WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
STANDING COMMITTEES
2026-2027

Committee appointments are in effect from **August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027.** Appointments may be renewed on an annual basis.

All committees are appointed by and advisory to the Dean. "Ex-Officio" members are appointed to committees by virtue of the position they hold. They are non-voting members of the committees. Student members are denoted with an asterisk (*).

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

CHARGE: To review the academic and professional progress of all students enrolled in the predoctoral program. Each student's cognitive and non-cognitive ability, academic and professional knowledge and skills, integrity, and suitability for the practice of dentistry are evaluated at midterm and at the end of the semester. Student sanctions and privileges are recommended by the Committee to the Dean, as appropriate.

Term: "By the By-Laws"

When They Meet: Twice a Semester (Special Meetings are called, as appropriate)

Dr. Lauren Godwin, Chair, Ex-officio (non-voting)
Dr. Rodney Powers (Restorative)
Dr. Fatima Bosaid (Endo)
Dr. Gina Graziani (Pedo)
Dr. Peter Ngan (Ortho)
Dr. Arif Salman (Perio)
Dr. Bryan Weaver(OMS)
Dr. Constance Wiener (Public Health & Prof Practice)
Ms. Cathy Boyce, Academic Program Coordinator (non-voting)
Ms. Christina Phalen, Academic Administrative Assistant (non-voting)
Ms. Tina Bragg, Coordinator pre-doctoral clinical education (non-voting)
Dr. Valerie Perrine, Ex-officio (non-voting)

Team Leaders and Freshman/Sophomore Advisors (non-voting members) are encouraged to attend and participate. Course directors may be invited, as appropriate.

DENTAL HYGIENE ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

CHARGE: To review the academic and professional progress of all students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science program. Each student's cognitive and non-cognitive ability, academic and professional knowledge and skills, integrity, and suitability for the practice of dental hygiene are evaluated at midterm and at the end of the semester. Student sanctions and privileges are recommended by the Committee to the Dean, as appropriate.

When They Meet: Twice a semester, with special meetings as necessary.

Ms. Ashlee Sowards, Chair
Ms. Suann Gaydos
Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain
Ms. Elizabeth Puette
Ms. Alyson Sarsfield
Ms. Lori Groover (Admin) (non-voting)
Ms. Amy Funk, Ex-officio (non-voting)

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY ADMISSIONS

CHARGE: To annually select the first-year dental class in accordance with established criteria, policies, and procedures. Functions include reviewing DDS program applications, interviewing applicants, resolving situational matters by either applying existing policy or formulating new policy recommendations, evaluating admissions outcomes as they relate to the School's mission and, when appropriate, proposing revision to admissions criteria, procedures, and associated benchmarks.

The committee will also evaluate programs to recruit qualified students with the motivation and potential to succeed in dental school through the use of short-term and long-term recruitment strategies and programs.

Term: Members are initially appointed to serve one four-year term, rotate off, then can serve again after 2 years. Consideration will be given to members to serve up to two consecutive terms.

When They Meet: The Committee meets regularly beginning in early fall semester and extending through mid-spring semester. Meetings are held in the summer term as necessary. Applicant interviews commonly occur once weekly and more frequently as needed.

Dr. Jonathan Abraham, Chair
Dr. Shelby Alexander
Dr. Lakshmi Garladinne
Dr. Lauren Godwin
Ms. Donna Haid
Dr. Elizabeth Kao
Dr. Dami Kim
Dr. Valerie Perrine

Dr. Rodney Powers
Dr. Robert Wanker
Ms. Chasity Antonk (non-voting)

Additional volunteer alumni reps: Dr. Mitri Ghareeb, Dr. Robert Hornbrook, Dr. Frank Mastalerz, Dr. Michael Medovic, Dr. Lauren Namsupak, Dr. William Oscanyon, Dr. Kerri Simpson, Dr. Krystal Thompson

*Students:

2027
Hawraa Al Qassab
Ahmad Bakri
Adrian Coalson
Anderson Hill
Jonathan Hung
Cameron Kimble
Taylor Martino
Parker Miller
Cathryn Myer
Leo Qassem
Hannah Stapleton

2028
Hazem Attal
Kaitlyn Crist
Jacob Estep
Sidney Karnes
Madelyn Lalama
Ameer Menwer
Adam Michalski
Nader Nilforoushan
Madalyn Valoroso
Chris Whyte

2029
Evelyn Bastin
Eli Blake
Jonathan Cook
Aubrie Custer
Clarita Murphy
Averie Price
Lillian Robbins
Hunter Schaefer

DENTAL HYGIENE ADMISSIONS

CHARGE: To review, evaluate, and rank applications for admissions into the dental hygiene program for the incoming class, as well as for applicants for advanced standing. Committee members will review applicant files and complete a standardized evaluation form to support a consistent and equitable admissions process.

To review, evaluate, and rank applications for admissions into the dental hygiene program for the incoming class, as well as for applicants for advanced standing. Committee members will review applicant files and complete a standardized evaluation form to support a consistent and equitable admissions process.

The Chair will attend WVU admissions meetings, as needed, and ensure that the admissions process and interviews are conducted in an inclusive, equitable, and professional manner.

When They Meet: The Committee meets as needed during the Fall semester, generally fewer than three meetings, with monthly scheduled meetings during the Spring semester. Meetings are held in the summer as necessary. Meetings will be held primarily on Friday afternoons.

Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain, Chair
Dr. Lauren Bakos
Ms. Elizabeth Puette
Ms. Alyson Sarsfield
Ms. Heidi Shaver
Ms. Ashlee Sowards
Ms. Amy Funk, Ex-officio
Ms. Lori Groover (non-voting)

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

The committee will evaluate programs to recruit qualified students with the motivation and potential to succeed in the pre-doctoral and dental hygiene curriculum through the use of short-term and long-term recruitment strategies and programs. Committee members will participate in WVU, HSC, School, regional, state, and other recruiting events and the associated required meetings. Additionally, members will provide tours for prospective students, as scheduled. The committee will foster dental and dental hygiene program application by individuals focused on the pursuit of dental and dental hygiene education.

Dr. Jonathan Abraham, Co-chair
Ms. Ashlee Sowards, Co-chair
Ms. Chasity Antonk
Ms. Jessica Wilmoth

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHARGE: To continually review and assess the curriculum to ensure that it promotes student competency upon graduation by providing content and learning experiences that are current, comprehensive, evidence-based and appropriately sequenced. Proposals for additions, modifications and deletions are reviewed, as needed.

Three Subcommittees provide the Curriculum Committee with formal input relative to curriculum issues: the Clinical Sciences Subcommittee, the Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee, and the Biomedical Sciences Subcommittee. Other input is actively sought from departments, faculty, staff, students, alumni, members of the Board of Advisors, and others.

Meet: The Committee meets at least once each semester. The Subcommittees meet at least once each semester. Department curriculum reviews occur once annually.

Ms. Amy Funk, Chair
Dr. Valerie Perrine
Dr. Christopher Ivanoff
Dr. Khaled Alsharif
Dr. Fatima Bosaid
Dr. Bryan Weaver
Dr. Lauren Godwin
Dr. Meghan Bastin
Dr. Jen Franko
Dr. Arif Salman
Dr. Thomas Stanley
Dr. R. Constance Wiener
Hannah Stapleton* (2027)
Ms. Cathy Boyce, Academic Program Coordinator (non-voting)
Ms. Christina Phalen, Academic Administrative Assistant (non-voting)

Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee
Dr. Meghan Bastin, Chair
Ms. Suann Gaydos
Dr. Gina Graziani
Dr. Constance Wiener
Dr. Michael Bagby
Dr. Lauren Godwin
Ms. Amy Funk, Ex-officio

Biomedical Sciences Subcommittee
Dr. Jennifer Franko, Microbiology, Chair
Dr. Michael Gunther, Biochemistry
Dr. Steven Hardy, Physiology
Dr. Dawn Hunter, Anatomy
Dr. Leah Hammer, Pharmacology
Dr. Jillian Davis, Histology

Dr. Melissa Luna (Oral and General Pathology)
Dr. Tyler Brown (Dental Anatomy)
Dr. Valerie Perrine, Ex-officio
Ms. Amy Funk, Ex-officio

Clinical Sciences Subcommittee (incorporated IT, EHR, and M & I)***

Dr. Lauren Godwin, Chair
Dr. Mike Bagby
Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain
Dr. Rodney Powers
Ms. Donna Haid
Dr. Jon Abraham
Dr. Gerald Schoenborn
Dr. Kim Zaremba
Ms. Tina Bragg
Mr. Mike Clingerman
Dr. Scott Young
Dr. Alex Woomer
Ms. Alyson Sarsfield
Dr. Valerie Perrine, Ex-officio
Ms. Lexi Rheinhardt (admin)

DENTAL HYGIENE CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT

CHARGE: To continually review the curriculum to ensure that it promotes dental hygiene student competency upon graduation by providing content and learning experiences that are current, comprehensive, evidence-based, and appropriately sequenced. Proposals for additions, modifications and deletions are reviewed, as needed. The curriculum, individual courses, and certification courses must align with the governing bodies, University, and the Program.

When They Meet: Twice a year/as needed; may be integrated with a regularly scheduled faculty meeting.

Ms. Ashlee Sowards, Chair
Ms. Elizabeth Puette
Ms. Ashlee Sowards
Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain
Ms. Alyson Sarsfield
Ms. Suann Gaydos
Ms. Lori Groover (admin)
Ms. Amy Funk, Ex-officio

CLINICAL BOARDS COMMITTEE

CHARGE: The committee must ensure an executable plan for the clinical mock board examination that prepares students for success in each clinical competency assessment (as assessed in the Mock Board) and in their actual clinical board examinations.

Additionally, the committee will align, deconflict, and recommend to the dean for final decision prospective dates for the mock board and actual clinical board examinations. The intent is to provide transparency for all impacted administrative and clinical operations.

MEETING: At least twice in the fall semester, and once in both the spring and summer semester. Meetings can occur more frequently as determined by the committee.

Dr. Lauren Godwin, Co-Chair
Dr. Valerie Perrine, Co-Chair
Dr. Jonathan Abraham
Dr. Kim Zaremba
Ms. Donna Haid
Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain
Dr. Fatima Bosaid
Mr. Michael Clingerman
Ms. Tina Bragg
Mr. Roger Collins
Ms. Alyson Sarsfield
Ms. Lexi Rheinhardt
Dr. Rodney Powers
Dr. Alex Woomer

FACULTY EVALUATION / PROMOTION AND TENURE

CHARGE: To review the supervisor's annual evaluation of each faculty member, evaluate the digital file of those faculty seeking promotion and/or tenure, and review applications from retired faculty eligible for Professor Emeritus status on the basis of teaching, research/scholarly activity, and service. The committee will review prospective new hires in regard to incoming academic rank. The committee will inform the Dean, in writing, of all committee decisions and recommendations.

When They Meet: The committee will meet at minimum of two times throughout the year for general business and additional weekly meetings, as indicated, by the School's promotion and tenure and annual evaluation calendar.

Ms. Ashlee Sowards (Professor), Chair	(2027)
Dr. Meghan Bastin (Assistant Professor)	(2027)
Dr. Lakshmi Garladinne (Associate Professor)	(2027)
Ms. Elizabeth Puette(Associate Professor)	(2027* one year term)

Dr. Michael Bagby (Professor, tenured) (2028)
Dr. Lauren Bakos (Assistant Professor) (2028)
Dr. Dami Kim (Associate Professor) (2029)
Dr. Christopher Ivanoff (Professor) (2029)
Dr. Thomas Stanley (Assistant Professor) (2029)
Ms. Lexi Rheinhardt (non-voting)

IMPLANT COMMITTEE

CHARGE: The School of Dentistry Implant Committee, acting for and with the approval of the Dean, establishes policy regarding treatment guidelines, reviews all candidates (patients being considered for implant therapy), recommendations for treatment, need for additional diagnostic and treatment procedures, determine costs, responsibilities, and other aspects of dental implant treatment. The Implant Committee will be composed of qualified faculty appointed by the Dean.

When they Meet: Once a month or more often as needed.

Dr. Shelby Alexander, Co-Chair
Dr. Thomas Stanley, Co-Chair
Dr. Bryan Weaver
Dr. Lester Bakos
Dr. Arif Salman
Dr. Lauren Bakos
Ms. Lyndsey Gray (Coordinator)
All Current Grad Pros Residents (non-voting attendee)
All Current Grad Perio Residents (non-voting attendee)
All Current OMFS Residents (non-voting attendee)
All Current GPR Residents (non-voting attendee)
Dental students presenting cases (non-voting attendees)

INFECTION CONTROL AND PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE COMMITTEE

CHARGE: The committee provides guidance and oversight of policies and clinical practice guidelines regarding infection prevention and control, biohazards, patient safety and professional attire initiatives related dental operations across all predoctoral, dental hygiene, and postdoctoral clinics in the School of Dentistry.

