



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Affairs Committee

October 23, 2024

Minutes

Presidents Boardroom, Horace Mann Building

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing also took place on YouTube.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chair Chris Montemayor, Secretary Daniel Currier, Trustee Michael O'Rourke, Trustee George Gilmer, Trustee William Reichelt and Board Chair Ali Salehi, ex-officio member.

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Committee Vice Chair Boudreau

Also, present were Westfield State University President Dr. Linda Thompson and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Salka.

Committee Chair Montemayor called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and a roll call was taken of the committee members participating as listed above. It was announced that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded.

MOTION made by Trustee Gilmer seconded by Trustee Currier to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024, meeting. There being no discussion, **ROLL CALL VOTE** with Trustee O'Rourke abstaining, motion passed by majority.

Provost Dr. William Salka informed the Board of Trustees of the graduation rates from 2015-present. According to these rates, Westfield State University loses 1/3 of an incoming class before they reach junior year. Comparatively, Westfield State University is slightly below the other sister universities. Students leave for three reasons; low grades, not challenged enough early on, or financial reasons. Also discussed, four- and six-year graduation rates.

Initiatives to Improve Retention

Dr. Salka went through the following ideas to improve retention.

- Dual Advising Program
- WSU 360 – an early alert system to track academically struggling students and assist them in getting help.
- This contract has predicative analytics of the likelihood a student will be retained and students that won't.
- Westfield in Four- New students have a conversation with their advisor and make a list of which classes are needed to graduate.
- Train all the administrative assistants with the student support systems WSU offers.

Discussion around first year student complaints of not having program specific classes until later in school career. The Wise program was designed to ensure students get their major courses early on.

MOTION made by Trustee Reichelt seconded by Trustee O'Rourke adjourned the meeting. There being no discussion, **ROLL CALL VOTE**, motion passed by majority.

Meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM.

Attachments presented at this meeting:

- a. Draft Minutes of June 20, 2024
- b. Retention Presentation

Secretary's Certificate

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Westfield State University Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee meeting held on October 23, 2024.

Daniel Currier, Secretary

Date

Academic Affairs Committee

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 9, 2024

WISE: Westfield's Integrative Student Experience

General education at Westfield State University places curiosity, excitement, and a commitment to social justice and cultural understanding at the heart of our curriculum. In the classroom and across communities, students draw on diverse areas of knowledge to integrate ideas, identify and pursue meaningful questions, tackle complex problems from the local to the global, think critically and creatively, communicate and collaborate effectively, and promote well-being for all of our community members. Students develop the self-awareness and confidence necessary to engage meaningfully with and care for others; to navigate their personal, professional, and civic lives; and to build a more just and kind world.

WISE by the Numbers

- 150 + Courses
- 9 Progress Reports
- 101 + Faculty
- 32 SCORE Members
- 140 + Community Events
- 90 + Students Involved
- 4,000+ Hours

Everyday Monsters:
Contemporary Horror and
College Life

Games without
Frontiers

Stand Up and Sketch

Is This a Cult?

Discover Westfield: Your College
Town

History of Baseball

Sci Fi in the
Mind's Eye:
Cognition and
Culture

Democracy at Risk: Why All
Democracies are Fragile and How
Some Fail

Swiftology: Look What You Made Me Learn

Welcome to Your Podcast

Mapping Outside the Lines

First Year Journey: Engaging Students,
Creating Community,
and Building Academic Skills

Retention for All Students and by Gender

First-Year Retention, All Students

Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
N = 1039	N = 831	N = 797	N = 799	N = 705
72.3%	75.4%	75.2%	70.7%	73.9%

First-Year Retention by Gender

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
N	Male=473 Female=566	Male=367 Female=464	Male=333 Female=464	Male = 358 Female = 441	Male = 357 Female = 348
Male	72.3%	72.5%	68.5%	72.3%	71.7%
Female	72.3%	77.8%	80.2%	69.4%	76.1%

Retention by Race

First-Year Retention, White versus Non-White

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
N	White = 792 NW = 222	White = 601 NW = 204	White = 581 NW = 177	White = 543 NW = 230	White = 480 NW = 207
White	73.4%	77.0%	78.1%	71.8%	75.8%
Non-White (NW)	67.6%	69.1%	67.2%	67.8%	71.0%

First-Year Retention, 3 Race Designation

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
N	White = 792 Hispanic = 114 Black = 41	White = 601 Hispanic = 120 Black = 33	White = 581 Hispanic = 77 Black = 48	White = 543 Hispanic = 122 Black = 59	White = 480 Hispanic = 119 Black = 51
White	73.4%	77.0%	78.1%	71.8%	75.8%
Hispanic	64.0%	66.7%	63.6%	65.6%	65.5%
Black	80.5%	69.7%	68.8%	81.4%	76.5%

First-Year Retention, Pell and First Generation

First-Year Retention, Pell Eligible versus Non-Pell

Students	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
N	Pell = 383 Non-Pell = 656	Pell = 257 Non-Pell = 574	Pell = 283 Non-Pell = 514	Pell = 326 Non-Pell = 473	Pell = 275 Non-Pell = 430
Pell	73.9%	68.9%	70.7%	66.6%	71.6%
Non-Pell	71.3%	78.4%	77.8%	73.6%	75.3%

First-Year Retention, First Generation versus Non-First-Generation

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
N	FG = 237 Non-FG = 802	FG = 202 Non-FG = 629	FG = 181 Non-FG = 616	FG = 396 Non-FG = 403	FG = 329 Non-FG = 376
First-Gen	74.7%	70.8%	75.7%	68.4%	71.4%
Non-First-Gen	71.6%	76.9%	75.2%	73.0%	76.1%

First Year Retention Projections for Spring

All Student Retention from Fall to Spring Semesters

Year	Registered Fall	Not Registered Spring	Percentage
2019/2020	5,918	1,019	17.2%
2020/2021	5,360	883	16.5%
2021/2022	5,004	825	16.5%
2022/2023	4,672	818	17.5%
2023/2024	4,586	801	17.5%
2024/2025*	4,589	1,154	25.2%

*Fall 2019 – Spring 2024 are final data based on the spring semester freeze. 2024/2025 are based on actual registration numbers as of December 2, 2024.

NECHE Update

- Institution Report is due January 15, 2025
- Will report on four areas of emphasis:
 - Continuing to create a comprehensive approach to assessment with particular emphasis on program review and closing achievement gaps
 - Connecting strategic planning with resource allocation
 - Implementing plans to achieve enrollment goals
 - Implementing a revised general education core

WSU SUCCESS Pilot Program

- Create a Program to provide wrap-around services aimed at improving at-risk student outcomes.
- Several Components:
 - Early Engagement
 - Dedicated Advisor and Peer Mentors
 - Academic Supports
 - Financial Support – Scholarship Money