

Enrollment and Student Life Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Boyd Conference Room

Present: Ms. Cathy Deeb (Co-Chair), Mr. Anthony Tolley (Co-Chair - Virtual), Mr. Luke Roberts, Dr. Darrin Martin, Dr. Ted Lewis, Mr. Darrel Malamisura (Virtual), Dr. Sudhakar Jamkhandi, Mr. Ansel Ponder, Mr. Randy Price, Ms. Christina Sammarco, Mr. Jack Sheffler, Mrs. Donna Linkous, Mr. Josh Grubb.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Deeb at 1:04 PM.

2. Student Life Report – Dr. Ted Lewis

Student Engagement & Events

- Student Life continues to average approximately **2–3 events per week**.
- Most popular recent events included:
 - Slime-making activities (highest participation)
 - Food truck events
 - Faculty vs. student basketball game
- Emphasis placed on **student engagement outside the classroom** to improve retention and campus integration.

Food Pantry Initiative

- A **food pantry reopening** was successfully completed with strong partnership support.
- Key partner provides food, shelving, stocking, and delivery services.
- Operates as a **no-questions-asked resource** to reduce stigma for students facing food insecurity.
- Collaboration included Student Government, Alumni Association, and campus groups.

Upcoming Event – Agora (April 15)

- Annual academic and creative competition (est. 2014).
- Categories include:
 - Poetry, essays, short stories
 - Art (photography, sculpture, etc.)
- Awards:
 - 1st place: \$500 tuition waiver
 - 2nd place: \$250 tuition waiver
- Event promotes creativity and serves as a **recruitment tool**.

Residence Life Updates

- Resident Assistant turnover: **5 of 7 positions** need replacement due to graduation.
- Interviews are ongoing.

- Enhancements planned:
 - Game room development (pool table, board games)
 - Student common space improvements
- Request made for **donations of games** (e.g., Monopoly, chess, cards).

Student Support Initiatives

- Compiled and distributed a **list of local churches and worship services** for Easter.
- Strong student participation reported.
- Plan to expand to a **multi-faith, ongoing resource list**.

Career Services

- Key activities:
 - 39 students attended résumé workshops
 - 25 students participated in scholarship sessions
 - Employer interviews resulted in **4 job offers from 6 interviews**
- Hosted:
 - Targeted career fairs by academic program
 - Annual Graduation Fair (106 students, 22 employers)

Student Government

- Recognized for leadership and campus involvement.
- Organizing:
 - **Earth Day Cleanup (April 22)** with 12–15 student organizations
- Notable growth in student leadership and collaboration highlighted.

3. Enrollment Update – Mr. Josh Grubb

Recruitment & Outreach

- Continued strategy: **Bring students to campus** through tours and events.
- Successful McDowell County Technical event with strong positive feedback.
- Additional recruitment:
 - Expanded group tours
 - Outreach visits to regional schools
- Upcoming events:
 - Mercer County visits (April 30 & May 1)

Admissions & Staffing

- Expansion of admissions team with new counselors.
- Increased communication efforts and student outreach initiatives.
- Peer mentors assisting with student engagement and follow-up.

International Recruitment

- Participation in **Education USA initiative** generating large lead volumes:
 - ~30,000 leads (previous cycle)
- Focus on long-term conversion and **online program opportunities** for international students.

Enrollment Trends

- Applications and admissions are **increasing across all categories**: (see attached presentation)
 - New students
 - Transfers
 - Graduate students
- Strong growth in:
 - Out-of-state (especially Maryland region)
 - Non-residential students

Enrollment Projections

- Estimated incoming students: **546–667**
- Target goal: ~600 new students
- Continued focus on improving **conversion rates**.

4. Housing & Facilities

- Current capacity:
 - ~234 beds previously; +30 beds added (cottages online + one lease)
- Projected need: **~326 beds**
- Continued use of **overflow housing** anticipated.

Future Housing Plans

- Additional building renovations could provide:
 - Up to 50 beds (Building I)
 - ~30 beds (Building E – conceptual)
- Continued e
- Exploration of leasing off-campus housing options.

5. Academic & Program Growth (Brief Highlights)

- Development of new academic programs:
 - Master's in Engineering Technology (pending approval)
 - Expansion of:
 - Online programs
 - Graduate offerings
 - Focus on diversified enrollment growth beyond residential capacity.
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6. Additional Discussion

- Financial aid packaging for student-athletes discussed; improved tracking and coordination in place.
- Recognition given to:
 - Admissions team
 - Marketing staff
 - Cross-campus collaboration efforts

7. Adjournment

- a. There being no further business, the Enrollment & Student Life Committee meeting was adjourned by Ms. Cathy Deeb 2:07 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Donna Linkous, Executive Secretary