

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

April 26, 2019

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission on April 26, 2019, 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 Commissioners were present: Jenny Allen (by phone); James W. Dailey (by phone); Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis; Dale Lowther; Andrew A. Payne; and Donna L. Schulte. Absent were Commissioners Robert L. Brown (Ex-Officio); and Steven L. Paine, (Ex-Officio). Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, members of the faculty and classified staff councils, and others.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lowther moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 30, 2019, February 8, 2019, and March 22, 2019. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He announced the departure of Interim Chancellor Carolyn Long from the Commission as she returns to her role as Campus President of West Virginia University Institute of Technology. Earlier in the week, Interim Chancellor Long was presented with a memento and a resolution honoring her service. Chairman Farrell read the resolution.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission hereby expresses its great appreciation and sincere and lasting gratitude to Carolyn Long for exemplary service to the Commission, its constituent institutions, their students and faculties, and the State of West Virginia, and extends to her very best wishes for the future.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Farrell thanked Dr. Adam Green and recognized him for his dedication and service to the State of West Virginia. He presented a resolution and memento to Dr. Green.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission hereby expresses its great appreciation to Dr. Adam Green for exemplary service to the State of West Virginia, and extends to him very best wishes.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Farrell thanked everyone involved in standing tall and saying no to recent campus carry legislation. He thanked Dr. Jerome Gilbert, President of Marshall University, for coming forward to make a difference in the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education. He is hopeful that within the next year, the Commission will be in the position to hire a new, full-time Chancellor who will understand the Commission's role. He expressed his happiness that Marshall University's Board of Governors approved a pay raise and said he is hopeful that the Commission will continue to make a difference in students' lives.

A. Formation of Nominating Committee

Chairman Farrell announced the Nominating Committee would be made up of Commissioners Steve Paine (Chair); Diane Lewis; and Dale Lowther.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Mr. Matthew Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, reported on recent milestones and important events such as the successes that came from the recent legislative session; the Commission receiving an A+ bond rating; the PROMISE Scholarship recently having its largest award cycle; the WV Invests Grant application going live on April 15; the successful Student Voice event at Tamarack; the upcoming Student Success Summit; the upcoming GEARUP U camp at West Virginia State University; the statewide single audit being submitted before the March 15 deadline for the second year in a row; continued international student support from the Division of Student Affairs; record enrollment in WVROCKS, with a retention of 94 percent; continued growth of WV Climb, including a recent partnership with the Division of Rehabilitation Services; and upcoming spring commencement ceremonies.

Following the report, Chairman Farrell requested that Mr. Turner contact institution presidents to discuss collaboration. He said there is opportunity for the institutions to learn from one another and that the Commission needs to encourage institutions to collaborate more.

V. Council of Presidents' Report

Dr. Kendra Boggess, Chair of the Council of Presidents, reported that the presidents met and discussed various issues such as strategies for the upcoming session; and leadership of the Commission. She said they received a report from Ms. Candace Kraus on legal matters, and a wrap-up of the recent legislative

session. Chairman Farrell responded by saying the Commission will seek to fill the General Counsel position and that the formal process will begin on April 28, 2019, with hopes of filling the position by the next Commission meeting. He spoke of the importance of the Legislature's upcoming study group on higher education and the need for each institution to participate in the study.

VI. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

The Council did not present a report.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Marybeth Beller, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty, reported that the Advisory Council of Faculty met with legislators to discuss issues such as the importance of collecting data before advertising specific raise rates; the need to have PEIA stabilization; and campus carry. She thanked the Council of Presidents, the Commission and everyone who worked to ensure campus carry was defeated. She announced she will be transitioning off the Advisory Council of Faculty and Chairman Farrell thanked her for her service.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Council did not present a report.

VII. West Virginia Regional Technology Park Report

Dr. Russell Kruzelock, Executive Director of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, announced that 30,000 patents have originated from the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. He reported that, according to a 2018 study by the Association of University Research Parks, the national average growth for technology parks in the United States is 23 percent and that the West Virginia Regional Technology Park is one of the fastest growing technology parks in the country. Chairman Farrell responded by speaking of the importance of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park and the possibility for partnerships between institutions and the Technology Park.

VIII. Approval of Institution Capital Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, provided an overview of the requested allocations for Fiscal Year 2020.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institution capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2020.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Farrell asked Dr. Magee to explain the Commission's A+ bond rating. Dr. Magee said the Commission's bonds are considered very strong due to the maintenance of capital fees dedicated to the payment of debt, and that leads to good debt service coverage.

IX. Approval of Eligibility Requirements, Annual Award Amount, and Summer Awards for the PROMISE Scholarship Program

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, provided an overview of PROMISE Scholarship requirements for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves proposed eligibility requirements, the annual award amount, and summer awards for the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Distribution Plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

Mr. Weingart provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2020 distribution plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2020 Distribution Plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Update on West Virginia Higher Education Retirement Plan Transition to Sole Record-Keeper

Ms. Patricia Humphries, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, spoke of the Commission's efforts to improve efficiencies in administering retirement plans to reduce costs. She said the transition should be invisible for participants.

XII. Approval of Revisions to Athletic Training Program

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of Concord University's curriculum changes in order to meet new requirements for athletic training programs.

Commissioner Payne moved approval the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to the athletic training program at Concord University.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Biennial Productivity Review of 2015 Probationary Programs

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, presented a summary of the programs reviewed and recommended action.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolutions:

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 reported to the Chancellor.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIV. Program Productivity Review

Dr. Stotler summarized the programs identified through the productivity audit and the recommended action.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission recommends to the respective institutional governing boards that the designated low-productivity programs be placed on probationary status in accordance with Series 10, Procedural Rule, Policy Regarding Program Review.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to Discuss Personnel Issues

Commissioner Payne 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 reconvened in open session. Commissioner Payne moved to rise from Executive Session. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

XVI. Additional Board Action and Comment

A. Confirmation of Interim President at Bluefield State College

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission confirms the appointment by the Bluefield State College Board of Governors of Robin Capehart as Interim President of Bluefield State College and approves the contract entered into between Mr. Capehart and the Board of Governors.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Appointment of Interim Chancellor for Higher Education

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointment of Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker as Interim Chancellor and delegates to the Chairman the authority to enter into a contract with Dr. Tucker consistent with the terms and conditions communicated to the Commission.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVII. Adjournment

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



Michael J. Farrell, Chairman



Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary