

DRAFT MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

November 20, 2015

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bruce Berry convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 a.m. in the David K. Hendrickson Conference Center of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, 2000 Union Carbide Drive, South Charleston, West Virginia. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, Michael Farrell, Kay Goodwin, John Leon, and Andrew Payne. Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

Chairman Berry proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to new commissioner Andrew A. Payne, III.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on July 29 and August 7, 2015. Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Berry welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He spoke of the exceptional experience of hearing Bill Nye, "The Science Guy," talk the evening before about what science means to the world, and emphasized the importance of encouraging students to pursue studies in any of the STEM fields. He reminded all that special effort needs to be made to reach the state legislators and communicate the importance of funding higher education and having an educated population in West Virginia.

Chairman Berry encouraged all to read the literature distributed by Bluefield State College titled "A Diamond in the Mountains."

IV. Chancellor's Report

Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, focused his report on the Higher Education Policy Commission's statewide attainment goal efforts. He reported that several outreach activities were conducted by staff including GEAR UP Leadership Academy, attended by close to 500 high school students; statewide College Application and Exploration Week, during which nearly seven thousand applications to college were received; Compact-CON Summit, attended by state college and university administrators; and the launch of the 5 Star Challenge, an initiative that calls for the adoption of exemplary standards to support student

veterans at each institution. Dr. Hill added that the Commission, in concurrence with the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, is setting an attainment goal of raising the state's graduation rate to sixty percent in the next ten years.

Chancellor Hill announced that three presidential searches have been finalized and the following new presidents have been selected, pending approval by the Commission: Dr. Jerome Gilbert at Marshall University, Dr. Stephen Greiner at West Liberty University, and Dr. Mary Hendrix at Shepherd University. The presidents will start their terms in early 2016.

Chancellor Hill introduced Candace Kraus as Deputy General Counsel in the Commission's Division of Legal Affairs.

V. Council of Presidents' Report

The Council of Presidents did not give a report.

VI. Annual Reports from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

Ms. Amy Pitzer, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees, briefed the Commission on issues of concern to classified employees statewide. She urged the Commissioners to advocate to the Legislature for an increase in the budget appropriation for the Public Employees Insurance Agency and proceeded to relay the Council's requests including: the establishment of a compensation structure once the market study is completed; the reporting of all employee data through a common interface—the Human Resource Information System; the implementation of the emergency rule on personnel; the completion of legislatively-mandated studies; and filling the position of Director of Training and Development.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Roy Nutter, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty, briefed the Commission on issues affecting faculty statewide. Dr. Nutter mentioned topics which may need to be addressed by the state Legislature including the restoration of higher education funding and the Public Employees Insurance Agency's budget cut. He added that the Council is requesting that the Commission and institutions support West Virginia's Next Generation Standards, a progression of common goals for public education; the development of a statewide standard for professional behavior; and the coordination of a statewide initiative on wellness.

C. Advisory Council of Students

Mr. William Bell, Vice Chair of the Advisory Council of Students and a student

at WVU at Parkersburg, briefed the Commission on issues of concern to students statewide. He mentioned the impact the state's budget reduction to higher education has on students including tuition increases and the quality and variety of degree programs. The Council is offering possible solutions such as working with the Governor and Legislature to find alternative funding and different revenue resources; pursuing more grant monies; and working with companies to partner with institutions. Mr. Bell also spoke of student apathy and their lack of participation in campus activities and proposed that the institutions provide incentives to reward event attendance.

VII. Access

A. Presentation of 2015 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, presented the 2015 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report, mandated by Senate Bill 373 and passed during the 2009 legislative session. He explained that it contains descriptions of and changes to West Virginia aid programs; policy recommendations for aid programs; and longitudinal data about recipients of state financial aid and outcomes of these recipients. Mr. Weingart proceeded to highlight key elements in the report.

B. Approval of Revisions to Series 19, Procedural Rule, Guidelines for High School Students

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, gave an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 19.

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 19, Procedural Rule, Guidelines for College Courses for High School Students to be filed with the Secretary of State for 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 Series 17, Transferability of Credits and Grades at West Virginia Colleges and Universities

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, gave an overview of Series 17.

Commissioner Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Series 17, Procedural Rule, Transferability of Credits and Grades at

West Virginia Colleges and Universities to be final filed with the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Series 21, Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards

Vice Chancellor Dennison gave an overview of Series 21.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 21, Procedural Rule, Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards to be final filed with the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Approval of Request to Offer Programs at a New Location and Exemption for Program Duplication

Vice Chancellor Dennison gave an overview of the proposed request and exemption.

