

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

June 26, 2020

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission on June 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., by conference call. The following Commission members participated: Robert L. Brown, Ex-Officio; Clayton Burch, Ex-Officio; James W. Dailey; Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; Dale Lowther; Donna L. Schulte, and Andrew A. Payne. Other participants included state college and university representatives, Interim Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, and Policy Commission staff.

Chairman Farrell secured a quorum and welcomed all participants to the meeting.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell spoke of the significance the COVID19 pandemic is having on how higher education institutions conduct business. He commended the presidents and boards of governors for confronting their financial condition and working tirelessly to make sure they have a plan for the fall semester that alleviates the concerns of parents and students. He stated that the Higher Education Policy Commission stands ready to assist them in their efforts. Mr. Farrell added that Chancellor Tucker communicates weekly with the presidents, the Governor's Office and legislative members.

Chairman Farrell reported that after reviewing many applications and interviewing candidates, the Chancellor's Search Committee unanimously endorsed Interim Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker as the Policy Commission's permanent Chancellor. The chairman also reported that the West Virginia Regional Technology Park is conducting the search for its chief executive officer and that more than 90 applications have been received. Its Board of Directors is now reviewing the top tier of candidates meeting the qualifications.

Chairman Farrell asked Commissioner Clayton Burch to report on the action taken by the Nominating Committee.

A. Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers

Commissioner Burch provided the report from the Nominating Committee and recommended the following slate of officers:

Chairman: Michael J. Farrell

Vice Chairman: Andrew A. Payne
Secretary: Diane Lewis Jackson

Commissioner Dailey moved to approve the recommended officers of the Higher Education Policy Commission to serve from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. 2021 Meeting Dates

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved to approve the Commission's schedule of meetings from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, as listed in the agenda. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chancellor's Report

Interim Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker began her update by talking about the critical role all of us in higher education must play right now. She said that college campuses are places where voices are elevated, where people come together to study the wrongs of the past and set out to correct them. And that following the death of George Floyd and the well-placed outcry against race-based injustices, our institutions are taking a hard look at themselves. They are listening to their students and the communities they serve, and they are learning and growing. She added that we must commit to the same at the statewide level, not just through her words or anyone else's, but through meaningful, honest action in our daily operations. She further added that we must denounce racism and listen to our black colleagues and black students, that we have to do better. She stated: "That is my commitment, it's shared by our team, and it will be institutionalized."

Chancellor Tucker continued her report by giving details of the efforts by the Policy Commission, the Governor's Office, West Virginia National Guard, Department of Health and Human Resources, and others to help the institutions plan for the fall semester as we face the covid-19 pandemic. She added that her office is working on creative solutions to increase high-speed broadband access for our students as campuses may need to offer more courses online. She said that Commission staff is still working remotely but in-office work will be rolled-out in phases.

Chancellor Tucker proceeded to give updates on the activities of the various Policy Commission office divisions. The Division of Financial Aid just finished sending out 24,393 Higher Education Grant Program award letters and 2,873 PROMISE Scholarship award letters. The Division of Policy and Planning secured a \$75,000 grant from Ascendium to strengthen efforts to increase degree completion. The Division of Academic Affairs facilitated training for faculty through virtual sessions. The Division of Student Affairs recently coordinated College Decision Day events virtually with 41 high schools to celebrate seniors who have committed to attend college in the fall. She finished by sharing that Vice Chancellor for Finance and

Facilities Edward Magee was just recognized by the West Virginia Society of CPA's as this year's Outstanding CPA in Government.

IV. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

The Council did not present a report.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Amy Cunningham reported on behalf of the Advisory Council of Faculty. Dr. Cunningham stated that faculty members met with legislative leadership during the session to share their concerns of possible budget cuts, the increase in class sizes, elimination of programs, and reduction in staff. They discussed the funding model for higher education and the legislative response was that it will be performance-based and acceptable by the larger universities.

