

**West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine  
Board of Governors – Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 25, 2024  
Location: Embassy Suites, Salons D & E  
300 Court Street, Charleston, WV**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Board Chair, Dr. Belt. Roll call was taken by Board Secretary, Ms. Kirby. A quorum was present. The WVSOM mission statement was read by Board Vice Chair, Dr. Morgan.

**Members Present:**

Randall Belt, D.O., Chair	Gary Poling, D.O.
Frederick Morgan, D.O., Vice Chair	Erin Reese
Marlena Kirby, Secretary (teleconference)	Caitlyn Santer, D.O.
Sharon Hall	Peter Ward, Ph.D.
Robert Holstein, D.O. (teleconference)	Todd Smith, D.O. (teleconference)
Michael Muscari, D.O.	

**Members Absent:**

Thomas Cole

**Others in Attendance:**

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

**II. Introductions**

At the request of Chair Belt, President Nemitz introduced Delegate Vernon Criss, Chair of the West Virginia House of Delegates Financial Committee.

**III. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded (Ward/Muscari) to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Motion Carried

It was moved and seconded (Ward/Santer) to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2023 emergency meeting as presented. Motion Carried

**V. Auditor's Update**

Auditor's Report to the Governing Board – *Suttle & Stalnaker*. Chair Belt introduced Marie Long of Suttle & Stalnaker. Ms. Long provided a PowerPoint presentation reporting on the financial statements including the independent auditor's report-unmodified opinion; management's discussion and analysis; notes to the financial statements; required supplementary information; and independent auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with

government auditing standards. Ms. Long stated she had no concerns about the audit. No questions or discussion followed.

## VI. Agenda Order

No changes were made to the agenda order.

## VII. Rules

- A. DO-08: Academically at Risk (*revised*). Dr. Ward, Chair of the Academic Committee, reported the committee reviewed the proposed policy revisions and recommended the revised policy to the full board for approval.

It was moved and seconded (Hall/Santer) to adopt the revisions of DO-08: Academically at Risk as presented. No questions or discussion followed. Motion Carried

- B. E-38: Withdrawal (*revised*). Dr. Ward reported the Academic Committee reviewed the proposed policy revisions and recommended the revised policy to the full board for approval.

It was moved and seconded (Ward/Muscari) to adopt the revisions of E-38: Withdrawal as presented. No questions or discussion followed. Motion Carried

- C. GP-08: Academically at Risk (*revised*). Dr. Ward reported the Academic Committee reviewed the proposed policy revisions and recommended the revised policy to the full board for approval.

It was moved and seconded (Santer/Ward) to adopt the revisions of GP-08: Academically at Risk as presented. No questions or discussion followed. Motion Carried

- D. ST-04: Mail (*repealed*). Dr. Ward reported the Academic Committee reviewed the policy to be repealed and recommended the repeal to the full board as presented.

It was moved and seconded (Muscari/Santer) to repeal ST-04: Mail as presented. No questions or discussion followed. Motion Carried

- E. R-02: Allocation of Institutional Funds (*revised*). Ms. Kirby, Chair of the Institutional Policy Committee, reported the committee reviewed the proposed policy revisions and recommended the revised policy to the full board for approval.

It was moved and seconded (Muscari/Ward) to adopt the revisions of R-02: Allocation of Institutional Funds as presented. No questions or discussion followed. Motion Carried

- F. R-07: Export Control (*revised*). Ms. Kirby reported the Institutional Police Committee reviewed the proposed policy revisions and recommended the revised policy to the full board for approval.

It was moved and seconded (Ward/Hall) to adopt the revisions of R-07: Export Control as presented. No questions or discussion followed. Motion Carried

