

**PIERPONT COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Academics Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025  
11:00 AM**

**Pierpont's Advanced Technology Center (ATC)  
500 Galliher Drive  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
Room 216A**

---

**MINUTES**

**Notice of Meeting**

A meeting of the Pierpont Community & Technical College (Pierpont) Board of Governors Academics Committee was held on June 17, 2025, beginning at 11:00 AM. The meeting was conducted in person at the Advanced Technology Center in Fairmont, WV. Advanced announcement of this meeting was posted on the WV Secretary of State's Meeting Notices Webpage.

*Committee Members Present:* Thomas Cole – Committee Chair, Jessica Killon, and Juanita Nickerson

*Committee Members Absent:* Lisa Lang and Christine Miller

*Other Board Members Present:* Joanne Seasholtz

*Others Present:* Members of the President's Cabinet, faculty, staff, and others

**I. Call to Order**

Thomas Cole called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

**II. Approval of Minutes – March 25 and April 25, 2025**

A quorum was not present. Therefore, the minutes from the March 25 and April 25, 2025, meetings could not be approved.

**III. Academic Affairs Updates**

**A. General Education Assessment**

David Beighley reviewed the General Education Assessment Status Report (Report provided in Agenda packet). At the recommendation of the committee, Deans will rely on Assistant Deans to take the lead on assessment efforts in the coming year. Dr. Michael Waide described the report as robust and posed follow-up questions regarding the assessment of Oral Communication. David Beighley acknowledged the challenge of

assessing this area and noted that tracking Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) can be difficult. Dr. Michael Waide emphasized the importance of leveraging known hurdles as a form of assessment and suggested incorporating this work into the HLC process. He commended the team on a phenomenal report.

**B. Virtual Reality (VR) Training**

David Beighley provided an update on Virtual Reality training, referring to the year-end report (Report provided in Agenda packet). Jack Forrest, the department's new Specialist, is currently attending a conference in Japan to stay informed on the latest VR technologies.

**C. Office of Career and Corporate Training**

Dr. Joni Gray presented a comprehensive year-end report for the Office of Career and Corporate Training (Report provided in Agenda packet). She shared that the department has been reimagined and has grown to a team of three, allowing for increased outreach and stronger connections with organizations.

**D. Office of Dual Enrollment and Transitional Education**

Stephanie Cunningham reviewed the year-end report for Dual Enrollment and Transitional Education (Report provided in Agenda packet). She highlighted that four students completed the year earning both their high school diploma and an associate degree. Dr. Michael Waide expressed interest in recognizing Dual Enrollment students during their high school graduation ceremonies and suggested considering cords or stoles as symbols of their achievement.. David Beighley is currently working with Pamela Knight of Harrison County on collaborative opportunities for the fall.

**E. Office of eLearning**

Dr. Robin Strader presented her year-end report (Report provided in Agenda packet). She shared that Blackboard Original will be retired at the end of December 2025 and that Pierpont has already transitioned to Blackboard Ultra. Training sessions for faculty, staff, and students will be offered in the fall, and all online faculty will be required to participate. These sessions will also be recorded for future reference.

**F. Office of Institutional Effectiveness**

Olivia Boltz presented and reviewed the HLC Accreditation Update (Report provided in Agenda packet). She shared that an introductory meeting was held with the HLC site team chair. He shared his background and emphasized that the visit is not intended to be punitive, but rather a review of the institution's progress since the IAC hearing and an opportunity to identify areas for continued growth.

Additionally, David Beighley shared several updates not listed on the agenda:



Mission Statement: To provide accessible, responsive, comprehensive education that works  
Vision: To empower individuals and strengthen communities through exceptional training and educational pathways  
Tagline: Education that works!

- a) At the recent State Board of Education and Provosts' meeting, it was announced that there is a need for 140 Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teachers (ECCAT) across the state. Lori Barrett is leading the effort to meet this certification need.
- b) Discussion are underway to expand Surgical Technology training opportunities.
- c) A technical development grant is being prepared to support an LPN-to-RN Bridge Program.
- d) A lunch meeting was held with the Medical Director of WVOEMT, along with Dean Cunningham and Dr. Joni Gray, regarding EMT Basic training. The discussion was productive, and the college is working toward becoming the state's top training provider for EMTs.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted by Melissa D Weikle*



Mission Statement: To provide accessible, responsive, comprehensive education that works  
Vision: To empower individuals and strengthen communities through exceptional training and educational pathways  
Tagline: Education that works!