Dr. Cunningham stated that as they prepare for the fall semester faculty is interested in attending workshops that focus on the technological aspect of virtual teaching and asked the Policy Commission for assistance in setting-up such courses. She further stated that due to the disruption caused by the pandemic, their institutions were unable to plan events to encourage students to complete their Census 2020 questionnaire. Dr. Cunningham concluded by saying that as their students and their families, faculty are concerned about their return to campus in the fall.

Advisory Council of Students

Ms. Anna Williams, Student Body President at Marshall University, reported on behalf of the Advisory Council of Students. She shared the results of a survey sent to students regarding their concerns with the covid-19 and their campus experience. Most of the responses received were from upper classmen; the general comfort level reported was the ability to keep themselves and their families healthy. The majority of the students prefer to wear masks. They are concerned with their ability to access online courses as some may not have the quality devices required. Employment is of concern for students who finance their own education as they are being laid-off from their jobs. Students also want to enjoy social life while on campus. Ms. Williams concluded by praising the faculty for the tremendous job they did to organize online instruction with just one week to prepare.

V. Update from Council of Presidents

Dr. Mirta Martin, President of Fairmont State University and Chair of the Advisory Council of Presidents, reported that the institutions were able to put in place online

learning with minimum interruption as they faced the pandemic. The presidents are making critical decisions to ensure their institutions are safe for their students, faculty and staff. They continue to work long hours trying to find funds with diminishing funds, deciding when to bring employees back into campus, and if in phases or all at once; and as they find solutions more questions arise. Confronting this defining moment for higher education, the presidents have become partners, allies, and contributors as they try to assist one another. She emphasized that they have become friends. Dr. Martin praised Chancellor Tucker as a great advocate for the institutions before the Governor and Legislature. And, on behalf of the Council, she thanked the Higher Education Policy Commission and staff, the Governor and his staff, and the Legislature for their support of their institutions as they deal with the challenges presented by the pandemic.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Schulte moved to approve the minutes of the Higher Education Policy Commission meetings held on April 17 and May 18, 2020. Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Ascendium Foundation Grant Update

Dr. Chris Treadway, Senior Director of Research and Policy, presented an update on the Ascendium Foundation Grant. He stated that in partnership with Philanthropy West Virginia, the Commission recently applied for and received a \$750,000 grant from the Ascendium Foundation to support four projects aimed at improving the affordability and accessibility of higher education for rural students. Dr. Treadway introduced Mr. Paul Daugherty, President and CEO of Philanthropy West Virginia, and Ms. Danielle Vetter, Senior Program Officer with the Ascendium Foundation, who summarized the evolution of this unique partnership between state government and local and national philanthropy.

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

Chairman Farrell announced that the Policy Commission members decided not to meet in executive session. The following personnel items were presented for action.

A. Chancellor Search

Ms. Kristin Boggs, General Counsel, explained the terms of Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker's contract as the new permanent Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the contract to formally hire Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker as the permanent Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission for a one-year term ending on June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Presidential Compensation at Bluefield State College

Ms. Boggs provided an overview of the proposed compensation for President Robin C. Capehart.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation for Dr. Robin C. Capehart as President of Bluefield State College, as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Confirmation of Presidential Appointment and Approval of Presidential Compensation at Glenville State College

Ms. Boggs provided an overview of the proposed appointment and compensation for the president of Glenville State College.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission confirms the appointment of Dr. Mark A. Manchin as President of Glenville State College and approves his compensation as proposed by the Glenville State College Board of Governors.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Update on Efforts to Identify Efficiencies and Improve Data-Driven Decision-Making in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Dr. Treadway provided an overview and status report on a new initiative aimed at providing campus leaders with data on Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 course schedules and registrations, and consultative services to help campuses identify opportunities for improving efficiency as they develop course schedules for the Spring 2021 semester. The project is funded entirely by the Higher Education Policy Commission and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

X. Presentation of the New College-Going Rate of 2019 West Virginia Public High School Graduates

Dr. Treadway introduced the new data available through the P-20 Statewide Longitudinal Data System (P-20 SLDS), the product of a collaboration between the Higher Education Policy Commission, the West Virginia Council for Community and

Technical College Education, the West Virginia Department of Education, and Workforce West Virginia. He explained that this new methodology provides for a more efficient means of studying college-going patterns and a more accurate method for calculating the college-going rate. Dr. Treadway asked Ms. Pamela Woods, Statewide Longitudinal Education Data Project Manager, to explain the key differences between the old and new college-going rate methodologies and the notable findings from this year's analysis.

