

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

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

**November 16, 2018**

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

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission on November 16, 2018, 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 participated: Jenny Allen, (by phone); Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis; Dale Lowther, (by phone); Andrew A. Payne; and Donna L. Schulte, (by phone). Absent were Commissioners Robert L. Brown, (Ex-Officio), James W. Dailey, and Steven L. Paine, (Ex-Officio). Also in attendance were Interim Chancellor Carolyn Long; institutional presidents and their staff; higher education staff; members of the faculty, classified staff and student councils; and others.

#### **II. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Farrell welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He focused his report on the mission of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, as mandated by the West Virginia Legislature. He stated that the Commission is a think-tank that looks out for the good of the whole system while serving the individual student. It manages the ship of education with 68 staff members who do a magnificent job of providing services to the institutions, secure grants, disburse financial aid to thousands of students, and administer federal programs, these among many other functions. He asked the institutions to contact Interim Chancellor Carolyn Long if the Commission can be of further service.

#### **III. Chancellor's Report**

Ms. Carolyn Long, Interim Chancellor, reported that she attended meetings of the Board of Education; presented a flat budget to the Department of Revenue for Fiscal Year 2019, requesting \$10 million for capital projects; attended meetings of the West Virginia Climb, the Commission's attainment initiative; presented awards to WVNET staff for their years of service; and attended meetings of the WV Jobs Investment Trust Fund and the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, among others. Ms. Long additionally reported on past and upcoming events organized or attended by the Commission staff. She shared the untimely passing of recently retired staff member Daniel Crockett, commenting on his dedication and long service to higher education and, particularly, the students.

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

Dr. Kendra Boggess, Chair of the Council of Presidents, reported that the

presidents discussed the possible recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Four-Year Higher Education. She emphasized the need for the institutions to work collaboratively to better serve the students. She thanked Chancellor Long for her advocacy with the Legislature to provide capital funding to the institutions. Dr. Boggess expressed the hope that the Legislature will restore the monies that have been removed from the higher education budget.

## **V. Updates from Constituent Groups**

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

Ms. Amy Pitzer, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees, thanked the Commissioners for allowing the Council to share the concerns of statewide classified staff. She reported that the Council has been following closely the meetings of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Four-Year Higher Education. She further reported that the Council is endorsing the adoption of a recalibration methodology and funding formula for the institutions; the inclusion of the community and technical colleges in an overall permanent funding formula; and the need for the regional institutions to have an equal voice at the Blue Ribbon Commission as well as at legislative and executive levels. She asked the Commission to advocate for the employees regarding permanent funding for PEIA and expanded benefit coverage. Ms. Pitzer expressed the Council's support of the Commission, stating that the services it provides are invaluable, and that it must continue to exist in order to ensure accountability and unbiased oversight of higher education.

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

Dr. Mary Beth Beller, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty, reported that the Council continues to work with faculty statewide on the implementation of an information system based on the use of open educational resources to save students the cost of textbooks and other materials that can be accessed free of expense. She shared the names and links to several open textbook websites. Dr. Beller provided a review of an informational pamphlet she distributed to the audience entitled Building Momentum. It contained the Advisory Council of Faculty's mission and membership, its priorities for the current year, its work with the legislature, statistics regarding degree attainment and funding allocation, and the various services offered by the faculty for the betterment of the students and local communities. Dr. Beller expressed the Council's support for the work of the Commission.

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

Mr. Hunter Barclay, Chair of the Advisory Council of Students and President of the Marshall University Student Body, reported on issues of interest to the students statewide. He related that students at various institutions are spearheading projects to improve their higher education communities such as the recycling initiative at West Virginia University, the mental health awareness campaign at Concord University, food drives at Fairmont State University, and

Faculty-Student Feud at WVU at Parkersburg, among others. Mr. Barclay indicated that the cost of textbooks and other educational materials continue to be of great concern to students. He mentioned the possibility of offering incentives to faculty so they migrate from costly books to other platforms that are more affordable without sacrificing quality. Mr. Barclay stated that the Council has met to discuss the Blue Ribbon Commission on Four-Year Higher Education. It will be meeting with legislators during the upcoming legislative session to increase their awareness of higher education.