**VIII. Reports**

- A. Chair of the Board of Governors. Chair Belt had no report.
  1. Committee Reports.
    - a. Academic Committee. Dr. Ward stated the Academic Committee had no further business.
    - b. Finance & Audit Committee. Ms. Hall, Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, stated David Meadows, Vice President for Finance & Facilities & Chief Financial Officer, presented an in-depth review of WVSOM financials and the draft budget proposal for FY 2024-2025. Other topics discussed included review of the Robert C. Byrd Clinic finances, facilities update, deferred maintenance funding proposals, admissions tuition waiver update, proposal for in-depth review of the Finance & Audit Committee structure and operations including development of a charter for the committee, and an overall review of the use of reserves as well as policies and procedures pertaining to withdraws of reserves. The committee had no action items to be presented to the full board at this time.
    - c. Institutional Policy Committee. Ms. Kirby stated the Institutional Policy Committee had no further business.
- B. President of WVSOM.
  1. Administration.
    - a. President's Update. President Nemitz provided an update on the following topics. The full report was placed in the board's Microsoft Teams account.
      - Legislative. President Nemitz stated WVSOM has requested \$18.4 million in deferred maintenance funding from the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC). If funding is not available from HEPC, WVSOM will seek funding from the West Virginia Legislature. WVSOM has procured representation by Steptoe and Johnson for increased legislative presence at the Capital.
      - Academics. The Masters of Science in Biomedical Sciences has been approved for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and recruitment has begun for the inaugural class of 2024-2025. HEPC has released the 2023 West Virginia Health Sciences and Rural Health Report which shows WVSOM led the State for the 6-year cohort (2013-2018) reporting period in overall retention of graduates, overall retention of primary care physicians and overall retention of graduates who practice in rural areas. The information from HEPC's report has been highlighted in WVSOM's 2024 Legislative Booklet.
      - Residency Match. The residency match will occur the week of March 11, 2024. WVSOM students were successful in the military match which occurred on December 5, 2023 in which six WVSOM students matched with one applicant deferring to the civilian match.
      - Research and Sponsored Programs. A grant administrator and grant accountant have been hired. The search for an Associate Dean for Research and Sponsored Programs will conclude in the near future.
      - Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH). President Nemitz stated the CRCH staff members have submitted the first R01 grant application for \$3.3 million from WVSOM to the National Institutes of Health.
      - Marketing. The Marketing Department has recently published the WVSOM Annual Report and Legislative Booklet. The WVSOM Winter Magazine will be

released in the near future. A new marketing campaign entitled “Finding Health” has been launched to raise WVSOM’s visibility in West Virginia.

- Highlights of faculty, staff and students were presented.
  - Board member birthdays. The following board member birthdays were recognized: Erin Reese, Dr. Muscari, and Dr. Belt.
- i. Fundraising Update. President Nemitz stated two reports have been placed in the board’s Microsoft Teams account for review. The Foundation and Alumni Association offices recently underwent a reorganization, and a development officer has been hired. End-of-the-year solicitations have been successful generating over \$180,000 in donations to scholarships and the innovation fund, as well as to student clubs and programs. The *Wild West Benefit* generated nearly \$70,000 to support student scholarships. In addition, the WVSOM Foundation has solicited \$230,000 towards the Maier Foundation Challenge for 2024. Dr. Poling requested a summary of salaries versus actual dollars raised since the previous WVSOM Foundation reorganization.
- ii. Strategic Planning Update. President Nemitz stated Senior Administration and the Board of Governors (BOG) leadership believe institutional strategic planning is needed to address current/future challenges and opportunities. The goal is to align the strategic plan with the financial health of the institution in order to make objective strategic decisions with annual goal setting. Strategic planning will provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion on issues facing WVSOM as well as on the board’s direction for the institution. An external consultant who is knowledgeable about the osteopathic profession has been identified for facilitation of the strategic planning process. The proposed plan includes: creating a strategic framework that provides long-term direction for the school while enabling flexibility on how WVSOM advances its strategic goals in a changing environment; engaging board members and Senior Administration as key stakeholders in shaping the strategic plan; involving the broader WVSOM community in shaping the future of the school; and translating the longer-term strategic framework into shorter-term outcomes, key performance indicators and action plans tied to the institution’s budget to guide implementation over the next 12 to 24 months. The strategic planning process will include: conducting video interviews with BOG members and Senior Administration, drafting a strategic framework, developing an “all community” survey to obtain input, and holding an “all community” strategy session to continue to develop the strategic plan. The goal is to complete the strategic planning process in the spring of 2024 in order to present a final strategic plan to the board for approval in the summer of 2024. The board had no objections to moving forward with the strategic planning process. Ms. Hall suggested that affiliate organizations, such as the WVSOM Foundation and the Robert C. Byrd Clinic, be involved in WVSOM’s strategic planning process.
2. Finance.
- a. FY 2023-2024 Financial Update. Mr. Meadows presented the financial statement ending December 31, 2023. Mr. Meadows stated the institution continues to have a sound budget. Revenues are as anticipated, and there are no items of concern in expenditures.

