

**West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Board of Governors – Regular Meeting
Friday, May 1, 2020
Location: President’s Conference Room (Conference Call)
Main Building**

**THIS MEETING WAS A CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO GOVERNOR JUSTICE’S
DIRECTIVE OF NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS GREATER THAN 10 PEOPLE DUE TO
COVID-19.**

I. Call to Order, Roll Call/Quorum, and Mission Statement

Meeting was called to order at 10:09 am by Board Chair, Steven Sarver. Roll call was taken by Board Secretary, Cheryl Schreiber. A quorum was present. The WVSOM mission statement was read by Board Vice Chair, Dr. Robert Holstein.

Members Present:

Steven Sarver, Chair	J. Fred Earley, II, J.D. (teleconference)
Robert Holstein, D.O., Vice Chair (teleconference)	John Garlitz, D.O. (teleconference)
Cheryl Schreiber, Secretary (teleconference)	Sherri L. Miller (teleconference)
Randall Belt, D.O. (teleconference)	Gary L. Poling, D.O. (teleconference)
Gregory A. Burton (teleconference)	Jubel Puthusseril (teleconference)
Charles Davis, D.O. (teleconference)	David Ramsey (teleconference)

Members Absent:

None

Others in Attendance:

James W. Nemitz, Ph.D., President	Debbie Green, Scribe/Board Liaison
Jeffrey Shawver, J.D., General Counsel	

II. Introductions

There were no introductions.

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded (Ramsey/Earley) to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Motion Carried

V. Reports

A. Chair of the Board of Governors. Chair Sarver had no report.

B. President of WVSOM.

1. Administration.

a. President’s Update.

- On April 30, 2020, WVSOM hosted a virtual Spring Awards Ceremony. During the ceremony, 30 awards were given totaling \$370,000.
- WVSOM's current residency match rate is 99%.
- The Beautification Project in front of the Main Building is ongoing and will be completed soon.
- COVID-19 Response is currently dominating everything at WVSOM. The response by WVSOM has been comprehensive and the objectives are: 1) to keep everyone safe; 2) to keep students on track; 3) to keep employees working. WVSOM's COVID-19 initiatives have been successful. Dr. Nemitz stated the entire campus community is working together and has responded in a positive way to face current challenges associated with COVID-19.

Student Update: The first-year students are currently finishing up coursework through the online platform. The second-year students have been facing significant Board exam issues including delayed testing due to testing sites not opening up. Dean Boisvert is working with NBOME to see if Board exam testing might be allowed on WVSOM's campus. The third-year students have also been facing Board exam issues and concerns regarding audition rotations with hospitals that are not associated with the WVSOM system. Graduation was cancelled for the fourth-year students and Administration is working with them to create a virtual graduation ceremony. For the most part, students are not allowed on campus according to State directives.

Employee Update: Dr. Nemitz stated WVSOM has been working very hard to keep employees working during the Governor's "Stay at Home" directive and has developed good solutions to allow many employees to work from home. Employees are allowed to come on campus if there is a critical need. Employees have been provided a variety of leave options if they are unable to work from home or work on campus. WVSOM has been well positioned to deal with many of the COVID-19 challenges with its strong IT and Media Services Departments.

Financial Update: Mr. Larry Ware, Vice President for Finance and Facilities, estimates that the financial impact due to COVID-19 is over ½ million dollars. The Higher Education Policy Commission asked higher education institutions to submit current expenses including loss of revenue and other direct costs associated with COVID-19. The financial impact information was submitted to HEPC this week. WVSOM has been participating in both Federal and State responses and has been receiving messages regarding allotments to address institutional expenses. The CARES Act is addressing student expenses and WVSOM has a process to distribute funds due to COVID-19-related expenses. Other anticipated expenses to reopen the campus include the purchase of testing materials and PPE. Mr. Ware will discuss possible budget cutting strategies at the June Board meeting.

State Update: Governor Justice has developed a plan to slowly re-open the State. Dr. Nemitz is hopeful that employees will be able to return to campus

offices by June. It is still undecided when students will be allowed back on campus.

VI. Board Items

- A. Approval of Graduates. Dr. Craig Boisvert presented the roster of students for the current academic year qualified to graduate and receive the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

It was moved and seconded (Garlitz/Ramsey) to approve the candidates for the Class of 2020 as submitted. Motion Carried

- B. WVSOM Graduation. Dr. Nemitz reiterated to the Board that WVSOM's graduation has been cancelled due to State directives. Institutional Policy: E-27 subsection 2.1.9 states "Under extenuating circumstances, the requirement to personally attend the ceremony may be waived by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean or President" and therefore WVSOM will use this provision in the policy to excuse the entire class from the graduation ceremony. No Board action is needed at this time. WVSOM is monitoring the potential need to revise institutional policies or suspend academic requirements due to COVID-19; discussion of any changes will be held at the June Board meeting. Prior to cancelling graduation, Dr. Nemitz met with the Class of 2020 and its leadership regarding a virtual graduation ceremony. The virtual graduation awards ceremony will be livestreamed on Friday, May 29, 2020, and the virtual graduation ceremony will be livestreamed on Saturday, May 30, 2020, at noon. Administration envisions all the traditional elements of WVSOM's graduation incorporated into the virtual ceremony and each graduate will be recognized individually. WVSOM is currently launching a social media campaign for graduates. The Class of 2020 has also been invited back to campus in May 2021 for a class reunion and to participate in the 2021 Graduation ceremony.

VII. Information Gathering

No items were brought forth.


VIII. Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Friday, June 5, 2020, at 10:00 am in the John Manchin, II, D.O. Conference Center.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded (Ramsey/Burton) to adjourn. The motion carried and the Board meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

Approved on June 5, 2020


Cheryl D. Schreiber, Secretary
/dg