## **VI. West Virginia Regional Technology Park Report**

Dr. Russell Kruzlock, Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, briefed the Commission on activities at the Park. He reported that there are 43 buildings in use, and negotiations are underway for more land development. He mentioned that an important goal at the Park is to attract companies created by West Virginians, grown and run by West Virginians, and that they remain in West Virginia. He hopes that by the year 2020 there will be one thousand jobs at the Park. Dr. Kruzlock further reported that he and other Park officials have had successful meetings with the Department of Defense to move the Rare Earth Element project forward. They are also meeting with Department of Energy representatives to help create a rare earth element industry in West Virginia.

## **VII. Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Payne moved approval of items A to D as listed on the consent agenda. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- A. Approval of minutes from the November 7 and November 16, 2018, Higher Education Policy Commission meetings.
- B. Approval of the reappointments of Georgette George, David Hendrickson, Steve Hedrick, and Kevin DiGregorio to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors for a new three-year term ending on June 30, 2021.
- C. Approval of the 2018 Research Trust Fund Annual Report for submission to the Governor and Legislature.
- D. Approval of the Master of Science in Athletic Training at West Liberty University for full implementation in fall 2020.

## **VIII. Access**

- A. Approval of Degree Programs at Out-of-State Location

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented an overview of Fairmont State University's proposed degree programs offering.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Fairmont State University to partner with The American Campus in Mauritius, Africa to confer certain degrees.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Revisions to Series 21, Procedural Rule, Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards

Vice Chancellor Dennison provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 21.

Commissioner Lewis moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 21, Procedural Rule, Freshmen 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 Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Revisions to Series 41, Procedural Rule, Health Sciences Service Program

Ms. Laura Boone, Senior Director of Health Sciences, presented an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 41.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 41, Procedural Rule, Health Sciences Service Program, to be filed with the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Presentation of 2018 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, provided an in-depth overview of the 2018 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report. He stated that it describes changes and policy recommendations for West Virginia aid programs, and longitudinal data about recipients of state financial aid and outcomes of these recipients. The report along with its two supplements on institutional aid at public institutions, and federal aid and student loans provide a comprehensive view of the principal sources of financial aid at West Virginia colleges and universities. Mr. Weingart noted that the data presented are for

the 2016-17 academic year.

## **IX. Success**

### **A. Report on Fall 2018 Enrollment**

Dr. Chris Treadway, Senior Director of Research and Policy, presented a thorough analysis of current enrollment data collected from the Fall Census 2018 institutional submissions. The presentation included historical enrollment trends, college-going rate, fall-to-fall enrollment trends, headcount enrollment, and FTE enrollment.

### **B. Report on Program Review**

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, reported on the academic program reviews the institutions conducted during the 2017-2018 academic year. The institutions reviewed 97 programs and none were recommended for termination. He gave a summary of program enrollments and graduates, and highlighted the programs that were identified with concerns or a need for follow-up.

## **X. Approval of Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Project Priorities**

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities, presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2019 capital project priorities for approval.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the prioritized capital project list for Fiscal Year 2019 and directs staff to report the capital project priorities to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in January as statutorily required.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **XI. Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Consolidated Audit Presentation**

Vice Chancellor Magee provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2018 Consolidated Audit report.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission accepts the audited financial report for the Higher Education Fund for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **XII. Approval of Sole Record-Keeper Model for West Virginia Higher Education**

## **Retirement Plan**

Ms. Patricia Humphries, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, presented an overview of the proposed Sole Record-Keeper Model for West Virginia Higher Education Retirement Plan.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves changing plan administration for all sponsored retirement savings options of the West Virginia Higher Education Retirement Plan to a sole record-keeper model.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **XIII. Approval of West Virginia Regional Technology Park Deed Conveyance**

Ms. Candace Kraus, Interim General Counsel, provided an overview of the proposed West Virginia Regional Technology Park Deed Conveyance.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves execution of the Deed which conveys to the City of South Charleston certain roadways of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, and delegates authority to the Chancellor to approve the final documents and execute said Deed.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **XIV. Additional Board Action and Comment**

There were not additional actions items or comments offered.

## **XV. Adjournment**

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

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Michael J. Farrell, Chairman

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Diane Lewis, Secretary