

Minutes
West Virginia State University Board of Governors
Special Meeting - December 9, 2010

Call to Order. A special meeting of the West Virginia State University Board of Governors was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by the Vice Chair, Dr. John Thralls. Dr. Thralls chaired the meeting in Mr. Eric Coleman's absence, who was traveling on business. In addition to Dr. Thralls, the following members participated via conference call: Dr. Thomas Boston, Mr. Eric Hicks, Mr. Larry Rowe, Mr. Larry Salyers, Mr. Thomas Susman, and Mr. Gary Swingle. Dr. Tom Guetlozz participated in person. Mrs. Millie Booker, Mr. Kris Casdorph, Mr. Eric Coleman, and Mr. Vincent Williams were absent. Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr. also participated.

Approval of Agenda. On a motion duly made and seconded, the agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Honorary Degree. Dr. Carter thanked the Board of Governors for the opportunity to make brief comments regarding the recommendation to award the Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree to Mr. Eric Coleman, who will be the commencement speaker on December 19, 2010. He noted that the recommendation was endorsed by himself and members of the WVSU Commencement Committee. Dr. Thralls said that the awarding of an honorary degree to the commencement speaker is a strong tradition in higher education.

The Board members and Dr. Carter also agreed about Mr. Coleman's exemplary service as Chair of the Board of Governors. Dr. Guetzloff questioned the timing of the awarding of the degree and said he felt that it would be better served during the spring commencement. Dr. Thralls noted that it was appropriate to award the degree at the time that the person is speaking. Mr. Susman said that he agreed the award should be presented at the time that Mr. Coleman gives his address. Dr. Guetzloff confirmed that he was in support of the recommendation, but he had to question the timing out of concern that it may be quid pro quo. Following further discussion, Dr. Boston moved that the Board of Governors approve the recommendation to award the Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree to Mr. Eric Coleman during the commencement exercises on December 19, 2010. Mr. Swingle seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Mr. Susman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Salyers
Secretary