

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025

Time: 3:52 PM

Location: Boyd Conference Room, Conley Hall

Members Present: Mr. Bill Cole, Mr. Charlie Cole, Ms. Cathy Deeb, Mr. Josh Grubb, Mr. Randy Price.

Guests: Dr. Darrin Martin, President; Brent Benjamin, General Counsel; Josh Grubb, Chief of Staff

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Charlie Cole called the meeting to order at 3:52 PM in the Boyd Conference Room.

2. Updates

a. President's Update

- **Fundraising:**
The university sent out a fall appeal letter to 14,000 recipients, receiving positive feedback for professionalism and early donor response.
- **Institutional Collaboration:**
A partnership is developing with the Department of Energy, including a January visit to Oak Ridge, TN. Potential exists for faculty and student research, patents, and further recognition. Additional discussions with Bethany College (online civil engineering), Southwest Virginia Community College (articulation for engineering programs), and Concord University (joint FAFSA outreach in local counties).
- **Community Bank Partnership:**
Burke and Herbert Bank will reward local honor roll and perfect attendance students, support financial literacy efforts, and collaborate on community branding.
- **Upcoming Events:**
The Hall of Fame dinner is scheduled for 5 PM the following day at the student center. A banner reinstatement ceremony will occur at Saturday's basketball games.

b. Committee Reports Review and Next Steps

It was noted that some committee members could not attend due to other obligations; detailed reports were thus deferred.

- **Policy Updates:**
Four faculty-originated policies (Policy Making, Academic Objectives, Credit for Prior Learning, and Title IX) are at the end of their 30-day comment period. While only minor, non-substantive comments were received, the board will vote again for transparency.
- **Board Self-Assessment:**
In anticipation of the HLC visit, a board self-assessment will be performed (prior to April), utilizing AGB best-practice materials, with a completion goal of the February 26 Board meeting.

c. HLC Visit

- The HLC visit is scheduled for April 13–14.
The process now uses mixed interview groups based on assessment criteria rather than by stakeholder group (e.g., governance, academic standards, etc.). Board members were urged to provide unified messaging and demonstrate understanding of university policies.
Dr. Rhonemus will provide an HLC preparatory update at an upcoming board meeting on December 18, 2025 and continue coordinating related communications.

d. University Housing Plan

- **Short-Term:**
Plan to move juniors and seniors from MEC into Tiffany Manor, where subsidized rents may be as low as \$20–\$40/month for qualifying students; Housing Director Richard Livingston will oversee releases and placements. Other apartments in the area are also being leased short-term.
- **Long-Term:**
Working toward eventual acquisition of Tiffany Manor from HUD. Appraisal is in process, with the plan to phase in student occupancy as units become available. Strategy is under discussion to maintain affordability for students in severe poverty, possibly with HUD continuing to subsidize.
- **Coaches' Involvement:**
Concern was raised that coaches may be influencing housing placements; AD Tucker will be asked to ensure decisions remain within the housing staff's purview.



3. Executive Session

There were no matters necessary for discussion in Executive Session.

Mr. Charlie Cole made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 PM