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WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS – ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
Friday, August 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Center, WVSOM Student Center

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Governors Academic Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

Members Present: Caitlyn Santer, D.O., Courtney Eleazer, Ph.D., Randall Belt, D.O., Bryn Hawbaker, OMS III

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 27, 2026, Academic Committee meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Randall Belt and seconded by Dr. Caitlyn Santer. The minutes were approved as presented.

III. Committee Items

A. Update and Approval of Master of Science in Applied Medical Science Program

Dr. Gail Swarm provided an update on the Master of Science in Applied Medical Science program. Discussion focused on the program's role in supporting student success and providing an alternative pathway for students who may benefit from a master's degree completion option. Committee members reviewed the proposal and approved the program. Questions were raised regarding capstone project requirements and the possibility of students expanding upon previously completed research projects.

B. Academic Outcomes

Dr. Kristie Bridges presented academic outcomes data, including findings related to the Finding Health Curriculum and the MSBS-to-D.O. Pathway. The committee reviewed evidence indicating improved student progression and enhanced pass rates under the revised curriculum. Members noted that expanded reassessment opportunities have increased the number of students participating in remediation while also providing additional opportunities for academic success.

The committee reviewed student performance metrics demonstrating a positive correlation between higher grade point averages and stronger performance on national board examinations. Discussion also focused on ongoing efforts to improve student outcomes through enhanced academic support services, targeted interventions, and additional resources for at-risk students. Dr. Bridges stated her department would continue to collect

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and evaluate student performance data to identify curricular gaps and opportunities for improvement.

C. COMLEX Update

Dr. Aaron McGuffin presented an update regarding COMLEX examination performance. Committee members reviewed current trends and discussed strategies to strengthen student preparedness and examination performance. Emphasis was placed on continued support for students requiring additional academic assistance, including the potential development of focused review sessions, refresher courses, and supplemental instruction in core pathophysiology concepts to strengthen critical thinking and readiness for board examinations. Dr. McGuffin stated that his department would explore implementing a boot camp or refresher program for at-risk students, focused on core pathophysiology concepts and board examination preparation.

IV. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Academic Committee is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2026.

V. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, Dr. Santer requested a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Belt and seconded by Dr. Santer. The motion passed unanimously, and the Academic Committee meeting was adjourned.

Approved on October 30, 2026

Signed by:
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Caitlyn Santer, D.O., Chair