Dr. Treadway noted that the P-20 data system does not presently include data on private high school graduates. Chairman Farrell asked Policy and Planning staff to encourage private high schools to participate in the P-20. This will allow the agency to generate a rate with even greater accuracy.

XI. Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Division of Science and Research Spending Plans

Dr. Juliana Serafin, Director of Science and Research, provided an overview of the proposed fiscal year 2021 spending plans for the Division of Science and Research.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2021 spending plans as recommended by the West Virginia Science and Research Council.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Approval of Appointments to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, provided an overview of the proposed appointments to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointment of Candi Frazier and Katie Cooper to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Approval of Provisional Reauthorization of Wheeling University

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the proposed provisional reauthorization of Wheeling University. Wheeling University President Ginny Favede and Acting Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Strader were

present to answer questions.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves provisional annual reauthorization for Wheeling University.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIV. Approval of Annual Reauthorization of Four-Year Degree-Granting Institutions

Ms. Sheree Bryant, Director of Academic Programming, provided an overview of the proposed annual reauthorization of the four-year degree-granting institutions. In view of decrease in enrollment, Chairman Farrell asked that all numeric scores be sent to the members of the Higher Education Policy Commission, and to each campus Board of Governors chair and vice chair their institution's score.

Commissioner Dailey 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, Ohio Valley University, University of Charleston, West Virginia Wesleyan College; American Public University System, Salem University, and Strayer University.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. Approval of Master of Business Administration

Dr. Dennison provided an overview of the proposed Master of Business Administration as requested by Concord University.

Commissioner Schulte moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Business Administration at Concord University for implementation in August 2021. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVI. Approval of Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling

Dr. Dennison provided an overview of the proposed approval of the Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling as requested by West Liberty University.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling at West Liberty University for implementation in August 2021. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

XVII. Approval of Administrative Exemption for Shepherd University

Mr. Matthew Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, provided an overview of the proposed administrative exemption as requested by Shepherd University. Mr. Turner explained that West Virginia University, including West Virginia University Potomac State College and the West Virginia University Institute of Technology; Marshall University; and the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, which are statutorily exempted schools under §18B-1-2 of this code, are institutions of unique characteristics and their continuing inclusion as a statutorily exempted schools is confirmed. And, he further explained, no other state institution of higher education maintains exempted school status pursuant to any other provision of this code except any exempted school status designated by the Higher Education Policy Commission pursuant to this section.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission grants the exemption designation for Shepherd University based on the definition of administratively exempted school as defined in West Virginia Code §18B-1-1f(c).

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Commissioner Dailey abstained from voting due to a possible conflict of interest. Motion passed.

XVIII. Review of Institutional Tuition and Fees

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities, provided a summary of the institutional tuition and fees for the 2020-2021 academic year. He reported that the institutions' State appropriations did not increase for Fiscal Year 2021. The Higher Education price index increased 2.5 percent for 2019. The tuition and fees for all institutions did not exceed the 10 percent annual and 7 percent three-year rolling average thresholds requiring approval by the Commission. The average percent increase of tuition and fees for all institutions was 1.8 percent. Dr. Magee

presented several tables detailing the data.

XIX. Approval of Proposed Series 63, Emergency and Legislative Rules, Mental Health Loan Repayment Program

Dr. Cynthia Persily, Senior Director of Health Sciences, provided an overview of the proposed Series 63, Emergency and Legislative Rules, Mental Health Loan Repayment Program.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed Series 63, Emergency Rule, Mental Health Loan Repayment Program, to be filed with the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Lowther moved approval of the following resolution:

Further Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed Series 63, Legislative Rule, Mental Health Loan Repayment 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 Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Additional Board Action and Comments

There were no additional board action items or comments.

XI. Adjournment

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



Michael J. Farrell, Chairman



Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary