

MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

December 6, 2013

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bruce Berry convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 AM in the David K. Hendrickson Conference Center at 2000 Union Carbide Drive, South Charleston, West Virginia, and by conference call. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Michael Farrell, Kay Goodwin, David Hendrickson, James Phares, Gary White, and Clarence Pennington. Absent: Kathy Eddy and John Leon.

Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Hendrickson moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on July 31, August 9, September 27, and October 4, 2013. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Berry welcomed Commission and audience members to the meeting. He stated that our students are the greatest asset and main concern of the Policy Commission. He addressed the need to reinstitute the Statewide Taskforce on Textbook Affordability to make college education more affordable.

Chairman Berry proceeded to recognize the institutions for their work, particularly the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine which recently received accreditation from the Society for Simulation in Health Care.

In conclusion, Chairman Berry announced that new Commissioner Gary White will join the Commission's Audit and Finance Committee led by Kathy Eddy.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Paul Hill remarked that Commission staff continues to receive national recognition for their scholarly contributions and acumen specifically in the areas of policy analysis and peer reviews. He mentioned the work of Angela Bell, Patrick Crane, Adam Green, Neal Holly, and Rob Anderson. He added that

staff is developing steps for the implementation of the Commission's master plan and working with the Department of Education in the remedial education process. Chancellor Hill commented that many challenges remain, particularly regarding the state budget.

V. Council of Presidents Report

Chairman Berry stated that although the Council of Presidents met prior to the Commission meeting, President Robin Capehart was unable to attend and therefore a report would not be provided.

VI. Interim Reports from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

Chairman Berry introduced Amy Pitzer, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees, who shared concerns related to the implementation of Senate Bill 330. Ms. Pitzer urged the commissioners to increase their efforts to implement and support Senate Bill 330. She added that classified staff is counting on fairness, accountability and credibility through the process.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Chairman Berry introduced Dr. Roy Nutter, member of the Advisory Council of Faculty, who spoke of faculty commitment to serve not only students and their institutions but also the local communities. He shared faculty accomplishments and challenges in creating a continuum of learning.

C. Advisory Council of Students

Chairman Berry introduced E. J. Hassan, Chair of the Advisory Council of Students, who reported on issues of interest to the students statewide. He mentioned student fee transparency, quality of academic programs versus quantity, looming state budget cuts, student apathy, and tobacco use among others.

VII. Access

A. Report on Fall 2013 Enrollment

Dr. Angela Bell, Vice Chancellor for Policy and Planning, presented a report on trend enrollment data through fall 2013 for the state overall and public four-year institutions, and ongoing and new initiatives underway to promote access and success which shape enrollment. She explained that overall state and four-year

system enrollment is down from fall 2012 consistent with national trends but is up from five years ago.

B. 2013 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, provided a report on state financial aid for Fiscal Year 2013. This report represents the fifth annual Financial Aid Comprehensive Report, which is required by Senate Bill 373 passed during the 2009 legislative session. The Financial Aid Comprehensive Report, along with its two supplements on institutional aid at public institutions and federal aid and student loans, together provide a comprehensive overview of the principle sources of financial aid at West Virginia colleges and universities.

Following discussion, Commissioner Hendrickson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the submission of a resolution to the Governor requesting that higher education's financial aid be excluded from any forthcoming budget cuts.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Update on College Access and P-20 Initiatives

Dr. Adam Green, Senior Director of Student Success and P-20 Initiatives, provided summaries on completed and pending initiatives such as introduction of a text-messaging project, the results achieved through College Foundation of West Virginia's 2013 statewide College Application and Exploration Week initiative, and the College Goal Sunday event.

D. Approval of Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Project Priorities

Mr. Richard Donovan, Senior Director of Facilities, explained that the Commission's appropriation request submitted to the State Budget Office on September 3, 2013, once again included a one-time request of \$10 million for high priority code compliance and deferred maintenance projects. If the appropriation is authorized, it will be distributed between the two systems, 80 percent for Commission's institutions (\$8 million) and 20 percent for the Council for Community and Technical College Education's institutions (\$2 million). Consistent with prior practice, institutions will be required to match the state's capital investment with institution or private funds.

Commissioner Hendrickson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the prioritized capital project list for Fiscal Year 2015 and directs staff to report

the capital project priorities to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in January as statutorily required.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Approval of Athletic Complex at West Virginia State University

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, explained that West Virginia State University proposes to construct a new athletic complex, including training facilities, a locker room, team meeting rooms, conference rooms and coaches' offices costing approximately \$3,585,000. The institution and its Foundation are raising funds through a capital campaign to finance all or a portion of the project.

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves and authorizes the construction of a new athletic complex on the campus of West Virginia State University and the issuance by the West Virginia State University Board of Governors of its pledge revenue bond, series 2013, in the principal amount of \$2,700,000 to finance a portion of the costs thereof; and approves and authorizes the issuance of such bond to Capital One Equipment Finance Corp., pursuant to a trust agreement with the Huntington National Bank, as trustee, and Capital One Equipment Finance Corp., which bond shall be secured by the pledges from a capital campaign for the athletic complex and the university's student athletic fees.

Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

F. Approval of Concord University Twin Towers Residence Hall Renovation

Mr. Donovan explained that the Twin Towers Residence Hall at Concord University was built in 1967 at a cost of approximately \$5.5 million and since that time several upgrades have been made, including the addition of a fire suppression system a few years ago. However, due to its age, additional improvements will need to be made.

Commissioner Hendrickson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Concord University's Twin Towers Renovation Project with a proposed project budget of approximately \$12.2 million which will be funded from a future bond issue that is to be approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Success

A. Approval of College and Career Readiness Definition

Dr. Kathy Butler, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, explained that in an effort to address the statutory requirement of West Virginia Code §18-22-39b, the Commission, the Council for Community and Technical College Education, and the West Virginia Department of Education collaboratively sponsored the West Virginia Summit on College and Career Readiness on October 28, 2013. As a result of that Summit, a definition of college and career-readiness has been drafted. It includes the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that the group agreed upon as being integral to college and career-readiness for all high school students in West Virginia.

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the collaboratively developed definition for College and Career Readiness, including the description for knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for college and career-readiness, recognizing that minor technical changes may be necessary as all partnering groups approve the proposed definition.

Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Update on *Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact.*

Dr. Bell updated the Commission on activities related to the implementation of the new Commission master plan, *Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact.* She stated that as part of the new institutional compact process, all institutions submitted their targets on each of the metrics included in the master plan, along with a brief rationale for each target. Commission staff will be reviewing those targets, and working with institutions if necessary, before bringing them to the Commission for approval at its February 2014 meeting.

C. Status of Institutional Master Plans

Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, provided an update on the current efforts at the institutional level to fulfill the campus master plan requirements of West Virginia Code §18B-2A-4A. He explained that at its August 9, 2013 meeting, the Commission voted to extend the deadline for submitting campus master plans to December 31, 2014. Recognizing that institutions may be at very different points in the planning process, engaged in compact development or completing other sub-plans at this time, they were asked to submit status and timeline updates regarding their master plans by October 1, 2013.

D. Report on Institutional Bookstores and Textbooks

Mr. Robert Anderson, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, explained that in an effort to continue a strong focus on textbook affordability, the institutions are required to provide by November 1st an update of their actions in the prior fiscal year to comply with the provisions of Commission Series 51, Bookstores and Textbooks. A summary of the third year of campus reporting followed.

Commissioner Hendrickson asked that the Commission's Committee on Textbook Affordability be reinstated. Vice Chancellor Rob Anderson will initiate steps to reconvene the group.

E. Update on the Emma Byrd Higher Education Center

Dr. Kathy Butler briefed the Commission on recent activities at the Center. She stated that representatives from Bluefield State College, Concord University and Marshall University agreed that a full-time administrator was needed in order to fully realize the impact of the Center in the area. After a thorough search, Ms. Lisa Moten began work on October 1, 2013 as Director of the Erma Byrd Higher Education Center. Dr. Butler proceeded to introduce Ms. Moten adding that she has provided outstanding leadership in her short time serving as the Center Director. Ms. Moten shared some of the activities currently underway.

IX. Impact

A. Report on Institutional Program Review

Dr. Butler reported that In accordance with West Virginia Code §18B-1B-4 and §18B-2A-4 and the Commission's Series 10, Policy Regarding Program Review, the institutions through their respective governing boards conducted reviews of academic programs for the 2012-2013 academic year and submitted summary reports that indicated actions taken. A total of 83 programs were reviewed during this program review cycle. A description of the actions taken followed.

Commissioner Farrell suggested that boards of governors' members be offered instruction on institutional program review rules and procedures. Dr. Butler will work on developing an appropriate training program.

B. Approval of 2013 Research Trust Fund Annual Report

Dr. Jan Taylor, Director of Research Programs, explained that as provided in West Virginia Code §18B-18A-1 et seq. and reporting requirements outlined in Series 48, Research Trust Fund Program, the Commission receives annual

reports from institutions and is required to submit a combined annual report on the Research Trust Fund to the Governor and the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability (LOCEA) by January 1 of each year. The 2013 report is the fifth provided by staff since the program's inception in 2008.

Commissioner Hendrickson urged the Commission to communicate to the Governor and Legislature the importance of the Research Trust Fund Program and the need to continue its funding.

Commissioner Hendrickson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the 2013 Research Trust Fund Annual Report and recommends submission to the Governor and the Legislature.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Approval of Revisions to Series 12, Legislative Rule, Capital Project Management

Dr. Ed Magee gave an overview of Series 12, Capital Project Management, which is the legislative rule that establishes policy relating to the strategic planning, financing, development and maintenance of public higher education assets. The current version of the rule was developed in December 2001 and is being updated as required by West Virginia Code §18B-19-17.

Commissioner Hendrickson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed revisions to Series 12, Capital Project Management, Legislative Rule, for submission to the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period.

Further Resolved, That staff is instructed to file the legislative rule with the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for approval and further legislative action if no substantive comments are received.

Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4

Commissioner Hendrickson moved to go into Executive Session under the authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss personnel issues.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Goodwin moved to rise from Executive Session. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Berry reported that the Commission discussed the items noted on the agenda.

A. West Virginia University Presidential Search and Approval of Interim President

Commissioner Hendrickson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Presidential Search Procedure adopted by the West Virginia University Board of Governors contingent on certain amendments or technical changes being made as communicated by the Chancellor consistent with the discussions of the Commission and delegates to the Chancellor the authority to approve any final version of the Search Procedure.

Commissioner White seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hendrickson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointment by the West Virginia University Board of Governors of Dr. E. Gordon Gee as Interim President of West Virginia University under the terms and conditions communicated to the Commission by the Board and delegates to its Chancellor the authority to approve as to form a final contract for Dr. Gee.

Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Presidential Compensation at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Commissioner White moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the increase in presidential compensation for Dr. Michael Adelman as requested by the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Governors consistent with the percentage increase provided to all employees.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Additional Board Action and Comment

There was no additional board action or comment.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce L. Berry, Chairman

Kathy Eddy, Secretary