

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

March 23, 2018

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell 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 (via telephone), W. Clayton Burch (Ex-Officio), James W. Dailey, Michael J. Farrell, Diane Lewis, Dale Lowther, Steven L. Paine (Ex-Officio), and Andrew A. Payne. Commissioner Robert L. Brown (Ex-Officio) was absent. Also in attendance were Chancellor Paul L. Hill, institutional presidents, higher education staff, members of the faculty and classified staff councils, and others.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on November 8 and November 17, 2017, and January 19, 2018. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He introduced Mr. Clayton Burch, Acting Secretary of the Department of Education and the Arts, who will serve as Ex-Officio member. Chairman Farrell administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Burch.

Chairman Farrell announced the pending retirement of Chancellor Paul Hill. He praised the Chancellor for his leadership, his ability in securing grants, and his dedication to scientific endeavors. He plans to meet with the Commissioners to discuss the search process for the new Chancellor.

Chairman Farrell asked the presidents to share the effect of the legislative session on their campuses. He stated that our responsibility to the legislature is to have in place a new funding formula.

Chairman Farrell presented a revised schedule of Commission meetings for next year. He said that an additional meeting has been added to the calendar to ease the timely approval of certain items.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, introduced to the Commission new staff members Shelli Dronsfield, Director of Communications; Dr. Zornitsa Georgieva, Research and Policy Analyst; and Dr. Brandi Ettehadieh, Science and Research Education Outreach and Diversity Manager. He also introduced legislative interns Alley Ashley and Joyce Hicks, and thanked them for their hard work during the legislative session.

Chancellor Hill reflected on the recent legislative session noting the many ways in which the Commission staff responds to the requests of its constituents, specifically the Governor and his staff, legislators, and legislative committees.

Chancellor Hill reported on past and future events coordinated by the Commission staff such as the Enrollment Consulting Workshop on April 3, the Chancellor's STEM Speaker Series featuring Dr. Nina Tandon on April 19, a regional job fair at the Erma Byrd Higher Education Center on March 19, the annual Student Success Summit on July 25 and 26, and FAFSA completion workshops. Dr. Hill announced that the Commission has been awarded \$37,500 by the Lumina Foundation to develop a statewide Attainment Goal. This goal will provide a framework for the new system master plan, which will be presented to the Commission for approval later this year.

Chancellor Hill recognized Daniel Crockett, Director of Student and Educational Services, who will be retiring on March 31. He presented Mr. Crockett with a resolution recognizing his forty-year career within West Virginia higher education and presented him with a memento.

On a personal note, Chancellor Hill announced his intention to retire at the conclusion of his contract. He stated that he is fully committed to serve as long as necessary for the Commission to conduct a thorough search and to provide a smooth transition for his successor.

V. Council of Presidents' Report

Dr. Kendra Boggess, Chair of the Council of Presidents, reported that all presidents were active during the legislative session. She thanked those who supported the institutions, particularly with the guns on campuses legislation. She conveyed the presidents' relief at not experiencing budgets cut, and stated that they are working with the Governor's Office on the implementation of the 5 percent across-the-board salary increases. Dr. Boggess further stated that the presidents continue to be supportive of the Commission's proposed funding formula.

VI. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

Ms. Carrie Watters, representative to the statewide Advisory Council of

Classified Employees, thanked the Commissioners for their continued support and allowing the Council to present their concerns. She stated that the Council will continue to press the need for a unified agenda with the legislature as well as the public. Members will ask for assistance in helping secure potential funding for adequate pay increases and maintaining employee benefits. She further stated that employees are unsatisfied with the Mercer study shift from recommending a market-based system to implementing a merit-based system; the change is causing discord among several groups of employees and across the institutions. She requested that the results of the Higher Education Sustainability Study be shared with the Council as well as other information that may have an impact on classified employees. Ms. Watters affirmed the support of classified staff for their institutions and students.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Marybeth Beller, Vice Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty, reported that the Council is profoundly thankful to the Chancellor for working with the Governor to restore HERA monies allocated for faculty development. She stated that faculty shares the concerns of the presidents with recently enacted legislation allowing the presence of firearms on campuses. The Council hopes to work with the presidents over the summer break to develop security on campus.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Council did not present a report.

VII. Legislative Update

Mr. Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, provided an overview of legislative activity related to higher education. The West Virginia Legislature's 2018 regular session concluded on March 10, 2018. Mr. Turner reported that Senate Bill 284, the free community college bill, did not pass; House Bill 4015, reporting requirements for state vehicles, and House Bill 4187, allowing the possession of firearms in employer parking lots, were adopted. He stated that the higher education community was pleased with the results of the budget bill, which passed on time, and thanked staff at the Senate and House of Delegates and legislative staff at the Commission for their hard work. He stated he has already received calls from the Governor's office asking for a higher education agenda for next year's legislative session.

