

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

September 27, 2019

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission on September 27, 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 participated: Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; Dale Lowther; Steven L. Paine, Ex-Officio; Andrew A. Payne (by phone); and Donna L. Schulte, (by phone). Absent were Commissioners Robert L. Brown, (Ex-Officio); and James W. Dailey. Also in attendance were Interim Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, institutional presidents and their staff, Higher Education Policy Commission 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 announced that the Bluefield State College Board of Governors selected Mr. Robin Capehart as the institution's new president.

In regards to the possibility of a 4.6 percent budget cut to state agencies, as suggested by the Governor's Office if mid-fiscal year revenues do not improve, Chairman Farrell stated that Commission staff is in contact with legislative and executive leaders to monitor how such cut will impact higher education.

Chairman Farrell praised Chancellor Tucker for working with the presidents to eliminate submission of institutional reports that can be found on their websites. He concluded by asking the presidents to suggest ways in which their institutions' reporting to the Commission can be further streamlined.

III. Chancellor's Report

Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Interim Chancellor, announced that Ms. Kristin Boggs has been hired as the Commission's new General Counsel.

Chancellor Tucker reported that as part of the Commission's goal, in partnership with the State Department of Education, to increase by 60 percent the state's postsecondary education attainment rate by year 2030, today 24 West Virginia high schools will be recognized with the Champion of College Access and Success awards.

Chancellor Tucker recognized Dr. Kendra Boggess' great work as the Chair of the institutional Council of Presidents. Dr. Boggess will be stepping down from her role

soon.

Chancellor Tucker announced the retirement of Dr. Mark Stotler as the Commission's Director of Academic Programming. The Chairman and Chancellor expressed their appreciation to Dr. Stotler for his many years of service, particularly in the field of institutional program review. Chairman Farrell noted that Dr. Stotler always stayed the course and, most importantly, he strived to keep the students as his focus. He read a resolution honoring Dr. Stotler and presented him with a memento.

IV. 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 issues affecting classified staff statewide. Ms. Pitzer elaborated on the following concerns: the need for the Job Classification Committee, established by State Code, to meet again considering the importance of its mission; the Compensation Planning Committee, established by State code, has never met and thus is not carrying out its mission; staff losing its voice at the institutional and legislative levels; identifying a permanent funding solution for PEIA, and need for institutional accountability. Ms. Pitzer reiterated the Council's support of the Higher Education Policy Commission as it provides invaluable services to the system and must continue to exist in order to ensure an unbiased oversight of higher education.

Chairman Farrell asked Ms. Pitzer to maintain continued communication with the Commission members so they are aware of staff concerns and can work on finding solutions on a regular basis.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

The Council did not present a report.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Council did not present a report.

V. Campus Report -- West Liberty University

Dr. Stephen Greiner, President of West Liberty University, reported on the state of the university. He initiated his presentation by sharing a slide of "A Sunrise on the Hilltop," where the university is located. Dr. Greiner shared some of his interactions with the campus community. He said that when asked what his vision for the university was, he replied: "to build a collective vision, our vision." Noticing that the institution did not have a graduate culture, he asked faculty to help him develop graduate programs. To increase graduate student enrollment, a new apartment building has been designated as their housing since graduate students prefer not

to live in undergraduate dorms. An issue needing immediate attention was the upgrading of a student dorm building. Realizing that the cost of the repairs would be into the millions, Dr. Greiner decided to recruit student volunteers to paint the dorm in bright colors and re-carpet it to improve its appearance. The project was completed at a cost of \$75,000. As a result of doing student surveys and listening to their ideas, new student-focused initiatives have been put in place such as the Bear Necessities Convenience Store. Other improvements are the opening of the Robinson Writing Center; the Belmont Bank Practice Facility; an indoor sports facility; and a very popular gathering place, the fire pit. Dr. Greiner reported that endowment has grown by 44 percent as a result of community involvement. He finalized his presentation by stating that for him every single day is a smile day.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Paine moved to approve the minutes of the Commission meetings held on June 5, June 14, August 2, and August 16, 2019. Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Approval of Revisions to Series 14, Procedural Rule, Holidays

Chancellor Tucker presented an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 14, Procedural Rule, Holidays.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 14, Procedural Rule, Holidays, 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.

VIII. Approval of Revisions to Series 40, Procedural Rule, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

Chancellor Tucker presented an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 40, Procedural Rule, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 40, Procedural Rule, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 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 Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Approval of Revisions to Series 54, Procedural Rule, Campus Safety Procedures

Chancellor Tucker presented an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 54, Procedural Rule, Campus Safety Procedures.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 54, Procedural Rule, Campus Safety Procedures, 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.

X. Approval of One-Year Suspension of Institutional Textbook Affordability Report

Chancellor Tucker presented an overview of the proposed one-year suspension of the Institutional Textbook Affordability Report.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission suspends, for one year, the November 1 institutional annual textbook report.

