

Board of Governors Meeting Minutes
Boyd Conference Room
Thursday, June 19, 2025, 4:00 PM

Members Present: Mr. Charlie Cole, Chair – Mr. Shannon Remines; Mr. Bill Cole; Mr. Randall Price; virtual; Mr. Ed Toman; Mr. Anthony Tolley; Mrs. Rebecca Peterson; virtual; Mr. Tim McKenzie; Mr. Jack Sheffler (Faculty Representative)

Members Absent: Mr. Mike Hastings; Ms. Cathy Deeb; Mr. Luke Roberts (Student Representative)

Guests: President Darrin Martin; Mr. Joshua Grubb; Mrs. Donna Linkous; Mrs. Cynthia Atwell-Higgins; Mr. Brent Benjamin; Dr. Sarita Rhonemus; Mr. Ryan Bailey; Mr. Ronald Shidemantle; virtual - Ms. Jane Charnock; Dean Bill Bennett; Dr. Darrel Malamisura; Dr. Sudhakar Jamkhandi; virtual -Dr. Amanda Matoushek; virtual - Dr. David McMillan; Mr. Brodderick Tucker; Mr. Paul Davis; Ms. Christina Sammarco; Dr. Deirdre Guyton; Mr. Ryan Bailey; Mr. Garry Moore; Mr. Luccio D'Alessio; virtual – Mrs. Tammy Martin; virtual – Mr. Mark Botts; virtual - Mrs. Terry Thompson; virtual - Ms. Lisa Brooks; virtual - Mrs. Belva Higgins.; virtual – Angie Wassum.

1. Call to Order and Chair Remarks

Chairman Charlie Cole called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., and welcomed attendees. The first order of business was for Dr. Martin to introduce the new hires (Athletic Director, Brodderick Tucker and Men's Basketball Coach, Luccio D'Alessio).

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. No changes or comments were noted. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Bill Cole and seconded by Mr. Shannon Remines. The motion carried unanimously.

3. President's Report – Dr. Martin

- Dr. Martin introduced two new hires (Athletic Director, Brodderick Tucker and Men's Basketball Coach, Luccio D'Alessio). Mr. Tucker stated that a new volleyball coach was also hired (Coach Morrow). She will be attending the August BOG meeting.
- Dr. Martin reported that the Shott Foundation has been asked for a donation to purchase two vans to support student and athletic transportation. Another doner has been asked about purchasing the third van.
- Dr. Martin highlighted Representative Carol Miller's visit with the City of Bluefield (Cecil Marson, Town Manager) regarding our Mining Engineering Program.
- Student Housing Update: Dr. Martin discussed the potential of tiny home-style housing at Heritage Village (on campus housing) to support enrollment growth.
- Graduation Recap: BSU had 291 graduates for 2025.
- Planning for Fall: Everyone is working hard to prepare for the upcoming Fall 2025 semester with a focus on enrollment growth, housing, financial health and program development.

4. Standing Reports

Academic Update – Dr. Rhonemus

- The next HLC comprehensive visit is scheduled for April 13-14, 2026.
- An online Teacher Education program will be launching in Fall 2025.
- Effective August, 2025 Dr. Amanda Matoushek will be the new Dean of Arts, Education & Social Sciences.
- The Junior Nurse Academy was highlighted as a successful outreach program. We have had one graduate (started in 2019) that completed the program. It was noted that Sandra Wynn started this program.
- Sonography program will begin Summer, 2026.
- Two FBLA students participated in the FBLA National Conference 2025 held in Houston, Texas.
- Dr. Bill Bennett was recognized as a peer reviewer for ABET and he will be doing peer reviews at other institutions.
- Open forum dates are on the calendar for next year (Fall 2025 – December 18, 2025 and Spring 2026 – April 23, 2026).

Finance and Budget – Ms. Higgins-Atwell

- Accounts receivable reduced by \$57,000.00.
- Budget for 2025-2026 shows a minor deficit (\$84,000.00). We will continue to look at expenses with ongoing efforts to minimize expenses.
- Athletic tuition revenue is reported at \$2,000,000.00.

Safety and Security – EVP Benjamin

- The safety and security contract with the Bluefield Police Department is up for renewal. We are looking at options and will be extending the existing contract for one month.
- A comprehensive campus safety/emergency plan is in development, including formation of an Emergency Management Advisory Council.
- It was noted that there will be training for faculty and staff.

Enrollment Update – Mr. Shidemantle

- The projected new student enrollment includes 240 new students and 150 transfer students with a total of 390.
- There are 565 continuing students.
- Target FTE – 970 with the current estimate being at 955.
- Applications and acceptances are trending upward compared to 2024.
- Housing discussions are ongoing to meet incoming demand.

Faculty, Staff and Student Updates

- Faculty: Dr. Sheffler asked about honors housing. Dr. Martin stated that we would be taking care of our honor students. No specific updates were noted.
- Staff: Mr. McKenzie stated there was no report for staff.
- Students: Mr. Luke Roberts – absent.

Community Outreach Report – Rev. Garry Moore

- Rev. Moore stated that sports programs have elevated exposure to Bluefield State University and encouraged continued conversation about BSU's academic strengths in addition to athletics.
- Promoted community events including a Juneteenth-related film screening.

Foundation Report – Dr. Guyton

- Audit preparations are underway with Brown & Edwards.
- Advancement services assistant has been hired for donor database updates.
- New grant opportunities identified for programs such as the Emerging Scholars Academy.

5. New Business

- Mr. Charlie Cole stated that Mrs. Terry Thompson was elected in May to be the new national president of the Bluefield State University Alumni Association.

6. Unfinished Business

- None noted.

7. New Business

- **10.1 Resolution to support the Shott Foundation** grant request for vans was approved unanimously. Mr. Bill Cole made the motion and Mr. Remines seconded the motion.
- **10.2 Posting of proposed revisions to Policy CM-302** (Naming of Buildings/Units) approved for 30-day review. This will be up for vote at the October meeting. Mr. Price made the motion and Mr. Tolley seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.
- **10.3-10.5 Election of new officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer)** conducted in executive session.
 - Chair Cole yielded the floor to President Martin for the election of 2025-26 Officers. Mr. Remines moved the following nominations:
 - Chair: Charlie Cole
 - Vice Chair: Cathy Deeb
 - Treasurer: Randy Price
 - Mr. Toman seconded the nominations. There being no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Thereupon, Mr. Remines' motion was considered, all present voting members present voted in the affirmative, the motion carried and the nominees were selected unanimously.
- **10.6 Approval of Meeting Schedule – 2025-2026**
 - Chair Cole stated that the 2025-2026 Calendar, as provided in the Board's materials, was presented for consideration and approval. Ms. Peterson made a motion to approve the Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tolley. All present voting members voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.
- **10.7 Approval of Committee member Assignments**
 - Chair Cole entertained a motion to table the Approval of Committee member assignments. Mr. Bill Cole moved to table this issue until the next Board of Governors meeting. Mr. Remines seconded the motion. Whereupon the present voting members voted to table the consideration of committee assignments until the Board's August 28, 2025. meeting.

8. Executive Session

Mr. Bill Cole made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session at 5:06 pm. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board of Governors went into Executive Session at 5:15 pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:16 pm.

Actions Emanating from Executive Session:

Chair Cole informed all in attendance that there would be no action coming forth from this Executive Session.

10. Announcements and Public Comments

- Alumni engagement strategies were discussed (e.g., booth at Bluefield-Graham game)

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm. The next Board of Governors meeting will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 4:00 pm in the Boyd Conference Room.