

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

February 3, 2017

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bruce Berry convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 a.m. in the David K. Hendrickson Conference Center of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, 2000 Union Carbide Drive, South Charleston, West Virginia. The following Commissioners were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, Michael Farrell, John Leon, Gayle Manchin, and Andrew Payne. Absent were: Michael Martirano and Clarence Pennington. Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on November 14, November 18, and December 22, 2016. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Berry welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He briefed the Commission regarding the substantial progress of its statewide initiatives such as student retention, STEM graduation, reduced student loan default rates, GEAR UP, college readiness outreach, 15 to Finish, credit transfer and articulation, the co-requisite model for developmental course delivery, and in-state retention of graduates.

Chairman Berry acknowledged the dire challenge faced by the Governor and Legislature in trying to balance the state budget. He stated that we must continue fighting for higher education, which has a huge, positive economic impact of \$2.7 billion on the state annually, supporting more than 22,000 jobs that in turn generate \$60 million in tax revenue.

Chairman Berry read a resolution honoring Dr. Neal Holly, former Vice Chancellor for Policy and Planning, who accepted a position with the Education Commission of the States in Denver, Colorado. He presented Dr. Holly with a West Virginia memento.

Chairman Berry proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to new Commissioner Gayle C. Manchin, Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Education and the Arts.

Chairman Berry announced the members of the Nominating Committee charged with recommending a slate of officers to serve from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

The Committee consists of Commissioners Jenny Allen, Kathy Eddy, and Gayle Manchin. Their recommendation will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, reported that the Commission's central office is actively working with the institutions to reduce costs by continuing to provide services in human resources, legal aid, financial aid, finance, facilities, international student recruitment, academic affairs, student counseling and college readiness, scientific research and development, and rural health workforce development and training, among others.

Chancellor Hill further reported that institutions are looking at cost-saving measures by sharing potential services and employees among campuses in the online library consortium, career services, bookstores, registrars, purchasing, faculty, grant writing and administration, facilities maintenance and planning, veterans' affairs, and information technology, among others. He stated that the Commission is working with legislators to find greater efficiencies in higher education.

Chancellor Hill stated that the Commission has been in touch with the institutions following the President's executive order regarding immigration restrictions, as the international student population is increasingly important to the campuses. He then reported on recent and upcoming Commission activities and events.

V. Council of Presidents' Report

Dr. Maria Rose, President of Fairmont State University, reported on behalf of the Council of Presidents. She stated that the Council along with Chancellor Hill met with Governor Justice's transition team. Dr. Rose stated that all institutions understand the budget difficulties and stand ready to attract businesses to the state. They are working with the West Virginia Economic Development Authority to market the state's educated work-force. In addition, the Council is discussing several ideas such as the creation of a job corps program in which students receive a tuition discount for agreeing to remain and work in the state after graduating, and businesses in turn get tax breaks for agreeing to hire a certain number of those graduates. Dr. Rose stated that the Council is seeking the lessening of regulations on public colleges, particularly on personnel requirements. She emphasized that the Council considers the Commission to be very instrumental to the public colleges and should continue to exist.

VI. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

The Council did not present a report.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Mary Beth Beller, briefed the Commission on issues of interest to faculty statewide. Dr. Beller shared the faculty's concern over the implications of the budget cuts to higher education institutions while they are committed to offering high quality programs and services. She expressed the faculty's support of the Higher Education Policy Commission and the initiatives it has created. In reply to Commissioner Farrell's inquiry regarding the faculty's input in the program review process, she stated that faculty is very involved in the evaluation of programs and helps create the reports that campus administration will access to determine the success or decline of a program.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Council did not present a report.

VII. Access

A. Presentation of 2016 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, reported that in accordance with West Virginia Code §18C-1-1e, this is the eighth annual Financial Aid Comprehensive Report, which presents data for the 2014-15 academic year. It contains descriptions of and changes to student financial aid programs, policy recommendations, and longitudinal data about recipients of state financial aid and outcomes of these recipients. Mr. Weingart highlighted the specific changes to the various programs.

B. Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Distribution Plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

Director Weingart provided an overview of the proposed distribution plan.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Distribution Plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Annual Award Amount and Summer Awards for the PROMISE Scholarship Program

Director Weingart provided an overview of the proposed awards.

