

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

DECEMBER 5, 2019

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission on December 5, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., in the Student Center Conference Room of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, 400 North Lee Street, Lewisburg, West Virginia. The following Commissioners participated: James W. Dailey, Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; Dale Lowther (by phone); and Andrew A. Payne. Absent were Commissioners Robert Lee Brown, Ex-Officio; Steven L. Paine, Ex-Officio; and Donna L. Schulte. Also in attendance were Interim Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, institutional presidents and their staff, Higher Education Policy Commission staff, members of the Advisory Council of Faculty, and others.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell secured a quorum and welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He reported that higher education is making great progress communicating to the legislative leadership what we do as a system. They appear very pleased with the quality of information we are providing and the continued dialogue. Chairman Farrell expressed appreciation to the Chancellor and her staff and to the institutions for their efforts in reaching out to the legislature.

III. Chancellor's Report

Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Interim Chancellor, thanked President Nemitz and the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine community for accommodating the Commission meeting. Chancellor Tucker reported that she and State Department of Education Superintendent Steven Paine recently convened an interagency leadership team consisting of staff from the West Virginia Department of Education, the Commission and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education with the goal of creating a seamless P-20 system. The group divided into these subcommittees: Teacher Preparation, P-20 Data System, Perkins Plan, Strategic Plan, Social-Emotional Mental Health, and Communications. She stated that the groups will continue their work to ensure alignment among the systems.

Chancellor Tucker further reported on other activities at the Commission including the launching of the online application for the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program, the College Application and Exploration Week, the FAFSA Completion Campaign, and the Board of Governors Summit.

Chancellor Tucker introduced and welcomed Dr. Carl Powell as the new director

of WVNET.

IV. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Faculty

Karen Carter, representative of the Advisory Council of Faculty and Associate Professor of Psychology at New River Community and Technical College, reported on the mission of the Council, its goals for the upcoming legislative session, and its initiatives for the new academic year. These include efforts to increase funding for higher education, funding for PEIA and exploration of alternative sources of health insurance, promoting inclusion of faculty in the decision-making process, ensuring transparency across the system, and supporting the authority of the boards of governors to regulate their institutions. Ms. Carter further reported on the ways in which faculty supports the legislative investment in higher education. She emphasized that communities are enhanced by the role of their institutions of higher education.

B. Advisory Council of Students

The Council requested to report at a future Commission meeting.

V. Campus Report -- West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Dr. James W. Nemitz, President of West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, reported on the state of the institution. He gave an overview of the school's mission and indicated that the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine is dedicated to serve, first and foremost, the state of West Virginia and the health care needs of its residents, emphasizing primary care in rural areas. He shared the school's Points of Pride to include: WVSOM was ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the nation's top medical schools for 21 consecutive years; it is number one in the nation among all medical schools graduating physicians who practice in rural areas such as West Virginia and Appalachia, according to Academic Medicine; and it has been recognized seven times for being a great college to work for by the Chronicle of Higher Education. Dr. Nemitz provided a summary of major improvements to the campus, innovative academic programs, and outreach efforts statewide and within the community.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Payne moved to approve the minutes of the Commission meetings held on September 18 and September 27, 2019. Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Approval of Bachelor of Science Allied Health Education

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the proposed Bachelor of Science Allied Health Education at Bluefield State College.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Bachelor of Science Allied Health Education at Bluefield State College for implementation in August 2020. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Approval to Offer the Doctor of Business Administration

Vice Chancellor Dennison provided an overview of the proposed Doctor of Business Administration at Salem University.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the request for Salem University to offer the Doctor of Business Administration, effective January 2021. This approval expires September 2021 if the program is not fully implemented.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Approval of Revisions to Series 11, Procedural Rule, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs at Public Regional Institutions and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs

Vice Chancellor Dennison provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 11, Procedural Rule, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs at Public Regional Institutions and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 11, Procedural Rule, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs at the Public Regional Institutions and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs to be filed with the Secretary of State for the 30-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. 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 Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board, its membership, and the

proposed appointment.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

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

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Project Priorities

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor of Finance, provided an overview of the proposed approval of Fiscal Year 2021 capital project priorities.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the prioritized capital project list for Fiscal Year 2021 and directs staff to report the capital project priorities to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in January as statutorily required.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Report on Fall 2019 Enrollment

Dr. Chris Treadway, Senior Director of Research and Policy, presented an analysis of current enrollment data derived from the Fall Census 2019 data collection along with a discussion of historical enrollment trends. He reported on the college-going rate, the Fall to Fall retention rates, headcount enrollment, and FTE enrollment. Dr. Treadway explained that consistent with national trends, overall credit headcount enrollment is down approximately 0.8 percent to 62,145. He provided additional enrollment metrics as listed in the recently released West Virginia Higher Education Enrollment Report 2019.

XIII. Update on Bluefield State College

Robin Capehart, President of Bluefield State College, briefed the Commission on the state of the school. He focused his presentation on the need for the school to offer graduate programs based on its mission statement. He asked the commissioners to revisit and approve the proposed Master's degree in Engineering Management and the Master's degree in Business Administration. President Capehart stated that the college's Board of Governors fully supports the offering of master's programs. He said that he has driven around the state to meet with alumni and noticed that students from low-income families come to the college and enroll in high paying degrees. President Capehart concluded by saying that he wishes to move forward a school that has done so much for its students.

President Capehart introduced Board of Governors' members Reverend Garry

Moore, its chairman, who addressed the Commission; Vice Chairman Charlie Cole; and Mr. Ron Hypes.

XIV. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2019 Consolidated Audit

Vice Chancellor Magee presented information regarding the audited financial statements prepared for the West Virginia Higher Education Fund.


Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission accepts the audited financial report for the Higher Education Fund for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. Adjournment

Commissioner Payne moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Michael J. Farrell, Chairman



Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary