

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

February 8, 2019

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a telephone meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission on February 8, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., in the Ninth Floor Conference Room, at 1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia. The following Commissioners participated: Jenny Allen, James Dailey, Michael Farrell, Diane Lewis, Dale Lowther, and Andrew Payne. Absent were Commissioners Robert Brown, Ex-Officio; Dr. Steven Paine, Ex-Officio; and Ms. Donna Schulte. Also participating were Interim Chancellor Carolyn Long, institutional presidents, higher education staff, members of the classified staff council, and others.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lowther moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on November 7 and November 16, 2018. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He stated that we are at a crossroads in higher education and his message to all, in particular the institutions, is to stay in touch with their area legislators during the legislative session.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Ms. Carolyn Long, Interim Chancellor, thanked all who participated in Higher Education Day at the Legislature. She stated that through coordination by higher education staff and the institutions, it was very successful. Chancellor Long stated that staff is working very hard following legislation related to higher education. They meet with legislators and their staffs, at their request, and to advocate on behalf of the system. She hopes that higher education will come out of the legislative session without any budget cuts and perhaps with additional funds to allow the institutions more financial flexibility.

V. Council of Presidents' Report

Dr. Anthony Jenkins, President of West Virginia State University, reported that the presidents met prior to the Commission meeting. He expressed the condolences of the Council to Concord University President Kendra Boggess on the recent loss

of her husband, Dr. Ted Boggess. President Jenkins thanked Chancellor Long for meeting with the presidents and her support of the institutions. He stated that the Council discussed the current legislative session and outlined strategy for action regarding any legislation that may adversely impact the institutions. The presidents continue to monitor the Blue Ribbon Commission on Four-Year Higher Education as it continues its work on proposed modifications to the governance of higher education in West Virginia.

VI. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

Ms. Carrie Watters, representative of the statewide Advisory Council of Classified Employees, reported that the Council is following all legislation dealing with higher education. The Council is meeting with legislators and presenting a unified agenda to better public higher education in West Virginia. Of concern is that recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Four-Year Higher Education have not been introduced in any current legislation as the timing is of importance. Ms. Watters emphasized the Council's support for the Councils of Faculty and Students on their mission to seek low cost or free instructional materials. She added that the Council has communicated to legislators the burden that the proposed 80-20 charge-back to fund PEIA will have on the institutions.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

The Council did not present a report.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Council did not present a report.

VII. West Virginia Regional Technology Park Report

Dr. Russell Kruzelock, Chief Executive Officer of the WV Regional Technology Park, reported on recent developments at the Park. He stated that N3 is planning to occupy the WR Grace space; new tenants include SelenBio, Inc., a biotechnology company specializing in the prevention of bacterial biofilm formation; Hackett Praxis, LLC, a technology and management consulting practice; Cultivate Appalachia Foundation which works to revitalize the Appalachian region through economic programs, mine reclamation, and growing agricultural products; and Dalewood Equipment, which is currently working with Nasa Goddard, the University of Maryland, and CoolCad Electronics to purchase ultraviolet light detection technology. Dr. Kruzelock added that efforts continue to promote the Park.

Chairman Farrell asked Dr. Kruzelock to provide a list of current tenants for distribution to the Commissioners.

VIII. Approval of Revisions to Series 25, Procedural Rule, Residency Classification for Admission and Fee Purposes

Ms. Candace Kraus, Interim General Counsel, presented an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 25.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 25, Procedural Rule, Residency Classification for Admission and Fee Purposes, 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 Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Presentation of 2018 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card

Dr. Robert Walker, Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences, provided an overview of the 2018 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card. He reported that it includes admissions data, licensure exam data, and student debt data from the state's three medical schools; graduation data from other health professions programs, Health Sciences Service Program and Medical Student Loan Program data; and Rural Health Initiative program profiles. Dr. Walker highlighted parts of the report card.

X. Presentation of 2018 Higher Education Report Card

Dr. Christopher Treadway, Senior Director of Research and Policy, provided an overview of the 2018 Higher Education Report Card. He stated that this annual accountability report provides year-end higher education statistics for the Commission and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education. Many of the enrollment, retention, graduation, and financial aid statistics are reflective of the individual master plans approved by the Commission and the Council. This edition primarily focuses on the 2017-18 academic year. Dr. Treadway highlighted parts of the report card.

XI. Presentation of New Program Post-Approval Audits

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, stated that all program proposals approved by the Commission are reviewed in relation to the original proposal three years after the initial approval. He highlighted post-approval audits of programs at Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia

State University.

XII. Legislative Update

Mr. Mathew Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, provided a summary of legislative activity related to higher education. The West Virginia Legislature's Regular Session concludes on March 9, 2019. Mr. Turner stated that Commission staff have met with the new chairs of the Education and Finance Committees and are in regular contact with their staff. Legislative staff have sought our input regarding the impact that proposed legislation may have on higher education. He added that staff is tracking 25 bills closely related to higher education. Of particular interest are House Bill 2862, proposing to modify the Underwood-Smith scholarship and loan assistance program and teacher scholarship and loan program beginning in 2020; and House Bill 2519, the Campus Self Defense Act, removing restrictions related to gun possession on the premises of higher education institutions. Mr. Turner further stated that there is great concern among the institutions regarding the burden that funding of PEIA and the 5 percent salary increases will place on their budgets. A shortfall of approximately \$35 million is anticipated, as the budget bill does not allocate enough monies to fund these two expenses. Mr. Turner added that Commission staff is diligently advocating on behalf of higher education with legislators and officials within the Governor's Office.


XIII. Additional Board Action and Comment

Chairman Farrell announced the departure of Dr. Adam Green as Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. Dr. Green has accepted the position of Vice President of the Education Alliance. The Chairman expressed his personal gratitude and respect, and that of the Commission, to Dr. Green stating that he not only had a profound impact on education at the state level but nationally. Commissioner Allen joined in thanking Dr. Green for all he has done for the students and higher education.

XIV. Adjournment

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



Michael J. Farrell, Chairman

Diane Lewis, Secretary