Commissioner Paine seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Approval of Revisions to Series 3, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Report Card

Dr. Christopher Treadway, Senior Director of Research and Policy, presented an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 3, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Report Card.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 3, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Report Card, to be filed with the Secretary of State and the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for further legislative action.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Approval of Series 61, Procedural Rule, Choose West Virginia Practice Program

Ms. Laura Boone, Senior Director of Health Sciences, presented an overview of

the proposed Series 61, Procedural Rule, Choose West Virginia Practice Program.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Series 61, Procedural Rule, Choose West Virginia Practice Program, 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.

XIII. Presentation of 2020 Census on Campus

Mr. Matthew Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, spoke of the importance of counting all students who attend the state's colleges and universities. The Census must be completed by April 1, 2020. He explained that due to continued losses in West Virginia's population heading into the 2020 census threaten one of the state's seats in Congress and could keep billions of dollars in federal aid from coming into West Virginia. He added that the Student Affairs Division is working with its institutional partners to raise awareness of census reporting among the students.

Vice Chancellor Turner introduced Ms. Carol Cain Bush, Mr. Donnie Tucker, and Ms. Dreama Pritt, partnership specialists for the U.S. Census Bureau, who provided a presentation titled 2020 Census: Counting Every Student Once, Only Once, and in the Right Place.

XIV. Report on Master's Degree Programs

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, reported 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 have submitted reports on the viability of master's degree programs at their respective institutions. He gave a detailed summary of the particular elements required of each program, notable developments and achievements in the graduate offerings at each institution, and a chart listing the number of program enrollees and graduates.

XV. Report on Program Review

Dr. Stotler reported that in accordance with West Virginia Code and Series 10, Policy Regarding Program Review, the institutions listed in the agenda item, through their respective governing boards, conducted academic program reviews during the 2018-2019 academic year and submitted reports indicating actions taken. Dr. Stotler stated that the institutions reviewed a total of 98 programs with 29 programs requiring follow-up reports or actions. All programs were recommended for continuation with the exception of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health at Marshall University and the Master of Science in Community

Health Promotion at West Virginia University. He provided a summary of program enrollments, number of graduates and other highlights.

XVI. Approval of Campbellsville University to Confer Degrees in West Virginia

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented an overview of the proposed request of Campbellsville University to confer degrees in West Virginia.

Commissioner Paine moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the request for Campbellsville University to offer Theology degrees in West Virginia.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVII. Approval of Cooperative Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

Vice Chancellor Dennison presented an overview of West Virginia State University's proposed request to award the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics as a cooperative degree with Ningbo University of Technology in China.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the cooperative Bachelor of Science in Mathematics program between Ningbo University of Technology in China and West Virginia State University.

Commissioner Paine seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVIII. Vision 2025 Annual Report

Dr. Jan Taylor, Director of Science and Research, presented a summary of the annual progress report required in West Virginia Code and the Strategic Plan for the State, *Vision 2025*. She explained that this report is submitted to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability. She stated that some of the goals of the plan have been met, others are underway, and some are behind. One goal that is making good progress is the research expenditure growth from our public institutions of higher education. For the most recent year that data are available, 2017, growth from 2015 was up 6.5 percent to \$210.3 million. This growth in research expenditures has resulted in West Virginia University regaining its Carnegie R1 ranking and Marshall University for the first time being recognized as a Carnegie R2 research institution.

XIX. Approval of Fiscal Year 2019 Research Trust Fund Annual Report

Dr. Taylor presented an overview of the Research Trust Fund Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2019 Research Trust Fund Annual Report and recommends submission to the Governor and the Legislature.

Commissioner Paine seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XX. Approval of Revisions to Series 26, Legislative Rule, Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, presented an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 26, Legislative Rule, Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 26, Legislative Rule, Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program, 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 Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XXI. Presentation of Champions of College Access and Success

Ms. Elizabeth Manuel, Director of Student Services, reported on the Champions of College Access and Success initiative headed by the College Foundation of West Virginia (CFWV). The Foundation recognizes high schools that successfully participate in the following three annual college-planning milestones: College Application & Exploration Week, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Campaign, and College Decision Day. She stated that each of these milestones has specific components to help college-bound students in West Virginia transition to college. Ms. Manuel introduced Mr. Keith Stewart, Principal of Westside High School in Wyoming County, who delivered remarks on behalf of his colleagues.

Ms. Manuel invited Chairman Farrell, Superintendent Paine, and Chancellor Tucker to present the first Champions of College Access and Success awards to the following high schools: Bridgeport, Cabell Midland, Fairmont Senior, Hannan, Huntington, Liberty, Martinsburg, Mingo Central, Moorefield, Paw Paw, Poca, Ravenswood, Richwood, Scott, Tug Valley, Tyler Consolidated, Valley Fayette, Van, Wahama, Webster County, Westside, Winfield, Wirt County, and Wyoming County. County superintendents, principals, and counselors accepted the awards for their high schools and participated in photo sessions.

XXII. Additional Board Action and Comment

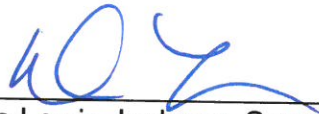
There were no additional items for approval nor comments.

XXIII. Adjournment

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



Michael J. Farrell, Chairman



Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary