

DRAFT MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

May 29, 2015

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bruce Berry convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 a.m. in the Erma Ora Byrd Hall, Shepherd University, 301 North King Street, Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, Michael Farrell, Kay Goodwin, John Leon, and Clarence Pennington. Absent: 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 March 4 and March 13, 2015. Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Berry welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting and presented the following items.

A. Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers

Commissioner Goodwin reported that the Nominating Committee recommends the following Commissioners as officers for the term July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The recommended individuals are willing to serve if approved by the Commission. She offered the following motion:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission elects the slate of officers for Fiscal Year 2016 as proposed by the Nominating Committee:

Bruce Berry, Chair
Jenny Allen, Vice Chair
Kathy Eddy, Secretary

Commissioner Pennington seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. 2016 Meeting Schedule

The Commission will hold regular meetings on March 25, June 24, August 12,

and November 18, 2016.

C. Special Recognition

Chairman Berry commended departing President Suzanne Shipley for advancing Shepherd University into the future and proceeded to read a resolution on behalf of the Commission.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, praised President Shipley on her vision and wisdom as steward of Shepherd University and presented her with a memento from the Commission. He proceeded to give an overview of recent and upcoming staff activities including Division of Financial Aid focus on assisting students with completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which resulted in 50 percent submission; Division of Student Affairs holding several events recognizing student achievement; Division of Academic Affairs collaboration with the Mexican government to initiate English as a Second Language program, and reaching out to businesses to build relations with international companies; the Campus Safety Conference to be hosted by the Commission on June 24th; and progress of credit transferability among institutions.

V. Council of Presidents' Report

President Brian Hemphill, Council of Presidents Chair, acknowledged Chancellor Hill's efforts in support of the institutions. He proceeded to address President Shipley thanking her for her leadership of the Council, her sound advice, mentorship, and for being a great colleague. He presented her with mementos from the Council and West Virginia State University.

VI. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

The Council of Classified Employees did not give a report.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt, the Council's Legislative Coordinator, addressed the Commission regarding workplace conditions and a productive environment for faculty statewide. She encouraged the Commission to ask the institutions to develop a set of rules that will produce the best, least hostile, and most efficient workplace environment for faculty adding that the mechanisms to effect these rules are already in place.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Advisory Council of Students did not give a report.

VII. Access

A. Approval of Appointment to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointment of Kathy Bialk to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Series 26, Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed revisions to Series 26, Legislative Rule, Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program, for submission to the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period.

Further Resolved, That staff is instructed to forward the legislative rule to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for approval and further legislative action if no substantive comments are received at the conclusion of the comment period.

Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Revisions to Series 58, Nursing Scholarship Program

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 58, Legislative Rule, Nursing Scholarship Program, for submission to the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period.

Further Resolved, That staff is instructed to forward the legislative rule to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for approval and further legislative action if no substantive comments are received at the

conclusion of the comment period.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Annual Award Amounts, Health Sciences Service Program

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed annual award amounts for the Health Sciences Service Program.

Commissioner Pennington seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Approval of Reciprocity Agreement between West Virginia and Ohio

Commissioner Pennington moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the tuition reciprocity agreement between West Virginia and Ohio involving West Virginia University, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, West Virginia Northern Community College, Belmont Technical College, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Washington State Community College until June 30, 2017.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

F. Approval of Catholic Distance University to Operate in West Virginia

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the request of Catholic Distance University to operate in West Virginia as a degree-granting institution.

Further Resolved, Catholic Distance University will be granted six months to submit application materials for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

G. Extension of Preliminary State Authorization for University of the World

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the extension of Preliminary State Authorization for University of the

World until November 1, 2015.

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

H. Approval of Annual Reauthorization of Degree-Granting Institutions

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the annual reauthorization for Salem International University.

Further Resolved, That Salem International University shall submit annual progress reports on its efforts to enhance retention and graduation rates. The report shall be submitted at the time of reauthorization which is November 1 of each year.