VIII. Access

A. Presentation of 2017 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, reported that in

accordance with West Virginia Code §18C-1-1e, 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 view of the principle sources of financial aid at West Virginia colleges and universities. This report contains descriptions of and changes to West Virginia student financial aid programs, policy recommendations for West Virginia aid programs, and longitudinal data about recipients of state financial aid and outcomes of these recipients. The data presented are for the 2015-16 academic year. Mr. Weingart highlighted specific parts of the report.

B. Approval of Fiscal Year 2019 Distribution Plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

Mr. Weingart provided an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 distribution plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Distribution Plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Mr. Weingart provided an overview of the proposed eligibility requirements, annual award amount and summer awards for the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

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

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Bachelor of Science in Adventure Recreation Management

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Adventure Recreation Management at West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Bachelor of Science in Adventure Recreation Management at West Virginia University Institute of Technology for implementation in Fall 2018. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Update on 2018 Enrollment Consulting Workshop

Dr. Adam Green, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, stated that the Commission and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical Education are partnering with Ruffalo Noel Levitz to offer a one-day Enrollment Consulting Workshop at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, West Virginia, on April 3, 2018. Topics to be explored will include the following: identify key market segments; generate sufficient demand to support enrollment goals; processing, database management and benchmarking; communication strategies; and financial aid, scholarships and yield. He invited all institutions to send representatives.

IX. Success

A. Report on Program Review

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, reported that in accordance with West Virginia Code §18B-1B-4 and §18B-2A-4 and Series 10, Procedural Rule, Policy Regarding Program Review, the institutions through their respective governing boards conducted reviews of academic programs for the 2016-17 academic year and submitted summary reports that indicated actions taken. A total of 99 programs were reviewed during this program review cycle. He summarized the actions taken.

B. Presentation of New Program Post-Approval Audits

Mr. Stotler stated 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." The reports submitted by the institutions are reviewed in relation to the original proposal approved by the Commission. He highlighted the seven post-approval audits.

X. Impact

A. Update on the West Virginia Regional Technology Park

Dr. Russell Kruzelock, CEO and Executive Director, provided an update on current developments and initiatives at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. He reported that the expansion of Jefferson Road is underway and that he believes it will help to create shovel ready projects. Responding to Chairman Farrell's question regarding the laying of fiber cable, Dr. Kruzelock replied that Alpha Technologies is setting a fiber ring in South Charleston that will increase internet availability and speed at the Park. In regards to tenant N3 Company, it has begun phase 2 of its operation. He encouraged the institutions to check if students are interested in joining the company. Dr. Kruzelock stated that there is no shortage of creativity in West Virginia and his goal for the Park is to make use of that creativity.

B. Presentation of 2017 Higher Education Report Card

Dr. Zornitsa Georgieva, College Access and Success Research and Policy Analyst, stated that West Virginia Code §18B-1D-8 statutorily mandates the West Virginia Higher Education Report Card. This annual accountability report provides year-end higher education statistics for the Commission and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education. Many of the enrollment, retention, graduation, and financial aid statistics found throughout this publication are reflective of the individual master plans approved by the Commission. This edition of the West Virginia Higher Education Report Card primarily focuses on the 2016-17 academic year.

C. Presentation of 2017 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card

Dr. Robert Walker, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, stated that pursuant to West Virginia Code §18B-16-9(c), the *2017 West Virginia Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card* was presented to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on January 8, 2018. It includes admissions data, licensure exam data, and student debt data from the state's three medical schools; graduation data from other health professions programs; Health Sciences Service Program and Medical Student Loan Program data; and, Rural Health Initiative program profiles. He summarized the data presented.

D. Approval of Revisions to Series 11, Procedural Rule, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs at Public Regional Institutions and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs

Dr. Dennison presented an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 11.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

approves revisions to Series 11, Procedural Rule, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs at the Public Regional Institutions and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs to be filed with the Secretary of State for the 30-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Approval of Institution Capital Assessments for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented an overview of the proposed approval of institution capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the adjusted institution capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Progress Report on Funding Model Research Study

Dr. Christopher Treadway, Senior Director of Research and Policy, stated that House Bill 2815, passed during the 2017 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature, called for the Commission to study the State's methods for allocating general revenue appropriations to public higher education institutions and to provide recommendations for a new funding formula to be implemented as early as Fiscal Year 2019. He proceeded to report on the progress of the funding model research study, features of the proposed funding model, and a recommended timeline for continued development and final report presentation.

Following the presentation, Commissioners engaged in discussion.

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

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

After deliberations, the Commissioners returned to open session.

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

XIV. Additional Board Action and Comment

There were no additional items or comments.

XV. Adjournment

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



Michael J. Farrell, Chairman

Andrew A. Payne, Secretary