Chairman Berry invited comments from the institutions which may be affected by West Virginia University's degree offering at its newly acquired Beckley campus. Dr. Marsha Krotseng, President of Bluefield State College, Dr. Kendra Boggess, President of Concord University, and Mr. Rob Alsop, Vice President for Legal, Government, and Entrepreneurial Engagement at West Virginia University spoke of their plans for course-sharing and increased mutual collaboration.

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the request to offer programs at a new location and an exemption for program duplication in the Beckley area as stated in section 4.9 of Series 11, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Success

A. Approval of an Additional Teaching Specialization in Multi-categorical Special Education, Grades K-6

Vice Chancellor Dennison gave an overview of the proposed teaching specialization.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the teaching specialization in multi-categorical special education, grades K-6 for Bluefield State College effective with the spring semester of 2016.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Report on Program Review

Dr. Stotler reported that in accordance with West Virginia Code §18B-1B-4 and §18B-2A-4 and the Commission's Series 10, Policy Regarding Program Review, the institutions through their respective governing boards conducted reviews of academic programs for the 2014-2015 academic year and submitted summary reports that indicated actions taken. A total of 103 programs were reviewed during this program review cycle. He gave an overview of the evaluated programs.

C. Report on Fall 2015 Enrollment

Dr. Neal Holly, Vice Chancellor for Policy and Planning, presented trend enrollment data through Fall 2015 for the state's public four-year institutions. He reported that overall, four-year system enrollment is down 0.9 percent from Fall 2014. This latest data points to a continued decrease in the rate in which enrollment is declining, returning to levels prior to the Great Recession. Dr. Holly proceeded to highlight key elements in the report.

IX. Impact

A. Approval of Institutional Campus Master Plans

Vice Chancellor Holly gave an overview of the evaluated master plans.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the current campus master plans of Bluefield State College, Concord University, Glenville State College, Marshall University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University and West Virginia State University.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Update on System Facilities Capital Development Plan

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented an update on the System Facilities Capital Development Plan, which was developed in

response to West Virginia Code §18B-19-3. He explained that the purpose of the plan is to ensure that higher education facilities align with and support the strategic goals of the State, Commission and institutions. Dr. Magee gave an overview of the data used in the creation of the plan.

X. Approval of Revenue Bond

Mr. James King, Director of Facilities and Sustainability, gave an overview of the proposed bond revenue approval.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves and authorizes the issuance of revenue bonds or notes (bonds) by the West Virginia University Board of Governors in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$20,000,000 for capital improvement costs and reimbursement of costs incurred prior to issuance of such bonds associated with Phase I of the Health Sciences Center Infrastructure Master Plan.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Approval of 2015 Research Trust Fund Annual Report

Dr. Jan Taylor, Director of Science and Research, gave an overview of the report.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the 2015 Research Trust Fund Annual Report and recommends submission to the Governor and the Legislature.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriation Request

Vice Chancellor Magee gave an overview of the proposed appropriation request.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriation Request.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Project Priorities

Mr. King gave an overview of the proposed capital project priorities.

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the prioritized capital project list for Fiscal Year 2017 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.

XIV. Additional Board Action Items and Comments

Chairman Berry presented the following action items:

A. Approval of Presidential Selection and Compensation at Marshall University

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the selection by the Marshall University Board of Governors of Dr. Jerome A. Gilbert as President upon the terms and conditions communicated to it and delegates to the Chancellor the authority to approve a final contract with Dr. Gilbert as to form.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Presidential Selection and Compensation at West Liberty University

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the selection by the West Liberty University Board of Governors of Dr. Stephen G. Greiner as President upon the terms and conditions communicated to it and delegates to the Chancellor the authority to approve a final contract with Dr. Greiner as to form.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Presidential Selection and Compensation at Shepherd University

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the selection by the Shepherd University Board of Governors of Dr. Mary J. C. Hendrix as President upon the terms and conditions communicated to it and delegates to the Chancellor the authority to approve a final contract with Dr. Hendrix as to form.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Chancellor Contract Extension

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the contract and compensation of Dr. Paul L. Hill as Chancellor and delegates to the Chairman the authority to enter into a contract with Chancellor Hill consistent with the terms and conditions communicated to the Commission.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. 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