

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION**

**August 7, 2015**

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman Bruce Berry convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 a.m. in Salon DE of the Embassy Suites Hotel, 300 Court Street, Charleston, West Virginia. The following Commission members were present: Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, Kay Goodwin, John Leon and Clarence Pennington. Absent were Jenny Allen, Michael Farrell, and Michael Martirano. Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the minutes of the meetings held on May 20, May 29, and June 22, 2015. Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **III. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Berry welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He spoke on the findings of the Carnegie Foundation evaluation of higher education in West Virginia conducted in 1987, and proposed a revisit to the report in order to continue to move the state's education system forward.

Chairman Berry introduced and welcomed Dr. Sylvia Manning as the new Interim President of Shepherd University.

#### **IV. Chancellor's Report**

Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, gave an update on recent activities at the Commission's Office. He reported that the Division of Academic Affairs staff has focused their attention on the transfer of credits between institutions, and college completion efforts such as Prior Learning Assessment and Prior Learning Credits for knowledge students may already possess when they enter postsecondary education; the Division of Student Affairs held the Student Success Summit attended by more than 500 participants; the Chancellor's Office hosted the College Safety Summit with participation from public and private colleges and universities; the Division of International Affairs signed faculty and student exchange agreements with the Chinese Province of Shanxi and the Mexican State of Puebla; the Division of Science and Research became the recipient of a \$20 million award from the National Science Foundation to build research capacity in astrophysics and hydrology; and the Division of Financial Aid processed more than 3,200 PROMISE scholarships, awards to the Higher Education Grant Program and other financial aid programs.

Chancellor Hill introduced new staff members Christopher Treadway, Post-Doctoral Research and Policy Analyst; Vanessa Keadle, Coordinator of Research and Evaluation; Pamela Woods, Longitudinal Data Project Manager; and Bruce Cottrill, Director of Classification and Compensation.

## **V. Council of Presidents' Report**

Dr. Brian Hemphill, the Council's Chair, acknowledged Chancellor Hill's support of the EPSCoR initiative, and his fellow presidents' hard work and dedication. He gave an overview of items discussed at a recent Council of Presidents meeting to include among others the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and process, duplicative programs being offered using state dollars, and the upcoming 2016 legislative agenda and its importance to higher education.

## **VI. Updates from Constituent Groups**

### **A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees**

Ms. Amy Pitzer, the Council's Chair, gave an update on the recently held Leadership Conference which focused on the development of advocacy, team work, and leadership skills for classified staff. She stressed the importance of updating the salary schedule as the federal minimum wage increase becomes effective. Ms. Pitzer shared the willingness of the Council to work along the Commission, presidents and faculty to develop the unity agenda for higher education.

### **B. Advisory Council of Faculty**

Dr. Sylvia Hawranick Seften, reported on behalf of the Council on the issue of alternative certification within the state and the difficulty in attracting and keeping qualified and certified teachers from accredited institutions. She stated that during the last legislative session, bills were introduced which offered alternative certification routes that appeared to bypass the professional studies programs at the state's universities which train and certify professionals to go into teaching. She thanked Chancellor Hill and the Commission's staff for their support and watchful eyes regarding legislative actions in the state.

### **C. Advisory Council of Students**

The Council did not present a report.

## **VII. Access**

### **A. Statewide College Access and Success Initiatives Report**

Dr. Adam Green, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, provided an update on several projects which the Division of Student Affairs coordinates aimed at assisting students in navigating college processes and pathways such as the

GEAR UP Alumni Leadership Academy, the Office of Veterans Education and Training 5 Star Challenge, College Application and Exploration Week, College Goal Sunday, and College Decision Day.

Vice Chancellor Green introduced Kendyl Ryan, a graduate of the Commission's GEAR UP project who will participate in the national GEAR UP Alumni Leadership Academy (GUALA). Ms. Ryan gave an overview of her experiences with GEAR UP and her role in GUALA.

B. Review and Analysis of the Class of 2014 High School Senior Opinions Survey

Dr. Chris Treadway, Post-Doctoral Research and Policy Analyst, explained that in an effort to improve the state's matriculation rate of recent high school graduates, the Commission embarked on a survey of high school seniors in the spring of 2014. The High School Senior Opinions Feedback Survey asked students about their high school experiences and plans after graduation. He provided a summary of the survey's results.

