

DRAFT MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

November 21, 2014

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bruce Berry convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 a.m. in the Roland P. Sharp Alumni Center at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia, and by conference call. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Michael Farrell, Kay Goodwin, John Leon, and Gary White who participated by conference call. Absent: Kathy Eddy, Clarence Pennington, and Michael Martirano.

Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on July 23 and August 1, 2014. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Berry welcomed the Commission and audience to the meeting. He thanked President Adelman and the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine community for hosting the Commission meeting. Dr. Berry encouraged the Chancellor, presidents, faculty, students and staff to advocate on behalf of and oppose further budget cuts to the higher education system. He added that current tuition increase trends cannot be afforded by students any longer at a time when an educated work force is needed to respond to the demands of industry.

Chairman Berry read the Commission's resolution honoring Senator John D. Rockefeller IV for his years of service to the State of West Virginia and his support of education.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Paul Hill began his report praising the work of Senator Rockefeller as a powerful force behind education and his long-term commitment to students by establishing the John D. Rockefeller IV School of Policy and Politics at West Virginia University. Dr. Hill proceeded to give an update on the progress of the master plan and institutions' implementation of the new metrics into their compacts; his approval on behalf of the Commission of new programs at

Glenville State College and West Liberty University; and the initiatives developed for the 15 to Finish Campaign and for international education.

Chancellor Hill stated that he plans to meet with the new legislative leaders to brief them on the work of the Commission and discuss higher education policy.

V. Council of Presidents Report

Dr. Kendra Boggess, President of Concord University, reported that the Council is very active, meeting on numerous occasions. The main concern continues to be possible cuts to higher education's budget. The Council has formed a Legislative Affairs Committee and the presidents are scheduling meetings with legislative leaders to apprise them on the importance of investing in higher education. Regarding outcomes based funding, President Boggess stated that the Council is focusing on finding ways to make the formula beneficial to all in the system and looking at how metrics in the institutional compacts can be applied to their budgets.

VI. Interim Reports from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

Terry Wells, the Council's Chair, overviewed the Council's charge. She referred to the resolution passed by the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in May 2014 stating that it gives the Higher Education Policy Commission full responsibility for implementing Senate Bill 330. She asked Commissioners to increase communication with constituent groups, allow voting Council representation on the Commission, require board of governors training on mandated culture changes for personnel improvements, and maintain equality for all employees.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Roy Nutter, the Council's Vice Chair, introduced Council members present. He stated that the Council is committed to serving students, institutions and communities. He gave a summary of income tax figures by individual graduate adding that they generate large revenues and drive the economy. Dr. Nutter said the Council has developed a unity agenda to be presented to the Legislature at the upcoming regular session and will work toward legislative investments in higher education.

C. Advisory Council of Students

Miles Smith, the Council's Chair, introduced Council members present. Mr. Smith overviewed the Council's charge. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to advocate on behalf of the students and elaborated on issues relevant to students across the system. Mr. Smith noted the need for fee

transparency, facilitation of credit transfer between two- and four-year institutions, and concerns with tuition increases for community and technical colleges. He then offered solutions to these concerns.

VII. Access

A. Update on West Virginia GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)

Dr. Adam Green, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, explained that the Division of Student Affairs is concluding administration of its first GEAR UP project, which was funded in 2008 and will expire in July 2015. Additionally, the Division is working to implement a new GEAR UP grant, which was awarded in September 2014 and will continue through 2021.

He provided an overview of outcomes achieved under the 2008-14 GEAR UP grant and introduced goals and strategies for administering the 2014-2021 project.

B. Update on Statewide College Access Events

Dr. Green explained that the Division of Student Affairs coordinates several projects aimed at assisting students in navigating college processes and pathways, including the annual statewide “College Application and Exploration Week” and “College Goal Sunday” events. He provided an update on the recently-concluded 2014 College Application and Exploration Week effort and the upcoming 2015 College Goal Sunday event.

C. Update on the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, explained that the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary agreement among its member states that established comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. On October 17, 2014, the Southern Regional Education Board approved West Virginia’s application for SARA membership. Commission staff will now begin notifying all institutions about the opportunity to apply for membership.

D. Report on Fall 2014 Enrollment

Dr. Neal Holly, Interim Vice Chancellor for Policy and Planning, presented trend enrollment data through fall 2014 for the state’s four-year institutions. He explained that overall four-year system enrollment is down from fall 2013 consistent with national trends and continues to decline from recession era highs. He reported on the ongoing and new initiatives underway to promote access and success, which shape enrollment.

E. Presentation of 2014 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, explained that this is the sixth annual Financial Aid Comprehensive Report, which is required by Senate Bill 373 passed during the 2009 legislative session. It contains descriptions of and changes to aid programs, longitudinal data about recipients of state financial aid and outcomes of these recipients, and policy recommendations for aid programs. He proceeded to overview each of the financial aid programs offered by the Commission.

F. Approval of Annual Reauthorization of Degree-Granting Institutions

Action was withheld on re-approval recommendation for reauthorization of Salem International University pending receipt of the Higher Learning Commission's report of its onsite visit.

G. Approval of University of the World to Operate in West Virginia

Dr. Mark Stotler provided a summary of the proposed authorization for University of the World to operate in West Virginia.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves University of the World for Preliminary State Authorization for a period of six months, until May 31, 2015.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Commissioner Goodwin opposed the motion. Motion passed.

H. Approval for Waynesburg University to Operate in West Virginia

Item not considered at this meeting.

I. Approval of Revisions to Series 23, Procedural Rule, Standards and Procedures for Undergraduate Admission at Four-Year Colleges and Universities

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided a summary of the proposed revisions to Series 23.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 23, Standards and Procedures for Undergraduate Admissions at Four-Year Colleges and Universities, as a

procedural rule to be filed with the Secretary of State for the thirty-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

J. Approval of Revisions to Series 19, Procedural Rule, Guidelines for College Courses for High School Students

Action deferred until additional information is secured.

VIII. Success

A. Approval of Revisions to Series 17, Procedural Rule, Transferability of Credits and Grades at West Virginia Public Colleges and Universities

Dr. Dennison provided a summary of the proposed revisions to Series 17.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 17, Transferability of Credits and Grades at West Virginia Public Colleges and Universities, as a procedural rule to be filed with the Secretary of State for the thirty-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Master of Public Administration Program at West Virginia State University

Dr. Dennison provided a summary of the proposed Master of Public Administration program at West Virginia State University.

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Public Administration program, effective August 2015. This approval will require additional approval by the Higher Learning Commission prior to implementation. This approval expires in two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Report on Institutional Bookstores and Textbooks

Mr. Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, explained that in accordance with the Commission's Series 51, Bookstores and Textbooks, procedural rule, institutions are required to report to the Chancellor by November 1 of each year, for the prior fiscal year, the deadlines established for faculty to be assigned to courses; the deadlines for textbooks and course materials to be selected; the percentages of those deadlines met; and the dates the listing of assigned textbooks and course materials were posted. He provided a summary of the reports submitted.

IX. Impact

A. Approval of 2014 Research Trust Fund Annual Report

Dr. Jan Taylor, Director of Science and Research, presented a summary of the proposed Research Trust Fund Annual Report.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the 2014 Research Trust Fund Annual Report and recommends submission to the Governor and the Legislature.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Follow-Up Report on Institutional Program Review

Dr. Stotler explained that at its meeting on December 7, 2012, the Commission received a report on program review. As part of the Commission's goal to reduce program graduation hours for baccalaureate programs, the Commission requested follow-up reports for programs that exceeded 120 hours. He provided a summary of the programs for Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, West Liberty University, West Virginia State University, and West Virginia University.

C. Report on Institutional Program Post-Approval Audits

Dr. Stotler explained that according to the Commission's Series 11, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs, all program proposals approved by the Commission shall be reviewed via a post-approval audit three years after the initial approval was received. He provided post-audit summaries on institutional programs up for review at Bluefield State College, Concord University, Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University.

D. Update on International Education

Dr. Clark Egnor, Director of International Programs, gave an overview of the mission and activities of the Office of International Programs established by the Commission in September 2013. The Office of International Programs provides leadership for the Global West Virginia International Education Consortium, established by the Commission in 2006. He stated that his office and the consortium are committed to the idea that every West Virginia student enrolled at a public state college and university in West Virginia has the opportunity to acquire an international experience or perspectives through their degree studies.

E. Approval of Revisions to Series 41, Procedural Rule, Health Sciences Service Program

Ms. Laura Boone, Director of Health Sciences Programs, provided a summary of the proposed revisions to Series 41.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 41, Health Sciences Service Program, as a procedural rule to be filed with the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period.

Further Resolved, That the rule is approved for final filing at the conclusion of the comment period if no substantive comments are received.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Update on the West Virginia Network (WVNET)

Mr. Dan O'Hanlon, Vice Chancellor for Technology, gave a summary of the various functions carried out by the West Virginia Network and elaborated on the efforts of WVNET leadership's to find the resources to build a new office building and a new Tier 3 northern data center for the state. He explained that in spring 2014, WVNET released a request for proposals seeking proposals to build the new office and data center in return for the development rights to the remaining 5-6 acres of unused property at the site. Twenty-three developers considered the proposal, but none were able to make the numbers work for the \$25 million project. Staff is currently exploring the same project under a public/private partnership model similar to those used by West Virginia University and Marshall University.

XI. Progress Report on Senate Bill 330

Ms. Patricia Clay, Acting Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, reported on the results of the request for information published in response to a mandate of the

Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability, passed in May 2014. She explained that included in this complex project are consulting, research, and recommendations for development of compensation philosophies for all organizations in the systems, compensation market assessments, classification architectures, internal equity analyses, compensation program structure recommendations, and implementation planning and project communications. Initial cost estimations provided by two large reputable vendors indicate the cost for this comprehensive study will range from \$993,000 to \$1,550,000.

XII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Project Priorities

Mr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, gave a summary of the proposed capital project priorities.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the prioritized capital project list for Fiscal Year 2016 and directs staff to report the capital project priorities to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in January as statutorily required.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Approval of Financing for Housing Facility at Fairmont State University

Mr. James King, Director of Design and Planning, gave a summary of the proposed housing facility and funding costs at Fairmont State University.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves and authorizes the issuance by the Fairmont State University Board of Governors of Revenue Bonds in an aggregate principal amount of not more than \$33,000,000 to finance all or a portion of the cost of planning, designing, constructing, acquiring and equipping new student housing facilities and to pay related costs, including the cost of issuance of such bonds.

Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIV. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request

Dr. Magee gave a summary of the Fiscal Year 2016 appropriation request.

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves

the Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriation Request.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. Approval of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at Shepherd University

Dr. Dennison presented a summary of the proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Shepherd University.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, effective August 2015 and subject to meeting the 75 percent terminally degreed faculty threshold. This approval also requires additional approval by the Higher Learning Commission prior to implementation. This approval expires in two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVI. Approval of Presidential Contract Addendum at Fairmont State University

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Presidential Contract Addendum as requested by the Fairmont State University Board of Governors.

Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Goodwin moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bruce L. Berry, Chairman

Kathy Eddy, Secretary