

**WVSOM Board of Governors
Academic Committee
Thursday, January 29, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.
Location: Embassy Suites, Conference Room 224
300 Court Street, Charleston, WV**

Attendees:

Dr. Caitlyn Santer

Dr. Randall Belt

Dr. Courtney Eleazer

Jacob Bartlett, OMS-III

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Santer called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. November 7, 2025

Upon motion by Dr. Belt and seconded by Dr. Santer, the Committee approved the minutes from the November 7, 2025, meeting.

III. Committee Items

A. Academic Management System Update (*Hill*)

Dr. Hill reported on Emedley, noting a high satisfaction rate among both students and staff. Although the team previously experienced developer issues and reviewed several alternative products, they ultimately recommended discontinuing the search and development process, as other vendors could not provide the required level of customization. Costs have since stabilized, and the vendor has undergone a personnel change. First- and second-year students will continue using Canvas, while third- and fourth-year students will use Emedley. The task committee approved this decision by majority vote, concluding that Emedley remains stable and is the only vendor that fully meets WVSOM's needs.

B. Approval of Graduates (*Swarm*)

Dr. Swarm presented 2 students for the conferral of the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees. The students are Kasey Wagner and Sarah Bonney. Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.

C. DO-01: Academic and Professional Standards (*revised*)

Jacob Bartlett raised a question on wording in Item 4.2.9, "Undermines trust in the profession." Following discussion with the committee and Brian Lutz, it was recommended that the sentence be written as - WVSOM recognized students' right to free expression, any social media or other online content that violates confidentiality, **trust**, breaches ethical standards, engages in cyberbullying or

harassment, or incites or promotes violence may be subject to review under professionalism guidelines. The part of the sentence that states “or undermines trust in the profession” should be eliminated. The word trust was added to the sentence mentioned above.

Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.

- D. DO-02: Background Checks (*revised*)
No public comments received.
Dr. Swarm advised that the D.O. program-admitted students will be subject to a criminal background check.
Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.
- E. DO-04: Grading Scale (*revised*)
No public comments received.
Dr. Swarm advised that the policy changes include updated titles and reassessment periods.
Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.
- F. DO-08: Academically at Risk (*revised*)
No public comments received.
Dr. Swarm defines Academically-at-Risk as students who fail 2 courses in an academic year.
Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.
- G. GP-01: Academic and Professional Standards (*revised*)
No public comments received.
Item 4.2.9 was brought up for discussion as in DO-01. Following discussion with the committee and Brian Lutz, it was recommended that the sentence be written as - WVSOM recognized students’ right to free expression, any social media or other online content that violates confidentiality, **trust**, breaches ethical standards, engages in cyberbullying or harassment, or incites or promote violence may be subject to review under professionalism guidelines. The part of the sentence that states “or undermines trust in the profession” should be eliminated. The word trust was added to the sentence mentioned above.
Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.
- H. GP-02: Background Checks (*to be repealed*)
No public comments received.
The committee discussed the use of background checks for graduate students and concluded that background checks should be required.
Motion voted Nay by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion fails.
- I. GP-03: Proof of Inoculations Health Form (*to be repealed*)
No public comments received.
The committee discussed the need for vaccinations for graduate students.
Motion voted Nay by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion fails.

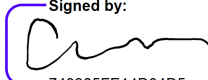
- J. GP-04: Grading Scale (*revised*)
No public comments received.
Dr. Swarm advised that letter grades are now to be reflected in policy.
Motion Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.
- K. GP-08: Academically at Risk (*revised*)
No public comments received.
Dr. Swarm discussed adding Category 1 and Category 2 to the policy and its definitions.
Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.
- L. GP-09: Remediation (*revised*)
No public comments received.
The committee discussed changes to remediation, limiting them to 1 per academic year. Reassessment changes to be 1 per semester for a total of 2 per academic year. Change the wording to 'semester' in the policy.
Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.
- M. ST-05: Student Health Insurance (*revised*)
No public comments received.
Dr. Swarm advised that D.O. students are required to have health insurance.
Motion Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed.
- N. ST-16: Student Complaints (*revised*)
No public comments received.
The committee discussed the process of student complaints. D.O. students go to COCA and graduate students to HLC.
Motion by Dr. Belt, seconded by Dr. Santer. Motion passed
- O. Hear reports from the school's administration, gather information, and prepare recommendations to the full Board upon request of the Chair.

IV. **Next Meeting Date:** Friday, March 27, 2026 (*Conference Center, located in the WVSOM Student Center*)

V. **Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Belt and seconded by Dr. Santer.
The committee was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Approved on March 27, 2026

Signed by:

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Caitlyn Santer, D.O., Chair