The committee should conduct periodic, random audits of infection control practices and compliance. Audit reports will be provided to clinic administration to document compliance metrics. The committee should periodically review, update, and publish relevant infection control and exposure management policies.

The committee should update and publish annual infection control training modules, post-module assessments, as well as the lectures and test questions for dental students as part of the curriculum and the clinical gateway examination.

The committee should recommend changes in dress code attire and clinical personal prospective wear that contribute to professional appearance, and patient and student safety.

MEETS: The committee should meet a minimum of four times per year; generally, twice in the spring semester and twice in the fall semester. Additional meetings will be conducted on a more frequent basis as needed, or when event specific occurrences warrant committee action.

Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain, Chair
Dr. Guoqiang Guan
Dr. Manali Vora
Dr. Alex Woomer
Ms. Elizabeth Puette
Mr. Mike Clingerman
Ms. Donna Haid
Ms. Barbara Walters
Ms. Keisha Ponceroff
Mr. Matt Stinoski, HSC Biosafety Officer
Ryan Weimer* (D4 Representative)
Casey Stevens Washington* (D3 Representative)
Brooke Pyles* (DH Representative)
Dr. Lauren Godwin (Ex-officio)

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

CHARGE: To review the outcomes assessment process utilized to measure the School's effectiveness and develop recommendations for improvement. The Committee evaluates the goals as they relate to the mission, the expected outcomes used to measure goals, the performance indicator delineated for each expected outcome and the action plans designed to correct any identified areas of opportunity. New data is reviewed following an action to determine if the concern has been eliminated and if it has not, a new approach is developed and reassessed until it is determined that the corrective measure has been successful.

Frequency: Biannually with report dates in December and June. Additional meetings will be conducted more frequently as recommended by the committee.

Committee on Institutional Effectiveness:

Tri-Chairs
Dr. Stephen Pachuta, Dean
Dr. Valerie Perrine, Executive Dean for Education and Student Affairs
Ms. Amy Funk, Associate Dean for Curriculum, Assessment, and Faculty Development

Membership
Dr. Jonathan Abraham – Council of Deans
Dr. Lauren Godwin – Council of Deans
Dr. Gina Graziani – Council of Deans

Ms. Donna Haid – Council of Deans
Mr. Phil Sperry – Council of Deans
Dr. Rodney Powers – Restorative Dentistry
Dr. R. Constance Wiener – Research
Ms. Cathy Boyce – Academic Program Coordinator
Ms. Dee O'Palko – Development
Ms. Jessica Wilmoth – Communications and Marketing
Mr. Chris Braham – Information Technology
Ms. Jetta Peterkin – Administrative Associate

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

CHARGE: The mission of the Leadership Council at the West Virginia University School of Dentistry is to promote a diverse and dynamic learning environment that addresses the present and future oral health needs of the citizens of West Virginia and beyond by providing an oral health center committed to excellence and innovation in education, research, patient care, service and technology.

Members of the Leadership Council are appointed by the Dean at the School of Dentistry in consultation with the Chancellor and Executive Dean for Health Sciences. The SoD Leadership Council is comprised of individuals who are interested in the furtherance of high-quality dental education, research, and service to the communities of the state of West Virginia and the nation. The Leadership Council has no programmatic, administrative, or legislative authority. The Leadership Council supports/recommends WVU School of Dentistry in general and helps bridge the gap between WVU School of Dentistry and the students, alumni and donors.

The SoD Leadership Council serves in a consultative capacity by supporting the WVU School of Dentistry's advancement efforts.

When They Meet: Twice a year.

Dr. Travis Wills, Chair
Dr. James Anderson
Ms. Caitlyn Cochran
Dr. Nika Hettlinger
Ms. Hallie Mason
Dr. Stephen Pachuta
Ms. Carol Spear
WVU Alumni Association Board of Governors President

QA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
CHARGE: To continually assess compliance with the School's *Standards of Care*; to assure that detected deficiencies in patient care are corrected when possible; to recommend modifications to didactic and/or clinical curriculum; and to conduct follow-up assessments that measure outcomes of interventions.

When They Meet: Biannual, at least once in the fall and spring semester.

Dr. Lauren Godwin, Co-Chair
Ms. Donna Haid, Co-Chair
Dr. Valerie Perrine
Dr. Gina Graziani
Ms. Amy Funk
Ms. Michele McElroy
Ms. April Fields
Mr. Roger Collins
Mr. Jason Formet

RESEARCH

CHARGE: To encourage faculty and students to conduct basic, clinical, and translational research that directly relates to the general and unique oral health needs of the citizens of WV and beyond, and to encourage multidisciplinary projects.

