

## MINUTES

### WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

August 11, 2017

#### I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 a.m. in Salon C of the Embassy Suites Hotel, 300 Court Street, Charleston, West Virginia. The following Commissioners were present: Jenny Allen, Diane Lewis, Dale Lowther, Gayle C. Manchin, and Steven L. Paine. Absent were: Robert L. Brown, Anita R. Casey, James W. Dailey, and Andrew A. Payne. Also in attendance were Chancellor Paul L. Hill, institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on June 14 and June 23, 2017. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He read resolutions on behalf of Kathy Eddy and John Leon who completed their terms as Commissioners.

Chairman Farrell proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to new Commissioners Diane Lewis and Dale Lowther.

Chairman Farrell gave a brief statement on the state of higher education. He stated that we are at a cross roads in this state where many folks want to stay but cannot or do not know how. With his fellow Commissioners, he wants to turn spotlights onto dark places, make relationships with people who make a difference in our world, inspire each institution and their boards to be part of the team, work on a strategic message that is focused, doable and will achieve what we want. He stated that we do not want to be on the sidelines; we want to be involved in a way that influences the outcome. He believes the institutions not only bring the intellectual power but the will and desire to make a difference. Although they differ in size and composition, they all share the same position where resources are limited and the college-going population has decreased over the years. They need to find new ways to operate better, successfully, and sustain the excellence that each bring to the process. He thanked all for their commitment.

Chairman Farrell invited the Commission's ex-officio members to give their perspective on education. Dr. Paine and Secretary Manchin reported on current projects and initiatives at the State Department of Education and the Department

of Education and the Arts, respectively.

#### **IV. Chancellor's Report**

Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, welcomed new Commissioners Lewis and Lowther and thanked them for dedicating their time to higher education. He stated that it is an exciting time for the campuses with the start of the fall semester and an overall increase in enrollment. He related Governor Justice's directive for the Commission to initiate a study on how the system will be sustained and strengthened in the future.

Chancellor Hill reported on recent events coordinated by the Commission including the celebration of the Erma Byrd Higher Education 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary; extensive outreach efforts to support FAFSA completion and financial aid awareness; and the Student Success Summit, organized with the collaboration of the Department of Education. He announced the Chancellor's STEM Speaker Series event featuring WVU Astrophysicist Maura McLaughlin on September 14. In addition, Chancellor Hill provided a briefing on the single audit submission to the U.S. Department of Education. Commissioner Farrell asked that the slides presented by Chancellor Hill be distributed to all institutions.

#### **V. Council of Presidents' Report**

Dr. Kendra Boggess, President of Concord University and Chair of the Council of Presidents, welcomed the new Commissioners. She stated that she hopes all presidents will share with them what their campuses have to offer. She reported that in view of the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Department of Education, the institutions have reached out to their students to communicate that they have the funds to cover their financial aid. She added that the presidents plan to work with the legislators in their area to educate them in the mission, accomplishments, and needs of their particular institution.

Chairman Farrell stated that the Commission is interested in holding some of its regular meetings at the different campuses. Chancellor Hill and staff will work with the institutions willing to host a meeting.

#### **VI. Updates from Constituent Groups**

##### **A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees**

Ms. Terri Wells, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees, reported that the Council welcomed 13 new members and held a training retreat in July. Ms. Wells shared employee concern over the impact of House Bill 2542, and the setting of new compensation plans at some campuses without appropriate guidelines in place. She expressed the Council's support of the Commission's Human Resources Vice Chancellor and of campus human resources officers during the implementation of the new Compensation Management Program. Ms. Wells shared the Council's intent to monitor

legislative activities related to higher education, in particular those involving classified staff. Chairman Farrell requested that the Council submit monthly reports to the Policy Commission regarding activities and matters of concern to classified employees to facilitate communication with its members.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Marybeth Beller, Vice Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty, reported that the Council had their annual retreat in July. She stated that the Council met with Senator Mann, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, to express their concern over the possible elimination of programs if HERA (Higher Education Resource Assessment) funds are not restored to the institutional budgets. The Senator requested information on those programs in peril of closing. Dr. Beller stated that each Council member is planning to meet regularly with their campus administrators and area legislators to inform them of issues of importance to their students and institution.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Council did not present a report.

