



# The Road to STATE'S REAFFIRMATION 2015



## WVSU Shared Governance

As we learn more about the reaffirmation of accreditation each week in *The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015*, we will examine how select elements of West Virginia State University (WVSU) campus life and culture interact with the Self-Study Report. It is essential that the University employs policies and procedures to engage internal constituencies, including its Board of Governors (BOG), students, faculty, staff, and administration, in governance. Therefore, let us look briefly at an overview of the shared governance process at West Virginia State University.

### Overview of the Organizational Structure

WVSU has consistently had policies and procedures in place to engage all of its constituencies including students, faculty, staff, and administrators. With a change in University leadership in July 2012, WVSU has made significant progress in strengthening the governance and administrative structure to facilitate the support and leadership required not only to achieve its mission, but also to establish a direction for the future. WVSU's strategic plan, Vision 2020, is an example of collaborative efforts among the University students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

The 12-member Board of Governors controls, supervises, and manages the financial, business, and education policies and affairs of the University. In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 18B of the West Virginia Code, the Board hires a President, who serves as the administrative leader of the University.

The President's Cabinet consists of the following positions:

- President's Chief of Staff
- Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Vice President for Research and Public Service
- Vice President for University Advancement
- Vice President for University Relations and Operations
- Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
- Vice President for Business and Finance
- Executive Assistant to the President

The WVSU faculty plays a significant role in University governance, leadership, policy making, and strategic and future planning primarily through the WVSU Faculty Senate. In addition, the following groups and offices are also involved in WVSU governance and policy-making in various capacities:

- Classified Staff Council
- Student Government Association (SGA)

### Shared Governance Structures at WVSU

The University's governance is shared by the BOG, the administration, and the faculty. Students and staff provide input in governance through their elected representatives. The Board appoints the President of the University, who serves as administrative leader for the institution in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 18B of the West Virginia Code. On July 1, 2012, Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. became the tenth President of West Virginia State University. President Hemphill is a firm believer in shared governance. He actively interacts with various constituents of the University. He meets with his senior administrators biweekly. All of the Vice Presidents of the University and the Director of Athletics meet with the President individually each week. Additionally, he meets with the Executive Committee of WVSU Faculty Senate regularly and reports at most Faculty Senate meetings. Each semester, he holds open forums with WVSU faculty, WVSU classified staff, and WVSU students. He is very accessible and has an open door policy for students, faculty, and staff. He also meets with the WVSU Foundation Board of Directors regularly. The Foundation Board of Directors includes membership from all components of the University and the community.

In addition to his continuous direct interaction with all the constituent groups at the University, the President appoints members to University Committees in consultation with recommendations received from University constituents, which play a pivotal role in internal and external affairs of the University.



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The Faculty Senate is the governing body of the University faculty. It serves in an advisory role to the Provost of the University. The four colleges within the University elect representatives to the Senate as do the librarians and the Gus R. Douglass Land-Grant Institute. Faculty Senate rules, policies, and procedures are described in detail in the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws (Appendix A of Faculty Handbook). Although its role is advisory, at WVSU the faculty is the backbone of University governance. In this role, the faculty remains engaged with all the constituents of the University either through Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate standing committees, presidentially-appointed committees, or ad-hoc committees of WVSU.

The Classified Staff Council consists of all full-time regular classified employees of the University. It promotes the well-being of the University's classified staff by enhancing communication among its members; facilitating staff input into decisions that affect classified employees and the University in general; encouraging cooperation, coordination, and communication among employees; fostering improvement of working conditions for employees through input into staff development programs and appointment or election of classified employees to major University committees; and conveying employee concerns to the WVHEPC. The members of the council play an important role in the academic and administrative life of the University, and staff have shared that they believe they are listened to and respected. The structure, procedures and bylaws of the council can be viewed on the Council's website.

The Student Government Association (SGA) is the representative body for the students at the University. The details of students' rights, responsibilities, policies, procedures, constitution, and bylaws are contained in the Student Handbook, The Buzz. SGA elections are held every year in April. In these elections, the students elect a president, vice president, BOG representative, and senators. The SGA leadership plays a very important role in University governance as it appoints student representatives to various University-wide committees. WVSU has been fortunate to have student representatives fully engaged in their leadership roles.

In addition to these governing organizations, members of the WVSU community serve with the West Virginia State University Foundation, Inc. (WVSU Foundation) and the West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation (WVSU R&D). These two entities operate independent of the University while providing support for the shared vision and goals of the students, faculty, staff and alumni.

The WVSU Foundation provides support for the shared vision and goals of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The WVSU Foundation was established in 1959 by the administration, faculty, alumni, and friends to receive, manage, and administer contributions and gifts for the benefit of the University. The Foundation is a public charity under the Internal Revenue Code – IRC § 501(c)(3). Since its inception, the WVSU Foundation has arranged scholarship programs, financial aid for needy students, and support for academic, athletic, community and student projects at the University. The Foundation Board consists of a diverse group of highly accomplished individuals including members of the University communities (administration, faculty, classified staff, students, alumni, etc.), community, businesses, industry and academia and provides an excellent platform for collaboration among those groups as well.

Additionally, the WVSU R&D was established as an additional fiscal agent of the University to allow greater flexibility in managing federal, state and private foundation grant funds and to facilitate utilization of grant funds in contracting for research support and public service activities. WVSU R&D serves as a vehicle used to expedite the activities around research, economic development as well as assist the University in advancement endeavors. WVSU R&D has a posted handbook to support research and public service efforts of faculty and staff.

For more information about The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015, please click [here](#) to discover in-depth information about the process, read the University's Self-Study Report, and more!

For questions or comments regarding the University's reaffirmation of accreditation process or the self-study report, please send all inquiries and information to [reaffirmation@wvstateu.edu](mailto:reaffirmation@wvstateu.edu) or call (304) 204-4300.