

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

June 14, 2019

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission on June 14, 2019, 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 (by phone); James W. Dailey (by phone); Michael J. Farrell; Dale Lowther; Diana Lewis Jackson (by phone); Steven L. Paine; Andrew A. Payne (by phone); and Donna L. Schulte (by phone). Absent was Commissioner Robert L. Brown. Also in attendance were Interim Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker; institutional presidents and their staff; higher education staff; members of the faculty and classified staff councils; and others.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He expressed his confidence in Interim Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker and showed his gratitude for her work ethic and leadership. He went on to outline the future of the Commission, highlighting the busy summer and fall that lie ahead, including the upcoming Legislative study on education that the Commission will participate in. He closed by commending the institutions for the lowest statewide tuition increase in a number of years and emphasized that it was made possible by the Legislature's recent increase in funding for higher education.

III. Chancellor's Report

Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Interim Chancellor, thanked the Commission for their confidence. She said she is thrilled to be in a position that allows her to speak about higher education as one voice and that she looks forward to what the future holds for higher education in West Virginia. She explained the recently passed legislation, Senate Bill 673, that removes the reporting requirements for institutions as well as the benefits of the bill, but emphasized that the Commission still sets the agenda and plans to continue doing so efficiently. She went on to speak of the Commission's work in creating the P20 data system and highlighted its usefulness to institutions and the Commission. Dr. Tucker concluded by focusing on the library consortium and its work in expanding the educational resources available to students to make education more affordable. She thanked Marshall University for their work in harnessing the power of the library system in order to reach that goal.

IV. Council of Presidents' Report

Dr. Anthony Jenkins, a member of the Council of Presidents, reported that the presidents met and discussed the upcoming special legislative session. He said a campus carry bill could once again be put on the table and he expressed the presidents' desires to ensure that campuses remain free of weapons. He reported that the Council of Presidents plans to assemble a group to meet with the Legislature's education chairs to discuss important agenda items, with the goal to strengthen higher education. Dr. Jenkins finished the report by thanking the Commission for their work in creating open educational resources and said the Council of Presidents is eager to provide assistance to expand open educational resources.

Chairman Farrell commented that the Commission is dedicated to providing services to the institutions and making a difference on campuses in West Virginia. He urged the presidents to take an inventory of issues that affect their campuses and to have an ongoing dialogue with the Chancellor and her staff to enhance the services provided to them by the Commission. Chairman Farrell emphasized the importance of collaboration among institutions and prompted the presidents to share resources and ideas to make higher education stronger for everyone.

V. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

The Council did not present a report.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

The Council did not present a report.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Council did not present a report.

VI. West Virginia Regional Technology Park Report

David Bailey, Marketing and Real Estate Manager for the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, provided the Commission with an update on a new opportunity for the West Virginia Regional Technology Park as a result of the upcoming Jefferson Road project. He said park staff have been working with the Commission to improve the park. One such way of improving the park is by removing 800,000 cubic yards of earth from the park to allow for 20 acres of developable land. Mr. Bailey said the plan would result in a 7 acre site and a 13 acre site, each being shovel-ready for new developments.

VII. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Lowther moved to move item F from the consent agenda to the active agenda. Commissioner Paine seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Paine moved approval of items A to E as listed on the consent agenda. Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Revisions to Series 3, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Report Card
- C. Approval to Repeal Series 49, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Report Card
- D. Approval of Revisions to Series 41, Procedural Rule, Health Sciences Service Program
- E. Approval to Create a Statewide Working Group to Form the West Virginia Electronic Resource Consortium
- F. Approval of Annual Reauthorization of Four-Year Degree-Granting Institutions

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of reauthorization and explained that Ohio Valley University requested to be removed from consideration for reauthorization at this time.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Annual Reauthorization for Bluefield State College, Concord University, Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University; Alderson Broaddus University, Appalachian Bible College, Bethany College, Catholic Distance University, Davis and Elkins College, Future Generations University, University of Charleston, West Virginia Wesleyan College; American Public University System, Salem University, and Strayer University.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Presentation of 2020 Census on Campus

Mr. Matthew Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, spoke of the importance of the 2020 census and the role students play in the census.

IX. Approval of Reauthorization of Wheeling Jesuit University

Commissioner Paine moved to remove this item from the agenda.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Consideration of Approval of the University of Leicester and Wheeling Hospital Collaboration

Dr. Dennison explained that the University of Leicester sought permission to collaborate with Wheeling Hospital to enroll a cohort of students. Representatives of Wheeling Hospital, the University of Leicester, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Liberty University, and Marshall University were recognized to address the matter.

Commissioner Lowther moved to deny approval.

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission does not approve the University of Leicester and Wheeling Hospital collaboration.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Review of Institutional Tuition and Fees

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, provided an overview of institutional tuition and fees. He said public institutions in West Virginia averaged a 2.4 percent increase for the coming year – the lowest increase in a number of years.

XII. Review of Institutional Operating Budgets and Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Institutional Capital Budgets

Dr. Magee presented the institutional operating and capital budgets.

Commissioner Allen moved approval the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2020 institutional capital budgets.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Higher Education Policy Commission Division Operating Budgets and Higher Education Resource Allocation Projects

Dr. Magee presented the division operating budgets and Higher Education Resource Allocation projects.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2020 Division Operating Budgets and Higher Education Resource Allocation projects.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

A. Confirmation of Interim President at Glenville State College

No executive session was requested.

XV. Possible Actions Resulting from Executive Session

No executive session was requested.

XVI. Additional Board Action and Comment

There were no additional actions or comments.

XVII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Lowther moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.


Michael J. Farrell, Chairman


Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary