

DRAFT MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

August 1, 2014

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bruce Berry convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 AM in Salons C-D of the Charleston Marriott Town Center, 200 Lee Street, Charleston, West Virginia, and by conference call. The following Commission members were present: Bruce Berry, Jenny Allen, Kathy Eddy, Michael Farrell, Kay Goodwin, and Charles Heinlein. Absent: Clarence Pennington, John Leon, and Gary White.

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Eddy moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on April 16, 2014, April 25, 2014 and June 16, 2014. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Berry welcomed the Commission and audience to the meeting. He introduced Matt Turner, the new Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, and mentioned the arrival in August of new staff members Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Mr. L. G. Corder, Director of Veterans' Education and Training Programs.

Chairman Berry spoke of the need to spare future budget cuts to higher education. He stated that tuition and fees are only part of the expenses incurred by students. He emphasized that the college education of West Virginia students is not to be taken for granted. He asked colleges and universities to develop and put into effect plans that will make them sustainable up to ten years.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Paul Hill echoed Chairman Berry's remarks. He gave an overview of recent Commission staff activities such as the preparation of legislative-mandated reports; the West Virginia Technology Conference; and the Student Success Summit, an event that focuses on facilitating greater collaboration among all systems of education, employers and community representatives, the military, and teachers and students.

Chancellor Hill announced the reorganization of the Division of Student Success and P-20 Initiatives which is now the Commission's Division of Student Affairs headed by recently appointed Vice Chancellor, Dr. Adam Green. He added that Vice Chancellor Green and staff have submitted a new GEAR UP grant request to support this federal initiative until the year 2021.

V. Council of Presidents Report

Dr. Brian Hemphill, President of West Virginia State University and newly elected Chairman of the Council of Presidents, reported that he met with each of the institutional presidents to determine the Council's focus and higher education priorities for next year. Dr. Hemphill spoke of the significance of budget cuts on colleges and universities, given the contribution of the institutions to the economic development of the state. He stated that in regards to outcomes-based funding, the presidents will only support a new funds model that does not redirect current base budgets.

Dr. Hemphill further reported on the effect that an overly regulatory environment has on institutional creativity and innovation; the support of the presidents for a seamless transfer of students; and the status of the state agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

VI. Interim Reports from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

The Council did not present a report.

VII. Access

A. Approval of Series 58, Nursing Scholarship Program

Dr. Robert Walker, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, provided a summary of the proposed rule.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed Series 58, Nursing Scholarship Program, as an emergency rule for filing with the Secretary of State and submission to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for approval.

Further Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed Series 58, Nursing Scholarship Program, as a legislative rule for submission to the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period.

Further Resolved, That staff is instructed to forward the legislative rule to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for approval and further legislative action if no substantive comments are received at the conclusion of the comment period.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Bachelor of Science in Engineering Management Program at Bluefield State College

Dr. Kathy Butler, Special Advisor to the Chancellor, provided an overview of the proposed degree.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Management program at Bluefield State College effective August 2014. This approval expires in August 2016 if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Annual Reauthorization of Degree-Granting Institutions

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, provided summary reports of the review team's visits to the institutions requesting reauthorization.

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Annual Reauthorization for Future Generations Graduate School.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Commissioner Goodwin opposed the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Annual Reauthorization for Ohio Valley University.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Commissioner Goodwin opposed the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Success

A. Overview of the 15 to Finish Initiative

Chancellor Hill gave an overview of the Commission's 15 to Finish Initiative, an information and awareness campaign that aims to promote on-time college completion by encouraging students to take a full course load of 15 hours each semester of college. In preparation for an early 2015 rollout, a planning session will be held on September 30 for institutional representatives to ensure that needed infrastructure is in place for implementation. In addition, the Commission is developing a highly targeted multi-media marketing campaign that will include advertising and outreach, as well as a multi-media kit for campuses to use in informing students of the 15 to Finish message.

