

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

Academics Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025
10:30 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 September 23, 2025, beginning at 10:30 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, Lisa Lang, and Christine Miller

Committee Members Absent: Hayes Raudenbush

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Thomas Cole called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and confirmed a quorum.

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

Christine Miller moved to approve the March 25 and April 25, 2025 meeting minutes. Lisa Lang seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

III. Academic Affairs Updates

- **Institutional Accreditation (Higher Learning Commission):**
Olivia Boltz, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, reported that the recent Higher Learning Commission (HLC) site visit on September 15th & 16th went very well. The preliminary report to the college is anticipated on October 22, while the final response from the state is not expected until June 2026. Special thanks were extended to Olivia and her team of faculty and staff along with Joanne Seasholtz for her leadership.
- **Specialized Program Accreditation:**
The Medical Laboratory Technology program will host a clinical site visit from National Accrediting Agency for clinical laboratory Science (NAACLS) on October 13-14, with

Melissa White leading preparations. The Respiratory Therapy program remains on probation due to a three-year average pass rate below the COARC 60% benchmark. Improvements are expected to show by March, 2026, as earlier data cycles out. Faculty noted that this percentage is also affected by students who choose not to take the RRT exam as those are recorded as fails, affecting the pass rates.

- **General Education Assessment:**

Results reported in June assessment show improvement. Dean Jennifer Elison is collaborating with Program Coordinators to address gaps and look at areas for improvement. The first Faculty Senate meeting is coming up on September 26.

- **Career and Corporate Training:**

Offerings continue to expand across multiple counties, including Barbour, Braxton, and Randolph. Programs such as CMA, EMT-Basic, CompTIA, EKG Technician, TEAS Prep and Point of Care are being developed to meet industry needs. Dr. Gray has formed an active advisory committee that is providing valuable insight to the department.

- **Dual Enrollment and Transitional Education:**

Monongalia County's shift toward WVU Potomac State has impacted Pierpont's headcount. Discussions included challenges in engaging community partners and the need for standard operating procedures for both general education and CCT dual-enrollment courses.

- **eLearning:**

Dr. Strader is leading training initiatives, starting with our Professional Development week and continuing at our First Fridays for the new Blackboard platform. We have received wonderful feedback on this training. Additionally, Dr. Strader will now be taking the lead on the VR Grant.

- **Five-Year Program Reviews (AY 2025–2026):**

Programs in all areas including Business, Food Service, Petroleum Technology, Veterinary Technology, and Health Science are under review, with submissions due to the Deans by December 1. Following that they will be presented to the board in early 2026.

- **Faculty Promotion (AY 2025–2026):**

Ten faculty members are expected to apply for promotion this year. The Faculty Personnel Committee is managing the process. Provost has requested recommendations by February 1, 2026.

- **Academic Affairs Initiatives:**

- Following a survey from Faculty Senate, we have revamped what has previously been known as First Fridays. Now we are offering multiple training opportunities for faculty and staff based on those survey results on the First Friday of the month.
- Grant applications are in progress, including a Technical Program Development Grant for LPN/Paramedic-RN bridge initiative, and an Advance Grant for Surgical

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!



Tech. Chef Natalie Feltz received a \$90,000 grant to develop a walk-up concession window, which will include a point-of-sale system and be tied to student learning.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Christine Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Lang seconded the motion. All agreed. Meeting 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!