

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

December 5, 2012

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Hendrickson convened a meeting of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology Revitalization Committee at 8:30 AM in the 9th Floor Conference Room of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission located at 1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia and by conference call. The following Committee members were present: John Estep, David Hendrickson, Paul Hill, Bill Hutchens, Carolyn Long, Dorothy Phillips, Ed Robinson, Garth Thomas, and Bruce Walker. Absent: George "Matt" Edwards and Robert Griffith.

2. Approval of September 20 Minutes

Mr. Robinson moved approval of the minutes from the September 20, 2012 meeting. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion. Motion passed. Ms. Phillips requested that her financial analysis be added to the minutes. There were no objections to Ms. Phillip's addition to the September 20 minutes.

3. Review and Approval of Final Report

Chairman Hendrickson asked Mr. Patrick Crane, the Commission's Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, to provide an overview of the report. Mr. Crane described the structure of the report, including background on the WVU Tech Revitalization Process and the creation of the Committee, a summary of the efforts undertaken to revitalize the institution, and some recommendations for next steps moving forward.

Chairman Hendrickson thanked the Committee members for their service to the Committee and the institution. He noted that he believes the Committee has accomplished a great deal in a short period of time and looks forward to the ongoing revitalization efforts of the institution led by Campus Executive Officer Carolyn Long.

Chairman Hendrickson inquired if Committee members would like to make any comments regarding the report. Mr. Robinson indicated that he thought the report was outstanding and showed the level of detail discussed by the Committee and related Subcommittees. He thanked the faculty, staff, and the students for their support of the Committee and the institution. Mr. Robinson

indicated that strong support from the campus was critical to ensuring the future success of West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

Chairman Hendrickson asked Campus Executive Officer Carolyn Long to speak about the work of the Committee and/or the report. Ms. Long echoed Mr. Robinson's comments regarding the strong support from faculty, staff, and students. Ms. Long also thanked members of the Committee for their service.

Chairman Hendrickson inquired if any Committee members would like to make any additional comments regarding the report. Ms. Phillips stated that the report offers no specific evidence or meaningful recommendations. She inquired if Chairman Hendrickson wanted her to provide an overview of her areas of concerns verbally or submit them in writing. Chairman Hendrickson asked that Ms. Phillips submit her feedback in writing. Ms. Phillips asked that her feedback, once submitted, be included as part of the minutes for the meeting. Chairman Hendrickson agreed and there were no objections from Committee members.

Mr. Robinson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia University Institute of Technology Revitalization Committee approves the Final Report as presented.

Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed with Ms. Phillips voting no. Ms. Long requested that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Report be included as an appendix to the Final Report if the HLC Report is available prior to the Final Report being presented to the Commission. There were no objections to Ms. Long's pending addition to the Final Report.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

David K. Hendrickson

Chairman

Robert Griffith

Academics Subcommittee Chair

Ed Robinson

Facilities Subcommittee Chair

**APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES
SUBMISSION FROM MS. DOROTHY PHILLIPS**

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**

December 5, 2012

Reasons for not accepting *Final Report of the WVU Institute of Technology Revitalization Committee*

The final meeting of the Tech Revitalization Committee (Committee) was held by teleconference on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. One of the purposes for this meeting was to vote to approve as final the draft of the *Final Report of the WVU Institute of Technology Revitalization Committee* (hereafter, *Hendrickson Report*), a document that is to be submitted to LOCEA on Monday, December 10, 2012.

Before I voted to oppose acceptance of the *Hendrickson Report*, I presented the following statement.

I have conferred with members of the community, Tech alumni, and multiple past and present Tech employees and their opinion is that the *Hendrickson Report* lacks meaningful specifics. The report seems to be intended to make people think something significant has been done or is being done, but does not offer specific evidence to support such an inference.

During my seven years of attending legislative meetings concerning Tech, the Institution has submitted similarly vague reports, and the lack of specifics in those reports has inhibited growth on the Montgomery campus.

I can discuss those concerns with the Committee today or submit them in writing. I had hoped that these issues could be resolved before submission of the *Hendrickson Report* to LOCEA, but Committee Chair Hendrickson apparently did not want to discuss my concerns during the meeting, so he advised I submit them in written form. The following is the document Mr. Hendrickson requested.

Four Unacceptable Deficiencies in the Hendrickson Report

The *Hendrickson Report* lacks specifics in many areas, but it seems most useful to mention deficiencies related to the following four topics:

- Co-op/Internship Program
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Differences between *Sightlines* and *Curris Report* recommendations
- The national search for a leader for Tech

1. Co-op/Internship Program:

Hendrickson Report, page 5: “WVU-Tech already has a vibrant co-op program in place and is committed to expanding that program and providing a co-op or internship opportunity for any student that is interested.”

Revitalization Project for West Virginia University Institute of Technology Team Report (hereafter, *Curris Report*), page 11: “The Team recommends that all degree-granting programs at WVU-Tech establish required co-op or internship programs, and provide the resources needed to find appropriate employment for students, including evaluation mechanisms, and to consider whether or not academic credit should be given for such activity. The Team recognizes that challenges will surface in the implementation of this recommendation. Nevertheless, the Team is convinced that the recommendation should command the **highest priority**.”