C. Approval of Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering Technology

Commissioner Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the re-establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering Technology at Bluefield State College effective August 2015. This approval expires in two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Revisions to Series 17, Transferability of Credits and Grades at West Virginia State Colleges and Universities

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 17, Procedural Rule, Transferability of Credits and Grades at West Virginia Colleges and Universities, to be filed with the Secretary of State for the thirty-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Approval of Revisions to Series 21, Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to procedural rule Series 21, Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards, to be filed with the Secretary of State for the thirty-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

F. Approval of Revisions to New Series 59, Awarding Undergraduate College Credit for Prior Learning

Commissioner Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to new procedural rule Series 59, Awarding Undergraduate College Credit for Prior Learning, to be filed with the Secretary of State for the thirty-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **VIII. Success**

A. New Program Post-Audits

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, explained that Series 11, Procedural Rule, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs, provides that “all proposals approved by the Higher Education Policy Commission shall be reviewed via a post-approval audit three years after the initial approval was received.” He provided post-audit summaries of the institutional programs up for review.

B. Approval of Program Productivity Review

Commissioner Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission recommends to the respective institutional governing boards that the designated low-productivity programs be placed on probationary status in accordance with Series 10, Policy Regarding Program Review.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Report on Master’s Degree Programs

Dr. Stotler 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 submitted reports

on the viability of master's degree programs at their respective institutions. He provided summary comments on notable developments and achievements in the graduate offerings at each institution, and the number of program enrollees and graduates.

#### D. Report on Campus Safety Plans

Mr. Jim King, Director of Design and Planning, provided a summary of institutional reports submitted in compliance with the Commission's Series 54, Procedural Rule, Campus Safety Procedures. Under provisions of this rule, institutions are required to submit a copy of their emergency plan by June 30.

Additionally, Mr. King reported that to promote best practices regarding campus safety and emergency response, a second Campus Safety Summit sponsored by the Commission was held in June 2015. It addressed topics such as sexual assault and violence on campus, and the role of Title IX in protecting victims; suicide prevention, and new state legislation calling for information sharing on depression and counseling; the potential threat of communicable diseases on campus, and prevention and preparedness for disease outbreaks.

### IX. Impact

#### A. Approval of Potomac State College of West Virginia University Institutional Compact

Commissioner Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Potomac State College of West Virginia University's institutional Compact.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### B. Update on Institutional Master Plans

Dr. Neal Holly, Vice Chancellor for Policy and Planning, explained that West Virginia Code §18B-2A-4 calls for each institutional governing board to develop an institutional master plan that sets goals and priorities related to "missions, degree offerings, resource requirements, physical plant needs, personnel needs, enrollment levels, and other planning determinates" to meet the needs of the institution's area of responsibility. He stated that the Division of Policy and Planning is in the process of collecting and reviewing the master plans and will make recommendations to the Commission for campus master plan approval.

#### C. Report on Global West Virginia

Dr. Clark Egnor, Director of International Programs, explained that the

Commission established the Office of International Programs in September 2013 in order to provide leadership and support to assist the four-year institutions in the internationalization of their campuses. The primary goals include increasing the number of international students by promoting West Virginia as a study destination for international students, and increasing the number of students going abroad by establishing a statewide study abroad consortium. He provided a summary of the many exchange initiatives and agreements in progress or being discussed with other countries.

D. Update on Implementation of Senate Bill 439

Ms. Patricia Clay, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, provided a summary of Senate Bill 439, which relates to higher education personnel administration and was passed by the West Virginia Legislature in 2015. She highlighted its implementation and cost to date.

**X. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 Science and Research Spending Plans**

Commissioner Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2016 spending plans as recommended by the West Virginia Science and Research Council.

Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XI. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 WVNET Budget**

Commissioner Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2016 West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing budget.

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

**XII. Approval of Appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors**

Commissioner Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

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

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

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

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Bruce L. Berry, Chairman

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Kathy Eddy, Secretary