brief update of the Committee's discussions, which included an Academic Affairs Division Update and a University Foundation Update. Development of the new Shepherd Online initiative and student retention initiatives which join the work of Academic, Enrollment and Student Affairs staff were highlighted.

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

On behalf of the Enrollment, Student, and Community Affairs Committee, Ms. Mentzer-Blair provided a brief update of the Committee's discussions, which included the Athletics Director's Annual Report, an Enrollment Management Division Update, and a Student Affairs Division Update. Ms. Mentzer-Blair noted that the Athletic Director has done an amazing job in her first, very challenging year. Mr. Slater affirmed his appreciation for the dedication to correcting the earlier compliance problems.

8. **ADVICE OF COUNSEL ON IMPLEMENTING HB3279**

The General Counsel discussed the statewide consensus of higher education attorneys in the interpretive approaches to defining the new status of the constituent representatives as Advisory Members, and the need to proceed with Bylaws updates. He noted that although not voting, constituent representatives Members of the Board were encouraged to share any suggestions of bylaws edits and to expect a draft during the summer.

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

On behalf of the Finance and Facilities Committee, Dr. Barton provided a brief update of the Committee's discussions, which included the Capital Projects Annual Report, the Quarterly Financial Report: 3rd Quarter FY2025, and the Proposed FY2026 Capital Initiatives.

10. PROPOSED FY2026 ANNUAL BUDGET

M (Cherry), S (Mentzer-Blair), PASSED, all members were polled, that the following resolution be adopted by the Board:

RESOLVED, That the Shepherd University Board of Governors approves the FY2026 Annual Budget as presented in the agenda materials of June 19, 2025.

Each of the three Advisory Members indicated that they supported adoption of this resolution of the Board.

11. APPROVAL OF THE FY2027 CAPITAL FUNDING PRIORITIES

M (Wolf), S (Avella), PASSED, all members were polled, that the following resolution be adopted by the Board:

RESOLVED, That the Shepherd University Board of Governors approves the FY2027 Capital Funding Priorities as described in the agenda book of June 19, 2025.

Each of the three Advisory Members indicated that they supported adoption of this resolution of the Board.

12. IT SYSTEM COMPLIANCE WITH GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT (GLBA)

Dr. Scott Barton led a presentation with the Board relating to Shepherd's compliance policies and procedures to maintain security of personal information of students, parents and employees.

13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

The Nominating Committee, by and through its Chair Mr. Avella, submitted a slate of Dr. Cherry as Board Chair, Mr. Slater as Vice Chair, and Ms. Mentzer-Blair as Secretary. There were no other nominations. All members were polled, and these officers were elected unanimously.

Each of the three Advisory Members indicated that they supported adoption of this resolution of the Board.

14. ELECTION OF AUDIT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Dr. Cherry nominated Mr. Mason as Chair of the Audit Committee, and Mr. Slater and Mr. Kayes for its membership, pursuant to the Bylaws. The Audit Committee members for 2024-2025 were agreed to by acclamation.

Each of the three Advisory Members indicated that they supported adoption of this resolution of the Board.

The Nominating Committee then nominated, by and through its chair, a slate of Mrs. Moore, Mr. Kayes, and Ms. Mentzer-Blair. **M (Caperton), S (Wolf), PASSED**, all members were polled, to close nominations, the slate was then Elected.

Each of the three Advisory Members indicated that they supported adoption of this resolution of the Board.

15. PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025-2026

Dr. Cherry reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2025-2026, as published in the agenda book, with the Board.

16. NEW BUSINESS

The following special resolutions for adoption by the Board were moved by Chair Cherry and approved by acclamation:

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS RESOLUTION
HONORING MR. DAVID A. AVELLA**

WHEREAS, Mr. David A. Avella has served Shepherd University, his alma mater, with distinction as a member of the Shepherd University Board of Governors from 2017 to 2025; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Avella has generously given his time in support of the Board in serving on its standing committees, its Nominating Committee, and on ad hoc committees; and

WHEREAS, David Avella was an important leader of the Board's work in 2019 in guiding the University through strategic revisioning of its fiscal outlook; and

WHEREAS, he directed and facilitated the development of the Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications, helping Shepherd University to launch this extraordinary initiative with immense success; and

WHEREAS, David Avella has been and continues to be a passionate advocate for expanding Shepherd's outreach to its alumni, its supporters in the community, and to sources of grants and government support, to advance the University's welfare and its ability to serve the people of West Virginia;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED, THAT the Shepherd University Board of Governors honors Mr. David A. Avella for his record of strong leadership, expresses to him its sincere gratitude and admiration, and looks forward to his continued contributions to the University in other venues; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT this resolution be inscribed upon the minutes of the June 19, 2025, Board of Governors meeting and that a copy of the resolution be presented to Mr. Avella.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS RESOLUTION
HONORING MR. KEVIN MURPHY**

WHEREAS, Mr. Kevin Murphy has served Shepherd University with distinction as a member of the Shepherd University Board of Governors from 2023 to 2025; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murphy has been an effective voice for Shepherd's classified employees, bringing their collective insights and concerns to the attention of the Board; and

WHEREAS, his faithful attendance to meetings of the Board provided Mr. Murphy the ability to deliver reliable and direct reporting regarding the work of the Board to the classified staff; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Board's Academic Programs and Development Committee, Mr. Murphy provided a unique perspective and made consistent and informed contributions to both staff and academic matters arising at the University; and

WHEREAS, during both challenging times and celebratory moments, Mr. Murphy shared both insight and good humor with fellow board members; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Murphy has completed his duties as a board member with zeal and diligence, while working as a full-time staff member and while working to complete a post-baccalaureate degree;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED, THAT the Shepherd University Board of Governors honors Mr. Kevin Murphy for his record of strong leadership, expresses to him its sincere gratitude and admiration; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT this resolution be inscribed upon the minutes of the June 19, 2025, Board of Governors meeting and that a copy of the resolution be presented to Mr. Murphy.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS RESOLUTION
HONORING STEPHANIE A. SLOCUM-SCHAFER, PH.D.**

WHEREAS, Dr. Stephanie A. Slocum-Schaffer has served with great distinction as the elected Faculty Representative to the Shepherd University Board of Governors from 2023 to 2025; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Slocum-Schaffer has brought thoughtful and discerning academic judgment to the Board's deliberations, consistently articulating the faculty perspective while upholding a comprehensive vision for the advancement of the University as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Slocum-Schaffer has demonstrated unwavering dedication as a principled and passionate advocate for the continued enhancement of academic excellence at the University; and

WHEREAS, in her capacity as Chair of the Board's Academic Programs and Development Committee, Dr. Slocum-Schaffer has provided invaluable insight and made substantive, well-informed contributions to all aspects of the academic administration of the University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Slocum-Schaffer has furthered the governance and mission of Shepherd University while concurrently serving with distinction as a Professor of Political Science and Senior Fellow at the Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications, where she teaches a range of courses in American politics, women in politics, research methods, and public policy, and is widely recognized as an educator who inspires intellectual engagement and enriches the student experience;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED, THAT the Shepherd University Board of Governors honors Dr. Stephanie A. Slocum-Schaffer for her record of strong leadership, expresses to her its sincere gratitude and admiration, and looks forward to her continued contributions to the University in other venues; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT this resolution be inscribed upon the minutes of the June 19, 2025, Board of Governors meeting and that a copy of the resolution be presented to Dr. Slocum-Schaffer.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS RESOLUTION
HONORING MR. PAUL TETER**

WHEREAS, Mr. Paul Teter has served Shepherd University with distinction as a member of the Shepherd University Board of Governors as the elected Student Government Association President from 2023 to 2025; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Teter has been an effective voice for Shepherd's students, bringing their collective insights and concerns to the attention of the Board; and

WHEREAS, his faithful attendance to meetings of the Board provided Mr. Teter the ability to deliver reliable and direct reporting regarding the work of the Board to the students; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Board's Enrollment, Student, and Community Affairs Committee, and as a member of the Finance Committee, Mr. Teter provided a unique perspective and made consistent and informed contributions on both student and academic matters arising at the University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Teter diligently served on the board in two, one-year terms, while remaining steadfast in his academic work toward his degree; and

WHEREAS, during both challenging times and celebratory moments, Mr. Teter helped the entire board maintain a light and collegial atmosphere;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED, THAT the Shepherd University Board of Governors honors Mr. Paul Teter for his record of strong leadership, expresses to him its sincere gratitude and admiration; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT this resolution be inscribed upon the minutes of the June 19, 2025, Board of Governors meeting and that a copy of the resolution be presented to Mr. Paul Teter.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

M (Moore), S (Wolf), PASSED, all members were polled, 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 confidential legal matters, matters relating to personnel matters as to one or more specific employees of the University and matters that would be an invasion of privacy if publicly discussed, and potential real property transactions.

Each of the three Advisory Members indicated that they supported adoption of this resolution of the Board.


Following this discussion, the Board returned to open session.

18. APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATIVE ALIGNMENTS

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

RESOLVED, That the Shepherd University Board of Governors approves the changes in administrative alignments as described in the Agenda materials of the June 19, 2025 meeting.

Of the Advisory Members, Dr. Hanrahan indicated that she supported the adoption of the resolution; Mr. Murphy and Mr. Teter indicated that they did not support adoption of the resolution.


Dr. James Cherry
Chair


Susan Mentzer-Blair
Secretary