

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION**

**By Conference Call**

*1-646-558-8656 and enter meeting ID 380-987-909*

**March 20, 2020  
11:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Formation of Nominating Committee**
- III. Approval of Appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors**
- IV. Approval of Degree Programs**
- V. Approval of Modification to State Financial Aid Programs**
- VI. Approval of Temporary Modification to Requirement of Presidential Search Procedure During Declared State of Emergency**
- VII. Additional Board Action and Comment**
- VIII. Adjournment**

**West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
Meeting of March 20, 2020**

**ITEM:** Approval of Appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors

**INSTITUTION:** West Virginia Regional Technology Park

**RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:** *Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors.

**STAFF MEMBER:** Sarah Armstrong Tucker

**BACKGROUND:**

Appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors are to be made by the Commission when vacancies exist on the Board. Currently, the terms of four members have expired and there is one vacancy.

It is recommended that the following individual be appointed to a vacant position for a term ending June 30, 2021:

- **Steve Hedrick**, President and CEO of Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research & Innovation Center (MATRIC)

It is also recommended that the following individuals be reappointed to a new three-year term ending June 30, 2022:

- **Jack Rossi**, Executive Vice President of Business Development for Summit Community Bank
- **Anne Cavalier**, Business Consultant and Mayor of the City of Smithers, WV
- **Matt Ballard**, President and CEO of the Charleston Area Alliance
- **Judge Ron Pearson**, Retired Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of West Virginia

**West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
Meeting of March 20, 2020**

**ITEM:** Approval of Degree Programs

**INSTITUTIONS:** Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, and West Liberty University

**RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:** *Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the following new degree programs:

Bachelor of Science in Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology and Master of Education in Educational Leadership at Fairmont State University; Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice at Shepherd University; and Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology at West Liberty University.

**STAFF MEMBER:** Corley Dennison

**BACKGROUND:**

Fairmont State University requests approval of two academic programs:

- Master of Education in Educational Leadership
- Bachelor of Science in Surveying and Geomatic Engineering Technology

The 30-credit hour online Master of Education in Educational Leadership program provides the candidate the opportunity to obtain certification for principal licensure, supervisor of instruction, and an additional superintendent endorsement preparing graduates with certification to serve Pre-K-12 as principals, supervisors of instruction, and superintendents.

The Bachelor of Science in Surveying and Geomatic Engineering Technology program prepares students with the technical skills to enter careers in surveying, geographic information systems, engineering project surveying, photogrammetry, geodesy, and remoter sensing.

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Shepherd University requests approval of a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice:

The Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice is a 120-credit hour program with two

concentrations, either law enforcement/administration or forensic studies. The program prepares students for immediate employment for careers in both public and private sector companies, city and county governments, and state and federal departments.

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West Liberty University requests approval of the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology.

The 64-credit hour program prepares students to serve as clinicians, future PhDs or clinical doctoral level students. It also prepares students for state licensure and to sit for the Praxis Examination in Speech-Language Pathology.

The following is recommended by Academic Affairs staff:

- Both the Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Bachelor of Science in Surveying and Geomatic Engineering Technology programs at Fairmont State University be approved for implementation in August 2020.
- If the programs are not fully implemented by March 2022, the programs will no longer be considered approved by the Commission and must be resubmitted for review and approval.
- In the 2023-24 academic year, the Commission will conduct a post-audit review of each program to assess progress toward successful implementation.
  
- The Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice program at Shepherd University be approved for implementation in August 2020.
- If the program is not fully implemented by March 2022, the program will no longer be considered approved by the Commission and must be resubmitted for review and approval.
- In the 2023-24 academic year, the Commission will conduct a post-audit review of the program to assess progress toward successful implementation.
  
- The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program at West Liberty University be approved for implementation in August 2022.
- If the program is not fully implemented by August 2022, the program will no longer be considered approved by the Commission and must be resubmitted for review and approval.
- In the 2025-26 academic year, the Commission will conduct a post-audit review of each program to assess progress toward successful implementation.

Note, the U.S. Department of Education has placed the State of West Virginia on Heightened Cash Monitoring and on Program Participation Agreement (Provisional Approval) or PPA. Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, and West Liberty University may not add any new degree programs without specific approval from the U.S. Department of Education.

**West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
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**ITEM:** Approval of Modification to State Financial Aid Programs

**INSTITUTIONS:** All

**RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:** *Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves suspension of academic renewal requirements for state financial aid and extension of the West Virginia Higher Education Grant deadline.

**STAFF MEMBER:** Brian Weingart

Institutions are adjusting operational, academic and calendar operations statewide because of COVID-19. These adjustments may limit the ability of students to earn the requisite number of credit hours needed. They could affect a student's grade point average and, in turn, preclude some students from meeting the renewal requirements for state financial aid programs.

At this time, Financial Aid staff recommend the Commission suspend the following academic renewal requirements for state financial aid to prevent students from being negatively affected by these changes outside of their control:

- Suspension of the grade point average requirement to renew the PROMISE Scholarship from 2019-20 to 2020-21.
- Suspension of the grade point average requirement to renew the Higher Education Grant award from 2019-20 to 2020-21.
- Extension of the Higher Education Grant application deadline from April 15, 2020 to May 15, 2020.
- Suspension of the grade point average requirement to renew the Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship from 2019-20 to 2020-21.
- Suspension of the grade point average requirement to renew the Engineering, Science & Technology Scholarship from 2019-20 to 2020-21.

These steps will help alleviate financial aid concerns from students and families and help limit the negative impact of the precautionary measures colleges have taken to protect the health of their students and campuses.

**West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
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**ITEM:** Approval of Temporary Modification to Requirement of Presidential Search Procedure During Declared State of Emergency

**INSTITUTIONS:** Glenville State College, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University

**RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:** *Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the temporary modification of the requirement that the finalist candidates for president be interviewed in-person on campus prior to final selection.

**STAFF MEMBER:** Kristin Boggs

**BACKGROUND:**

Series 5, Legislative Rule, *Guidelines for Governing Boards in Employing and Evaluating Presidents*, requires on-campus interviews by, *inter alia*, an institution's students, faculty, staff, and administration of the candidates for the presidential position who have qualified as finalists. See, W. Va. Code R. § 135-5-2.2.d. Such meetings require gatherings of large groups of people. The institutions cannot simultaneously comply with this Rule and President Trump's directive that people not meet in groups larger than ten people. The President's directive is based on guidelines established by the CDC to protect the public's health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Strict adherence to the regulatory requirement of in-person on-campus interviews would most assuredly "prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping when the emergency[.]" which is the very activity the Governor's emergency powers provided in W. Va. Code § 5-15-6(c)(7) are meant to prohibit. Therefore, because of the declared state of emergency, the Commission has the legal authority to temporarily modify the application of this Rule to provide that the "on-campus" interviews with the finalists can take place telephonically or via live audio or visual stream, so long as members of the public may also attend.