When They Meet: The second Wednesday of each month.

Dr. R. Constance Wiener, Chair
Dr. Jennifer Franko
Dr. Michael Bagby
Dr. Gina Graziani
Dr. Elizabeth Kao
Dr. Peter Ngan
Dr. Khaled Alsharif
Ms. Ashlee Sowards
Dr. Manali Vora
Dr. Gary Johnson
Mr. Chris Waters
Ms. Kimberly George-Warnick, Administrative Assistant (non-voting)
Jonathan Hung* (DDS Class of 2027)

Dental Hygiene Research Funding Subcommittee

CHARGE: To review funding specific to Dental Hygiene research to support students conducting basic, clinical, and translational research that directly relates to the general and unique oral health needs of the citizens of WV.
When They Meet: As needed and determined by the Chair.

Ms. Amy Funk, Chair
Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain

Ms. Ashlee Sowards
Dr. Lauren Godwin
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

CHARGE: To annually select dental student scholarship and tuition waiver recipients and put forth School of Dentistry scholarship event recognizing scholarship recipients and donors.

When They Meet: Twice annually and special meetings as needed.

Dr. Jonathan Abraham, Co-Chair
Dr. Valerie Perrine, Co-Chair
Dr. Les Bakos
Dr. Meghan Bastin
Dr. Elizabeth Kao
Dr. Rodney Powers
Dr. Gerald Schoenborn
Dr. Kimberley Zaremba
Ms. Chasity Antonk, Program Coordinator (non-voting)
Ms. Tina Bragg, Coordinator Pre-Doctoral Clinical Education (non-voting)
Ms. Cathy Boyce, Academic Program Coordinator (non-voting)
Dr. Lauren Godwin, Ex-officio
Ms. Dee O'Palko, Ex-officio
Mr. Eric Meadows, Ex-officio

DENTAL HYGIENE
Ms. Ashlee Sowards, Chair
Ms. Suann Gaydos
Ms. Amy Funk
Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain
Ms. Elizabeth Puette
Ms. Alyson Sarsfield
Ms. Heidi Shaver
Ms. Lori Groover (admin)

STUDENT ADVISORS:

Charge: To help guide and advise students throughout the first two years of their predoctoral program and act as mentors to better prepare them as responsible professionals. Each student is assigned an advisor who will oversee and help the students with any academic, or personal difficulties they may be experiencing. The Advisor program will also help disseminate information that will be important to the students and faculty alike.

***Although the Team Leaders serves as "advisors" to the Junior and Senior Dental Students, the role of "Team Leader" is a distinctly separate assignment with a greater clinically focused responsibility than an advisor. Team Leaders responsibilities are managed under separate guidance.**

FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORE ADVISORS
Dr. Elizabeth Kao
Dr. William McCormick
Dr. Thomas Stanley
Dr. Robert Wanker
Dr. Kim Zaremba

JUNIOR/SENIOR ADVISORS / TEAM LEADERS*
Dr. Jonathon Abraham
Dr. Tyler Brown
Dr. Michael Mason
Dr. Rodney Powers
Dr. Alex Woomer

KUWAIT STUDENT ADVISOR
Dr. Jonathan Abraham

DENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC SUPERVISORS
Junior – Ms. Ashlee Sowards
Senior – Ms. Kaitlyn McQuain

WELLNESS AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

CHARGE: To promote and support the wellness and wellbeing of the School of Dentistry community.

WHEN THEY MEET: Monthly

Dr. Valerie Perrine, Co-Chair
Ms. Elizabeth Puette, Co-Chair
Dr. Jonathan Abraham
Dr. Tyler Brown
Dr. Tony Camelle
Mr. Anthony Danko (HSC Wellness Center)
Dr. Lauren Godwin
Ms. Theresa Ripko
Ms. Jetta Peterkin
Ms. Marie Singleton
Dr. Constance Wiener
Taylor Martino* (DDS Class of 2027)
Grace McCusker* (DDS Class of 2028)
Julia Newsom* (DDS Class of 2029)
Tali Sizemore* (DDS Class of 2030)
Morgan Wills* (DH Class of 2027)
Andrew Landsberger* (DH Class of 2028)
Celia Schifferer* (DH Class of 2028)