**VII. Access**

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

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, provided an overview of the proposed appointment.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

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

Commissioner Paine seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Report on Reciprocity Agreements

Dr. Keri Ferro, Director of Statewide Academic Initiatives, reported that in order to provide higher education opportunities at minimum cost to students and to the state, the governing boards are empowered in West Virginia Code §18B-4-3 to establish interstate higher education agreements which waive non-resident tuition and fees. Currently, there are four tuition reciprocity agreements in place involving six West Virginia institutions. Dr. Ferro summarized the agreements.

C. Approval of Science Teacher Certification

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the proposed program.

Commissioner Manchin moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Science Teacher Certification, within the Bachelor of Arts in Education at Fairmont State University, effective August 2018. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Master of Science in Sports Studies

Vice Chancellor Dennison provided an overview of the proposed degree program.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Science in Sports Studies program at West Virginia State University for implementation in fall 2018. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Manchin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Approval of Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a Major in Chemical Engineering

Vice Chancellor Dennison provided an overview of the proposed degree program.

Commissioner Manchin moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a major in Chemical Engineering program at West Virginia State University for implementation in fall 2018. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **VIII. Success**

### **A. Report on Master's Degree Programs**

Vice Chancellor Dennison reported that in accordance with West Virginia Code §18B-1A-6(g), Concord University, Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University have submitted reports on the viability of master's degree programs at their respective institutions. Dr. Dennison provided the reporting elements, as defined in West Virginia Code, and summary comments on notable developments and achievements in the graduate offerings at each institution, including a chart that lists the number of program enrollees and graduates.

### **IX. Report on Probation Status of Alderson Broaddus University by the Higher Learning Commission**

Vice Chancellor Dennison reported that the Higher Education Policy Commission was informed via letter from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), dated July 17, 2017, that Alderson Broaddus University has been placed on probation for a period of not more than two years for being out of compliance with Criterion Five, Core Component, 5.A: "The institution's resource base supports its current educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future." The University must submit comprehensive evidence and evaluation no later than December 2018 to demonstrate compliance in all accrediting standards. Dr. Dennison further explained the particulars of the probationary status.

### **X. Approval of West Virginia Higher Education Compensation Management Program**

Ms. Patricia Humphries, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, provided an overview of the proposed program approval.

Commissioner Paine moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the West Virginia Higher Education Compensation Management Program for implementation September 1, 2017.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **XI. Review of Institutional Tuition and Fees**

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, reported that West Virginia Code requires the Commission to approve any tuition and fee increase greater than ten percent in any one year or where the increase would be more than seven percent per year, averaged over a rolling three-year period calculated by averaging the proposed increase with the increase for the immediate two previous years. He

provided detailed charges for all institutions.

**XII. Review of Institutional Operating Budgets and Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Institutional Capital Budgets**

Vice Chancellor Magee provided an overview of the institutional operating and capital budgets.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2018 institutional capital budgets.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Lowther mentioned that in the past two years, West Virginia University at Parkersburg has made great strides in solving its financial situation and moving the institution forward. This has allowed the university to give a 2 percent raise to all eligible employees.

**XIII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Higher Education Policy Commission Division Operating Budgets and Higher Education Resource Assessment Projects**

Vice Chancellor Magee provided an overview of the division operating budgets and projects presented for approval.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2018 division operating budgets and Higher Education Resource Assessment projects.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XIV. Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 WVNET Budget**

Mr. Matt Turner, Vice Chancellor for Administration, provided an overview of the proposed budget for WVNET. Ms. Donna Meadowcroft, Chief Financial Officer, described WVNET's expenditures and revenue sources.

Commissioner Paine moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2018 West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing budget.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

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

After deliberations, Commissioner Lewis moved to raise from Executive Session. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Farrell stated that no decisions were made or actions taken during Executive Session.

**XVI. Additional Board Action and Comment**

There were no additional Board action items or comments for consideration.

**XVII. Adjournment**

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

  
Michael J. Farrell, Chairman