Specifics needed: The *Hendrickson Report*’s “Any student that is interested” does not meet the recommendation of “all students” as set forth in the *Curris Report*. The *Hendrickson Report*’s phrase “is committed to expanding” lacks specific meaning—it’s possible to be “committed” to something without doing anything about it. The *Hendrickson Report* does not mention any evidence that anything has been done to expand Tech’s “vibrant co-op program.”

Curris Report, page 30: “The team recommends that WVU-Tech become the cooperative education (co-op) institution in the State, requiring cooperative education or internship experiences for all graduates. The Team **strongly** believes that this cachet is needed for WVU-Tech **to achieve and sustain its enrollment goals**. It should be noted that this niche both builds on WVU-Tech’s historic strengths and facilitates a re-engagement with alumni and friends who are in pivotal positions to help implement this recommendation.”

“The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission will need to take action to adopt and protect this designation.”

Specifics needed: The *Hendrickson Report* does not offer specifics or even acknowledge the Commission’s addressing this aspect of the co-op program.

2. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

Hendrickson Report, page 5: “The creation of a teacher education program for secondary math and science teachers has also begun. These degree programs will be housed in the math and science departments, and **it is hoped** that they may be offered starting in fall 2013, though that **is contingent upon** receiving accreditation, developing the program and hiring the faculty to teach it.”

Curriss Report, page 8: “Commonly known as STEM, this study area recognizes that our society needs teachers with solid credentials in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. WVU-Tech has **strengths in its faculty** in these four areas of study. WVU-Tech has the potential for developing teachers who are first of all practitioners in one or more of these areas and who are also prepared to teach in schools, primarily in secondary schools.”

Specifics needed: The *Hendrickson Report*’s phrases “It is hoped” and “is contingent upon” leave doubt about the implementation of the STEM teacher education program recommended in the *Curriss Report*. In regard to the hiring of additional faculty, the *Curriss Report* states that Tech already has strengths in its present faculty and has the potential for developing teachers in these four areas of study.

3. Differences between *Sightlines* and *Curriss Report* recommendations

Even though all projects/expenditures approved by the Committee came directly from the *Sightlines Report* commissioned by WVU and not from the *Curriss Report* as mandated in Senate Bill 486, the *Sightlines* name is NOT ONCE mentioned in the *Hendrickson Report*. The only reference (indirect) made to *Sightlines* in the *Hendrickson Report* exists on page 2 of the report: “The Report [*Curriss Report*] identifies a minimum state investment of \$30 million over the next five years to tackle critical facilities and capital improvement needs, though the total capital improvement needs of the institution have been estimated to be in excess of \$70 million.”

This \$70M figure came from *Sightlines*.

Hendrickson Report, page 10, “The total revised capital needs are estimated to be \$45.3 million.”

Specifics needed: It’s essential to provide the basis for this \$45.3 million estimate in the *Hendrickson Report*. Upon what is this estimate based, and who has made this estimate?

4. The national search for a leader for Tech

Hendrickson Report, Page 11: “What may happen after the final report of the Revitalization Project is presented to LOCEA in May 2014 is beyond the scope of this Committee’s charge, but it is the belief of this body that her [CEO Long’s] leadership should remain unchanged up to that point.”

Even though the *Hendrickson Report* states that it is with one voice that the Revitalization Committee makes this and other recommendations, I was not given the opportunity to express my concerns prior to the Committee’s voting to approve the *Hendrickson Report*. Nor was I contacted—either as a member of

the Committee or personally--about this endorsement of the current Tech leader. The statement that "it is the belief of this body" can not be truthfully made if the members of the body (the Committee) have not discussed the subject and previously expressed either majority or unanimous support for the continuation of the present campus leadership. The minutes of previous meetings contain no reference to such discussion or to such support.

Furthermore, this endorsement of the current leadership conflicts with various public announcements that a national search will be conducted to select the leader for the Tech campus. This position deserves a national search.

Per the September 20, 2012, Revitalization Committee meeting

At this meeting, it was announced that the national search for a Tech leader would begin at the end of the 2012 year.

Per WVU website, dated July 7, 2011:

"As the West Virginia University Institute of Technology Revitalization Project gets set to begin at month's end, it is an appropriate time to announce a national search for a new Campus Provost to be launched in Fall 2011."

Per July 8, 2011, edition of *Sunday Gazette-Mail* (Associated Press)

"A national search will begin this fall for a new campus provost at West Virginia Institute of Technology."

Per LOCEA meeting on October 11, 2011

President Clements was asked when the national search would be conducted. His response: "Soon."

In the meantime, Fairmont State University, West Virginia State University, Mountain State University, and HEPC have conducted and concluded national searches to fill positions in their respective organizations. There is no reason that Tech can not and should not do the same.

As a result of my concerns stated in this document and as a means of explaining my vote opposing acceptance of the *Hendrickson Report*, I am requesting that this document be attached to the minutes of the December 5, 2012, Committee meeting.