- b. Facilities Update.
- i. Testing Center Update. Mr. Meadows stated Testing Center expenditures have been as anticipated. The Testing Center is officially open, punch list items have been completed, and Dr. Boyd and Dr. Hill's teams are coordinating plans for occupation of the building.
  - ii. Science Building Update. Eight proposals have been received for the first phase of the process. A scoring committee will review the proposals, and the top three companies will be interviewed in February 2024.
  - iii. Deferred Maintenance Open Ended Architectural Services Update. Mr. Meadows provided detailed information on deferred maintenance projects in the board's Microsoft Teams account. As stated in President Nemitz's report, WVSOM has requested \$18.4 million in funding which would not cover all of the deferred maintenance needs; however, any funding received would be used toward key safety deferred maintenance projects that deal with safety, roofing, and ADA compliance.

In order to provide continuity of operations, Mr. Meadows is finalizing a Request for Proposal (RFP) which would allow him to hire one or more architects over an extended period to work on the deferred maintenance projects versus hiring an architect for each individual project. Questions and discussion followed.

President Nemitz stated that all projects in the deferred maintenance informational document, with the exception of a teaching kitchen, are part of WVSOM's 10-year master plan that was previously approved by the board.

## **IX. Board Items**

- A. Revised Board of Governors Operating Procedures. Jeffrey Shawver, Vice President for Legal, Governmental & External Affairs/Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel, stated a redline document with the proposed revisions was circulated to the BOG at least 10 days in advance of the meeting pursuant to Article 6 in the Board of Governors Operating Procedures.

Changes were made to Section 1.4 in order to reflect the training possibilities listed in state code as well as the updated training requirements for new and ongoing BOG members. Mr. Shawver stated ongoing board members must complete four hours of board training annually.

Additional changes were made in Section 3.11 to clarify the difference between items discussed in open session versus the confidential nature of items discussed in executive session.

Questions and discussion followed regarding the updated board training requirements and available educational opportunities for board members to earn credit.

It was moved and seconded (Hall/Ward) to adopt the proposed revisions to the Board of Governors Operating Procedures as presented. No questions or discussion followed.

Motion Carried

- B. Admissions Update. Dr. Linda Boyd, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, and Ronnie Collins, Executive Director of Enrollment Management, presented an overview of admissions data to the board.

Mr. Collins provided a comparison of the current admissions cycle versus the previous three admissions cycles. Mr. Collins noted that applications are on a downward trend both at WVSOM and at the national level. Mr. Collins stated the focus remains on attracting quality applicants and filling the class. Next, Mr. Collins provided a comparison of WVSOM applications with the national average of applications provided by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). The data shows the national average of applications decreased the previous two years, but the downward trend did not affect WVSOM until the current admission cycle. Finally, Mr. Collins provided a comparison of the in-state medical schools and the downward trend of applications affecting all three schools.

Questions and discussion followed regarding the current trend and potential strategies to increase applications. Admissions challenges include: a decrease in admissions metrics by other in-state medical schools, lower undergraduate enrollment due to greater interest in trades, and increased competition due to developing osteopathic schools. Dean Boyd stated there was significant discussion on admissions challenges at the November 2023 AACOM Board of Deans meetings. Dean Boyd also stated that 18 osteopathic medical schools did not fill their class this year which is a huge concern, and effort is being made nationally to ensure there is an adequate applicant pool. WVSOM is actively involved in a variety of programs for high school students including the Green Coat program and anatomy tours. Mr. Collins stated the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Program (POMP) for college students is having a positive effect on admissions. Previously, WVSOM would receive 2-3 applications per year from the POMP program, but 9 applications have been received during this year's admissions cycle. Chair Belt stated increased admissions challenges confirm the need for strategic planning.

- C. Robert C. Byrd Clinic Update. Mr. Meadows provided a financial analysis of the Robert C. Byrd Clinic (RCBC) at the request of the BOG at the December 28, 2023 emergency meeting. Mr. Meadows discussed key financial analytical findings of RCBC from FY 2013 – FY 2022. During that period, it was noted that clinic revenue has remained stagnant and multiple one-time infusions (including payroll protection and COVID grant income) in FY 2020 and FY 2021 dramatically helped offset and limit core operational challenges. During that same period of FY 2013 – FY 2022, total personnel expenses increased 27% and discretionary expenses increased 58%. According to a comparison of RCBC core revenue to expenses, personnel expenses have exceeded clinic revenue since FY 2019. It was noted that RCBC has not presented a fiscal year budget to their Board of Directors (BOD) for discussion and approval for several years. Without a budget, clinical departments, as well as RCBC leadership, have not had defined BOD-approved spending guidelines. Questions and discussion followed regarding the financial analysis, and Mr. Jason McDaniel, RCBC Chief Financial Officer, was available to answer questions.

Mr. Meadows provided several recommendations to improve financial performance which included: reducing personnel costs; presenting a FY 2024 – 2025 operating budget for RCBC BOD approval; creating a 5-year core revenue growth strategic plan by department; and increasing cash liquidity by continuing to generate efficiencies in billing and collections and lowering discretionary costs.

Dr. Drema Hill, Vice President for Community Engagement & Chief Operational Officer, presented an operational and structural analysis of RCBC. Dr. Hill's organizational and operational observations of the RCBC's revenue cycle and billing as well as personnel costs were detailed. WVSOM's proposal to the RCBC BOD included:

- Restructuring RCBC organizationally, operationally and financially.
- Identifying and engaging consulting services to conduct assessments and make recommendations, to include searching for CEO and CFO positions.

In order to accomplish the proposal, WVSOM recommended the following immediate action: terminating the employment agreements with the current CEO and CFO with attempted mutual separation agreements, as well as, considering multiple options to reduce payroll expenses. Next, Dr. Hill presented WVSOM's long-term solutions over the next nine months which included creating a business plan and strategic plan for the organization. Finally, WVSOM proposed a restructure of the RCBC BOD which would include changing the bylaws to establish staggered appointments, term limits and composition. The RCBC BOD requested one major change to WVSOM's proposal which was that Dr. Hill and Mr. Meadows assume the interim CEO and CFO positions.

On January 23, 2024, the RCBC BOD unanimously voted to accept WVSOM's proposal as follows:

- Employment of the RCBC CEO and CFO will be terminated with a mutual separation agreement prepared by RCBC legal counsel.
- WVSOM will provide Dr. Hill as interim CEO and Mr. Meadows as interim CFO.
- Dr. Hill and Mr. Meadows, with the assistance of the remaining WVSOM Senior Leadership, would assess the organizational, operational and financial needs of RCBC and make recommendations to the RCBC BOD and the WVSOM BOG regarding specific consulting needs. Dr. Hill and Mr. Meadows would pursue negotiations with health systems, including Vandalia and other FQHC entities, interested in acquisition/contractual agreement for management and would seek consulting regarding requirements/benefits of pursuing FQHC status.

The RCBC BOD agreed to revise its bylaws to include staggered terms, term limits, composition, etc. within 90 days. By the end of July 2024, goals for the interim RCBC CEO, under the supervision of the RCBC BOD, are to create a business plan, a strategic plan, a budget, and a WVSOM repayment plan. Also, at that time, the interim RCBC CEO will be ready to make recommendations to the WVSOM BOG regarding an entity, if any, for acquisition/contractual agreement for management.

The RCBC BOD requested urgent assistance from the WVSOM BOG to infuse cash flow into RCBC by: assuming the complete salaries (100% of the practice plan) for the WVSOM/RCBC clinical faculty physicians/providers; reimbursing RCBC for the cost of x-ray equipment;

renegotiating with RCBC to pay for cleaning services; absorbing the cost of DAX software use for clinical faculty; and reimbursing RCBC for the cost of DAX software use since July 1, 2023 for clinical faculty if admissible under state guidelines.

Questions and discussion followed. President Nemitz stated the RCBC BOD currently has two open positions if any WVSOM BOG members are willing to serve. Mr. Shawver has confirmed with the West Virginia Ethics Commission that a WVSOM BOG member is eligible to also serve on the RCBC BOD. President Nemitz stated Dean Boyd has compiled a report, at the request of Dr. Poling at the November 3, 2023 board meeting, which has been placed in the board's Microsoft Teams account. The report details the amount of RCBC appointment cancellations by WVSOM faculty; how many teaching-only providers are needed at RCBC to fulfill the mission and needs of WVSOM students and residents; how many hours per day are needed for teaching at RCBC; and the costs of employing teaching-only providers at RCBC. Dr. Poling strongly suggested the RCBC BOD should receive a financial statement and review at future meetings which should also be presented at future WVSOM BOG meetings.

Dr. Ward made a motion to proceed with WVSOM's proposal which was accepted by the RCBC BOD on January 23, 2024. Discussion followed. Dr. Poling stated that he had additional questions regarding the roles of Dr. Hill and Mr. Meadows as interim CEO and CFO. Dr. Poling requested continued discussion be in executive session, and Dr. Ward withdrew his motion in order for discussion to continue in executive session.

The West Virginia Open Governmental Proceedings Act ("Act") permits state entities to go into executive session during a properly noticed meeting if a specific item on the entity's posted agenda falls under one of the permitted exceptions to the requirements contained in the Act. On this meeting's posted agenda, item: *Robert C. Byrd Clinic Update* falls under the Act's exception for: *discussion of personnel matters*.

It was moved and seconded (Poling/Hall) to move into executive session at 12:56 p.m. in order to discuss the *Robert C. Byrd Clinic Update* agenda item, which falls under the *discussion of personnel matters* exception in the West Virginia Open Governmental Proceedings Act. Motion Carried

Members of the BOG, Dr. Hill, Mr. Meadows and Mr. Shawver were asked to join the executive session.

The BOG returned to regular meeting session at 2:02 p.m.

Chair Belt stated only topics indicated prior to going into executive session were discussed. The only items emanating from executive session requiring action from the board are as follows: it was moved and seconded (Santer/Muscari) to authorize Dr. Hill and Mr. Meadows to relay to the RCBC BOD the recommendations of the WVSOM BOG as set forth in Dr. Hill's presentation with the additional personnel recommendations as discussed in executive session. Motion Carried

- D. Draft Budget Proposal FY 2024-2025 (*informational item*). Mr. Meadows presented the FY 2024 – 2025 proposed draft budget. After reviewing projected revenues and personal



service and operating expenditures for the upcoming year, Mr. Meadows was pleased to announce WVSOM has a balanced budget.

Next, Mr. Meadows provided an overview of the financial health of the institution. Analysis using financial statements (income, cash, balance sheet, assets) revealed the following over the past 14 fiscal years: in-state tuition has cumulatively increased by only 13% (<1%/year) and out-of-state tuition has cumulatively increased by only 8% (<.60%/year).

The Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) standards restrict WVSOM's ability to independently increase its class size or volume. Since volume cannot be increased at will and tuition has minimally increased, an erosion has occurred in the core operating budget profitability beginning in FY 2015, which coincides with the last BOG-approved, across-the-board tuition increase in the fall of 2014. Mr. Meadows stated Senior Administration will evaluate potential opportunities with COCA for higher enrollment at the request of a board member.

The Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) anticipates a 21% decline in West Virginia high school graduates from 2021 – 2036, as well as, a 6.5% decline in the West Virginia College Going Rate over the past 10 years. HEPC also reported that in-state enrollment at 4-year public universities in West Virginia have decreased by 14% versus a decrease of 4% in out-of-state enrollment.

Mr. Meadows continued with an in-depth evaluation of WVSOM's revenues, expenses, student mix, and tuition impact on revenues. Evaluation of WVSOM's revenue revealed several key findings which included the fact that tuition and fees represent 92% of operating revenues; tuition and fees covered only 96% of expenses from FY 2015 – FY 2023; and the institution has had a history of 15 years of stagnant appropriations with only 1 increase of \$2.2 million in FY 2020 for WVSOM's 7 statewide campus locations. Evaluation of WVSOM's expenses revealed key findings which included increased salary costs over the past five years, as well as an increase in depreciation, expenditures and inflation. Mr. Meadows reported a 10-year average of WVSOM's student mix was 23% in-state students and 77% out-of-state students. Mr. Meadows stated that limiting a tuition increase to Year 1 students only has had negligible revenue impact, and the decline in national and West Virginia college enrollment will continue to have impact on admissions as well. Next, Mr. Meadows discussed WVSOM's tuition rate increases since 2010 and provided a graph which illustrated how the lack of tuition rate increases have impacted core revenue growth. Finally, Mr. Meadows provided a chart that illustrated a 5% across-the-board tuition increase would keep WVSOM competitive with in-state medical schools as well as with out-of-state, public, osteopathic medical schools.

In conclusion, Mr. Meadows provided the following recommendations for the board to consider when voting on the FY 2024 – 2025 budget at the March 29, 2024 meeting.

- Approve a 5% across-the-board tuition rate increase to eliminate a projected deficit and support a balanced budget.
- Approve an annual 2% (\$1 million) withdraw from the institution's investment funds at the WVSOM Foundation to support one-time operating budget costs and reduce tuition and fee pressures.

- Approve a \$2 million withdraw from the institution's investment funds at the WVSOM Foundation to support RCBC restructuring and salary commitment.

Questions and discussion followed. Ms. Hall wanted to know the regularity in which West Virginia University and Marshall University raise their medical school tuition, and Mr. Meadows stated he would obtain that information. Mr. Meadows also stated through the budget development process, departments across campus have eliminated \$1 million in costs in order to reduce tuition and fee pressures. Ms. Hall stated increasing the current class will be difficult due to current enrollment trends, and she suggested continuing to identify potential academic programs through strategic planning which could increase revenue.

- E. Campus Security and Campus Carry Update (*informational item*). Mr. Shawver stated since the fall of 2023, he has undertaken a comprehensive review of campus security protocols. The goal of the ongoing comprehensive review is to enhance protocols already in place in order to benefit WVSOM. Mr. Shawver stated it is important to ensure technology is integrated with security protocols for quick communication to the campus community. Mr. Shawver stated WVSOM will undergo a comprehensive security risk assessment by an external group in February 2024 and the external group will also conduct training. Other security initiatives that will be undertaken will be to update WVSOM's Emergency Response Manual and to offer active shooter training to both employees and students.

Mr. Shawver stated the campus carry bill passed through the West Virginia Legislature in 2023, and the implementation date is July 1, 2024. Each institution is responsible for ensuring their campuses are ready by the implementation date, and Mr. Shawver has been in contact with other institutions throughout the State regarding their interpretation of the legislation. The West Virginia Legislature has not provided campus carry implementation funding to institutions, making it an unfunded mandate.

Mr. Shawver stated WVSOM will have townhall meetings in March 2024 with employees and students to share information and provide a forum in order that questions and concerns may be addressed.

WVSOM's recommendation to the board is to open the campus on July 1, 2024 to campus carry, with the exception of areas which can be restricted according to state code. The legislation will permit certain firearms on campus and in buildings if the owner also carries a current and valid concealed carry permit. WVSOM's current security policy will be updated to reflect the changes mandated by the West Virginia Legislature in order to be voted on by the board at the March 29, 2024 meeting. No questions or discussion followed.

- F. Creation of WVSOM Police Department. In continued discussion regarding safety and security, Mr. Shawver stated a WVSOM Police Department would be beneficial for the campus community regardless of the campus carry mandate. Currently, WVSOM contracts with the West Virginia State Police to provide 24-hour protection for the campus. Mr. Shawver proposed the creation of a WVSOM Police Department with the goal to be budget neutral upon expiration of the current contract with the West Virginia State Police. Mr. Shawver stated a WVSOM Police Department would provide more robust benefits to the campus community including continuity of service. The plan would include hiring a Chief of Police and three officers. Questions and discussion followed including qualifications for

campus police officers, one-time startup costs, and potential housing locations for police department personnel.

It was moved and seconded (Muscari/Morgan) to (i) approve the creation of a WVSOM Police Department and (ii) authorize the President and the Vice President for Legal, Governmental & External Affairs, Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel to hire qualified individuals to serve as campus police officers in compliance with West Virginia Code and pursuant to WVSOM hiring policies as presented. No questions or discussion followed.

Motion Carried

**X. Information Gathering**

Ms. Hall stated the Finance Committee has requested several items which will be discussed at the next committee meeting. Chair Belt stated he would like Senior Administration to move forward with identifying dates for strategic planning.

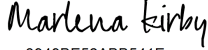
**XI. Next Meeting Date**

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Friday, March 29, 2024 on the Lewisburg campus of WVSOM at the Conference Center located in the WVSOM Student Center.

**XII. Adjournment**

It was moved and seconded (Muscari/Morgan) to adjourn. The motion carried and the board meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Approved on March 29, 2024

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Marlena R. Kirby  
Secretary  
/dg