

Statement of Candidacy: Heather Billings

I am running for the position of faculty representative on the Board of Governors for West Virginia University. I have been a member of the faculty at WVU since 2005. I originally was appointed as a Research Assistant Professor, and after realizing my full passion for teaching, moved into the Scientist Educator track within the School of Medicine, and am currently at the rank of Teaching Associate Professor.

There are several reasons I am qualified for the position on the BOG. Over the past two years, as chair of the Teaching and Assessment Committee, charged with implementing a new system of student evaluations of instruction, I have gained a much greater understanding of the organizational structure of the university. Further, through that position, I have demonstrated a willingness to listen to faculty input and concerns from across all campuses, including Potomac State and WV Tech and address them prior to final implementation of the new system. Along with the advice and input received from faculty all across the university, I have also heard many other concerns raised over matters such as promotion and tenure processes, the weight of student evaluations over other forms of teaching evaluation, gender biases in faculty evaluation and workloads, the importance of teaching vs. research in different colleges, and the hiring of adjunct faculty vs. full-time faculty. These are all important concerns that need to be addressed and need an advocate on the BOG.

I have spent my entire academic career, from undergraduate work through my current position, at state universities, and was a first generation college student, so can relate to the unique challenges faced by many students at WVU, who are also first-generation college students, and how that impacts faculty who teach our students. I fully understand and embrace the land-grant mission of WVU to serve not just our students, but all the people of the state through outreach efforts. I have also served as a Faculty Fellow with Summit Residence Hall for two years, and was faculty with the Governor's Honors Academy for 3 years when it was last hosted at WVU. Through these experiences, I became more aware of the backgrounds of our students, the residence life experience, and factors outside the classroom that carry into the classroom, add to the academic challenges our students face, and which we as faculty will at some point also face with them.

I am a strong advocate for inclusivity, and ensuring every person at WVU, faculty, staff, and student, is provided an environment in which they can reach their full potential, and would continue to be an advocate for these issues as new policies and decisions are considered by the BOG, should I be elected to represent the faculty.

I am Stan Hileman, an Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in the School of Medicine. I received a B.S. in Animal and Veterinary Science in 1985 from the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, and a Ph.D. in Animal Science from the University of Kentucky in 1991. After postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois and Harvard Medical School, I was fortunate to return to WVU as an Assistant Professor in 2000 and have been a member of the Faculty Senate since 2008. I have served on the Curriculum Committee and have served on the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) for a number of years, both of which have given me insight into the schools and colleges outside the Health Sciences Center. I served as the chair of the RSC last year and, at the request of the Provost's office, led the restructuring of the internal funding process at WVU. The goal was to increase accountability to the Office of the Provost while maintaining a very faculty-centered process. I feel that we achieved that goal. I have been asked to serve on the RSC again in the coming year as well as the Athletic Council. Within the Health Sciences, I co-chair the Van Liere Convocation and Health Sciences Research Day, the premier research convocation at the Health Sciences, and served on the Faculty Advisory Committee to then Chancellor Colenda. In addition to being active in the service aspect of my appointment, I am also very involved in research and teaching. I have an active research program funded by the USDA and serve as Co-principal investigator on a grant from the NIH. I have participated for many years in the Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence Program (INBRE), a program that provides summer research experience to students from smaller colleges around the state and thus contributes to the Land Grant mission of WVU. I currently sit on or chair the Ph.D. or M.S. committees of 10 students. I teach in graduate courses for the Cellular and Integrative Physiology Program and the Neuroscience Program and also teach physiology to Pharmacy and Dental students.

If elected, one area I would look to impact is faculty retention. I have seen several colleagues leave WVU and would look to push for changes that might lead to reductions in such events. I completely agree with President Gee when about the need to reduce bureaucracy at WVU. As someone active in research and teaching, I deal with this on an all too regular basis. We need to find ways to make it easier for a faculty member to do their job and look for ways to make things happen instead of just saying no. This obviously includes the issue of faculty salaries, but includes other issues such as improving the insurance coverage that we now have as well as looking into other issues such as giving tuition breaks to immediate family of faculty etc. While WVU is an excellent educational value, as someone who has put one son through WVU and currently has another in school here, I well understand the cost of a college education. I also strongly believe that communication is essential for faculty being involved in the governance of WVU. I would do my best to maintain an open door policy via which faculty can directly communicate their suggestions and concerns with me. While it is required that this position be filled by someone from the Health Sciences or Extension, it is one that represents WVU as a whole. I have made the utmost effort in my time on the RSC to ensure that funding for the Arts and Humanities have been protected as I enthusiastically value the contributions of all our schools and colleges to the mission of WVU.

Joe Prud'homme, MD
Candidate for Faculty Senate Representative to the WVU Board of Governors

Plans and Goals for Service on Board of Governors

I am sure that all of the candidates will do a good job of representing the WVU Faculty Senate and adequately present the results of the senate's deliberations to the Board of Governors. Each of the candidates will obviously bring special skills and areas of particular expertise to the position. My particular "extra" is knowledge of health care. My plan is to use my enthusiasm, my persuasive abilities, my "MacGyver" skills, and my personal contacts and relationships to optimize the health of the WVU Faculty, students, and staff; and the people of the state of West Virginia. My goal is to bring these patients through their upcoming forced calorie restricted diet (budget cuts) lean and strong, ready to compete in the future. I will strive to ensure that we are fed protein and not sugar, and that we lose only fat and not our muscle. Medicine (health care) at WVU is both our biggest source of revenue, and one of our biggest expenses. It is about to see major cuts over the next several years. I would like to apply my health care delivery, health care administration, and health care policy knowledge to this task as the WVU Board of Governors, the University, and our state grapple with these issues.

Description of Relevant Background Experience

Joe Prud'homme, MD

Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery

Christopher Cline Endowed Chair in Orthopedic Surgery

I currently hold additional positions as:

- WVU Faculty Senator
- Chairman of the WVU Research Integrity Committee
- Director of Marketing for Department of Orthopedic Surgery
- Host "Doctors on Call" television show on PBS
- Chairman of the West Virginia Medical Political Action Committee
- Oral Board Examiner for the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery
- Congressional Ambassador for the American Association of Orthopedic Surgery

In the past I have been:

- On a National Governing Council for the American Medical Association
- President of the West Virginia Orthopedic Society
- Chief of Surgery at a busy private hospital
- Team Doctor for all of the athletic teams at Virginia Tech
- The only orthopedic surgeon for an entire third world country for two months (Bhutan)
- On faculty at two other Medical Schools
- Student at the largest medical center in the world for five years
- President of the House Officer's Association (all of the interns, residents, and fellows) during residency
- Student Body President during Medical School
- Student government Senator in college
- Recipient of an undergraduate honors degree in History
- An Eagle Scout (which really did help me "MacGyver" my way through all of the above!)

I would be honored to serve as your Faculty Senate Representative to the WVU Board of Governors.

May 1, 2016

My fellow senators,

I am honored to be nominated to represent the faculty of the Health Sciences Center and Extension Service on the WVU Board of Governors.

My long history as a loyal Mountaineer is perhaps my strongest qualification to serve as your representative. When I graduated from WVU's physical therapy program in the 1980's, I was the first in my family to earn a college degree. I began clinical practice in a small, rural hospital in central WV. For most of my tenure in this position, I was the only physical therapist in the county, and there were no physical therapists in the counties to the south and west. My education at WVU prepared me to serve my patients and my community, and the faculty at WVU became my mentors and professional support system.

I returned to Morgantown in the mid-1990s to practice at Ruby Memorial Hospital, and from there transitioned into the faculty role I have held for the past 20 years. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with faculty from across the HSC and Extension Service on various rural health and community-based service projects. I have remained active in clinical practice, collaborating with faculty physicians and other healthcare professionals. Now, I am a proud Mountaineer parent of two sons who are learning and thriving at WVU.

Simply put, I understand what WVU means to its students, their families, our communities, and the state. I have experienced the challenges and rewards of being a "clinician scholar," providing quality patient care while teaching the next generation of healthcare professionals, and engaging in scholarship, discovery, and service. The faculty of the Extension Service have a similarly broad role, bringing scholarship, teaching, and service outside the walls of our "bricks-and-mortar" campuses.

It's no secret that our state is facing a dire financial crisis. This crisis will impact our university. However, WVU must serve as a lighthouse rather than just weathering the storm. My goal as your representative will be to advocate for the HSC and Extension faculty and our roles in serving WVU and the state in these challenging times.

Respectfully yours,

Ralph R. Utzman, PT, MPH, PhD
Associate Professor
Division of Physical Therapy
School of Medicine