B. Report on Master's Degree Programs

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, explained that in accordance with West Virginia Code §18B-1A-6(g), Concord University, Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University have submitted reports on the viability of master's degree programs at their respective institutions. He gave a summary report on each of the institution's master programs.

C. Report on Program Review

Dr. Stotler explained 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 2013-2014 academic year and submitted summary reports that indicated actions taken. A total of 84 programs were reviewed during this program review cycle. He summarized the actions taken regarding each program.

D. Approval of Renovation Plan for the Concord University Towers Residence Hall

Dr. Ed Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented a summary of the proposed renovations.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the renovation plan for the Concord University Towers Residence Hall, provided that a project funding plan is approved by the Concord University Board of Governors and the financing of improvements associated

with said project through the issuance of Revenue Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$18,500,000 and reimbursement of capital improvement costs incurred prior to issuance of such bonds be approved.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Report on Campus Safety Plans

Mr. Jim King, Director of Design and Planning, explained that the Commission has been actively engaged in promoting best practices regarding campus safety and emergency response. An initial Campus Safety Summit was held in March 2013, and efforts have been ongoing to strengthen partnerships among campuses and organizations such as the Red Cross, utility companies, law enforcement and local response agencies to prepare for a range of emergency circumstances by continuously updating procedures, designations and training scenarios. Mr. King provided a summary of the institutional reports submitted.

IX. Impact

A. Progress Report on Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program

Dr. Jan Taylor, Director of the Division of Science and Research, explained that the Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program, funded by the National Science Foundation on July 31, 2010, supports faculty recruitment, start-up research, equipment and students. It is directed toward a number of complementary activities to enhance the competitive position of science and technology to the benefit of West Virginia's citizens. Dr. Taylor provided a summary of research outcomes as the grant enters its fifth year.

B. Approval of Fiscal Year 2015 Science and Research Spending Plans

Dr. Taylor presented a summary of the spending plans developed and that are to be implemented by the Commission's Division of Science and Research.

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2015 spending plans as recommended by the West Virginia Science and Research Council.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Bylaws Changes and Appointment Terms to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors

Dr. Rusty Kruzlock, Executive Director and Chief Technology Officer of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, explained that the proposed action is in response to the Commission's direction to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors to amend its bylaws and establish staggered appointment terms for board members.

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the bylaws changes and appointment terms to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Approval of Fiscal Year 2015 WVNET Budget

Ms. Donna Meadowcroft, WVNET's Chief Financial Officer, gave an overview of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2015 West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing budget.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Update on wvOASIS

Dr. Magee explained that public higher education institutions are participating in the rollout of the state's new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, wvOASIS. This system will fully or partially replace approximately 100 of the state's existing legacy business applications, which cost more \$35 million annually. Many of these applications and database environments are technologically obsolete with no vendor support or security patches available. Dr. Magee provided a summary and timeline of the various phases before project completion.

XII. Senate Bill 330 Progress Report

Ms. Patricia Clay, Acting Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, explained that Senate Bill 330, passed by the West Virginia Legislature in 2011, requires sweeping cultural changes to public higher education's human resources

functions. Two primary objectives will be to foster an environment at each school that promotes the core values of fairness, accountability, credibility, transparency and a systematic approach to progress; and to achieve certain goals with respect to the classification and compensation system affecting higher education employees. Ms. Clay summarized recent legislative mandates and the Commission's plans for their implementation.

XIII. Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to Discuss Personnel Issues

Commissioner Allen moved approval to convene in Executive Session under the authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Commission reconvened in open session with Commissioner Allen moving approval to rise from Executive Session. Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Berry explained that no decisions were made or actions taken during Executive Session.

IX. Additional Board Action and Comment

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the presidential contracts and compensation for Bluefield State College, West Liberty University, Shepherd University, and Fairmont State University upon the terms and conditions communicated to it and delegates to the Chancellor the authority to approve final contracts as to form.

Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Adjournment

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

Bruce L. Berry, Chairman

Kathy Eddy, Secretary