

## MINUTES

### WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

July 10, 2018

#### I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a special meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 a.m. in the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room at 1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia, and by conference call. Chairman Michael J. Farrell was present. The following Commission members participated by telephone: Jenny Allen, Robert L. Brown (Ex-Officio), James W. Dailey, Diane Lewis, Dale Lowther, Steven L. Paine (Ex-Officio), and Andrew A. Payne. Commissioner Donna L. Schulte was absent. Also in attendance were Chancellor Paul Hill, staff members, and others. Chairman Farrell welcomed the audience to the meeting.

#### II. Update on Report from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

Consultants Aims McGuinness, Dennis Jones, and Brian Prescott provided an update via telephone regarding the study of how the system of higher education in West Virginia may be sustained and strengthened in the future. The Commission contracted with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems to conduct the study in response to a directive from Governor Jim Justice. The final report will be presented to the Commission at its August meeting.

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

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

After deliberations, the Commissioners returned in open session. Commissioner Payne moved to rise from Executive Session. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

#### IV. Board Action and Comment

##### A. Current Chancellor's Contract

Commissioner Brown moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission authorizes Chairman Farrell to enter into a contract with Chancellor Paul Hill to go into a six-month sabbatical at his current salary to work on matters for the Higher Education

Policy Commission and support the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Four-Year Higher Education. Chancellor Hill will report directly to the Chairman. He will be allotted a budget of \$10,000 for travel expenses.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**B. Appointment of Interim Chancellor**

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission appoints Ms. Carolyn Long, President of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology, as Interim Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission, effective July 16, 2018, at a salary equal to that of retiring Chancellor Paul Hill's.

Commissioner Allen moved to table this resolution to allow the Commissioners to have a proper, more thorough, and more transparent process that will permit them to at least interview the current candidates and consider perhaps other candidates, as this is the single most important action any board can take. She further moved to have a chance to resolve concerns that this appointment might be in violation of certain aspects of West Virginia Code. There were no seconds to the motion. The motion failed.

Upon the call on the original motion, Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Commissioner Allen opposed the motion. Motion passed.

**V. Approval of Suspension of Chancellor Search**

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:


*Resolved*, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission hereby suspends the search for a new Chancellor pending the action, if any, that may be appropriate following the report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Four-Year Higher Education created by Governor Jim Justice by Executive Order dated June 26, 2018.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**V. Adjournment**

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

  
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Michael J. Farrell, Chairman

  
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Andrew A. Payne, Secretary