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

VIII. Success

A. Update on Transfer and Articulation

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, gave an update on the Guiding Principles-Student Appeals Process on Denial of Transfer Credit which establishes operating parameters for the institutions in implementing the transfer appeals process. He provided an overview of the procedures.

B. Approval of New Procedural Rule Series 60, West Virginia Reverse Transfer Program

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Series 60, Procedural Rule, West Virginia Reverse Transfer Program, 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.

C. Approval of Multicategorical Special Education Certification, Grades K-12

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the additional teaching endorsement in multi-categorical special education, Grades K-12 within the Bachelor of Arts in Education at Fairmont State University, effective with the 2016 spring semester.
Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Performance

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the additional teaching endorsement in multi-categorical special education, Grades K-12 within the Bachelor of Arts in Education at Fairmont State University, effective with the 2016 spring semester.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Biennial Productivity Review

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission recommends the termination of four programs that fail to meet the productivity standards as provided in Series 10, Policy Regarding Program Review.

Further Resolved, That this recommendation be forwarded to the appropriate institutional governing boards for final action and that the action taken be communicated back to the Chancellor.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Impact

A. Overview of Rural Definition

Laura Boone, Director of Health Sciences Programs, explained the need to change the official definition of the word “rural” which guides rural health program activities for the Division of Health Sciences. She stated that in 2013, the Division, working in partnership with the academic health centers, decided to adopt a new definition of rural and reviewed the definitions most commonly used by the federal government and by other states. The main reason driving this definition change was a collective desire to use a nationally recognized and more precisely articulated definition than the previous definition.

B. Update on Medical Student Focus Groups

Vice Chancellor Walker explained that in the fall of 2013, the Division of Health Sciences conducted focus groups with fourth year medical students at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and the West Virginia University School of Medicine to collect information regarding attitudes toward rural practice and primary care practice. The Division intends to use this information to improve programs and policies around rural and primary care training. He provided an overview of findings from the focus groups.

C. Approval of Institutional Compacts

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institutional Compacts with the exception of West Virginia University Institute of Technology's. Action on WVU Institute of Technology's Compact is deferred until June 22, 2015, when additional information is anticipated. If satisfactory, staff will recommend action at that time.

Commissioner Pennington seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 Higher Education Resource Assessment

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2016 Higher Education Resource Assessment.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Approval of Institution Capital Assessments for Fiscal Year 2016

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institution capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2016 as shown in Table 2 of the agenda book.

Commissioner Pennington seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Review of Institutional Operating and Capital Budgets and Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 Institutional Capital Budgets

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves

the Fiscal Year 2016 institutional capital budgets.
Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Review of Tuition and Fees for 2015-16 Academic Year

Dr. Ed Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, explained that the West Virginia Code requires the Commission to approve any resident tuition and fee increase in excess of five percent. He gave an overview of the schedules for institutions requesting 2015-16 academic year tuition and fee increases of five percent or less and added that requests from West Virginia University, Potomac State College of West Virginia University, West Virginia State University and Marshall University (if applicable) will be addressed at a special meeting of the Commission in June 2015.

XIV. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 Higher Education Policy Commission Division Operating Budgets and Higher Education Resource Assessment Projects

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2016 division operating budgets and Higher Education Resource Assessment projects.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. Approval of Presidential Search Procedure for Shepherd University

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Presidential Search Procedure adopted by the Shepherd University Board of Governors.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVI. Approval of Presidential Search Procedure for West Liberty University

Commissioner Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Presidential Search Procedure adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVII. Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4

Commissioner Farrell moved to convene in Executive Session under the authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

After deliberations, the Commission reconvened in open session. Chairman Berry explained that no decisions were made or actions taken during Executive Session.

XVIII. Additional Board Comments

A. Chancellor's Contract

Chairman Berry reported that Chancellor Hill's contract was positively reviewed.

XIX. Adjournment

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

Bruce L. Berry, Chairman

Kathy Eddy, Secretary