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the annual award amount and summer awards for the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the proposed degree program at Shepherd University.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science program at Shepherd University for implementation in fall 2017. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Approval of the Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology

Vice Chancellor Dennison provided an overview of the proposed degree program at West Liberty University.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology program at West Liberty University, effective fall 2018. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

F. Approval of the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene

Vice Chancellor Dennison provided an overview of the proposed degree program.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene program at West Liberty University, effective fall 2017. This approval expires 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.

VIII. Success

A. Follow-up Program Review Graduation Hours

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, stated that as a result of the Program Review Report it received on November 20, 2015, the Commission requested an update on baccalaureate programs that exceeded 120 hours. Dr. Stotler identified the programs in question noting that most have been able to reduce the number of hours required for graduation. He provided a rationale for the programs that still exceed the Commission's goals.

B. Statewide College Access and Success Initiatives Report

Dr. Adam Green, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, provided a report on the several projects the Division of Student Affairs coordinates to assist students in navigating college processes and pathways. They included the College Application and Exploration Week, College Decision Day, GEAR UP Federal Grant, Veterans Education and Training 5 Star Challenge, and College Counseling Via Text Messaging.

Vice Chancellor Green introduced Mr. James "Ikie" Brooks, a junior at Marshall University studying political science. Mr. Brooks is part of the first GEAR UP cohort from Boone County, starting the program as a seventh grader in 2008. His story of accomplishment "Ikie's College Dream" appeared in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on January 12, 2017. Mr. Brooks shared his experience as a beneficiary of the GEAR UP federal grant and the dedicated staff of the Commission.

IX. Impact

A. Presentation of 2016 Higher Education Report Card

Mr. Chris Davies, Research and Policy Analyst, gave an overview of the 2016 Higher Education Report Card. He stated that higher education institutions in West Virginia followed the national trend experiencing enrollment growth during the economic recession beginning in 2008, peaking in 2011, and slowly declining as the economy recovered. Mr. Davies highlighted several topics in the Report Card such as undergraduate and graduate enrollment; undergraduate tuition and fees for in-state and out-of-state students; retention rates; graduation rates; degrees awarded by level; and degrees, by level, in Health, STEM, and STEM education.

B. Presentation of 2016 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card

Dr. Robert Walker, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, gave an overview of the 2016 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card. He highlighted various components of the Report Card such as admissions data, licensure

exam data, and student debt data from the state's three medical schools; retention data from other health professions programs; Health Sciences Service Program and Medical Student Loan Program data; and, Rural Health Initiative program profiles.

X. Approval of 2016 Institutional Compact Updates

Dr. Christopher Treadway, Research and Policy Analyst, provided a summary of the proposed action.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, approves the 2016 Institutional Compact Updates.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Report on West Virginia Business College Accreditation and Financial Issues

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, informed the Commission that due to serious concerns related to accreditation criteria, the West Virginia Business College received a notice of denial or renewal of accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. He stated that an audit conducted by Commission staff found inconsistencies related to the spending of state supported financial aid funds. As a result of this financial aid audit, the Commission will consider a recommendation on whether to allow West Virginia Business College to continue receiving state financial aid funds under the Higher Education Grant Program. Staff will conduct a comprehensive site visit of the school and will report to the Commission any action related to Series 35, Correspondence, Business, Occupational and Trade Schools.

XII. Determination of Institutional Eligibility for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

Director Weingart presented a summary of the proposed action for West Virginia Business College.

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission determines that West Virginia Business College is to be excluded from participating in the Higher Education Grant Program at the conclusion of the 2016-17 award year and that no new awards be made for the remainder of the 2016-17 award year.

Further Resolved, That this determination is subject to the regular due process and appeal as provided in Series 42.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

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

After deliberations, Commissioner Payne moved to raise from Executive Session. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

XIV. Additional Board Action and Comment

A. Approval of President Employment Agreement Addendum at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Chancellor Hill gave an overview of the proposed action.

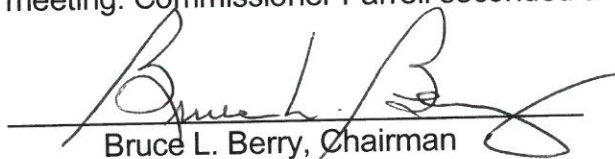
Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

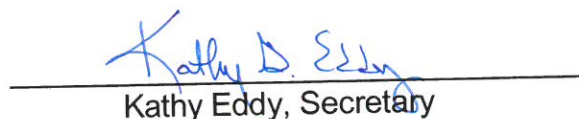
Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the President Employment Agreement Addendum as requested by the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Governors.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. Adjournment

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


Bruce L. Berry, Chairman


Kathy Eddy, Secretary