

## MINUTES

### WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

October 4, 2021

#### I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission on October 4, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., in the David K. Hendrickson Conference Center, Room 1220, Building 2000 of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, 2001 Union Carbide Drive, South Charleston, West Virginia and by Zoom videoconference and conference call. The following Commission members participated: Clayton Burch, Ex-Officio; Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio; James W. Dailey; Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; and Andrew A. Payne. Other participants included state college and university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, and Higher Education Policy Commission staff.

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

#### II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Payne thanked former chairman Michael Farrell and Chancellor Tucker for establishing successful relationships with legislators, governmental agencies, and constituencies, and maintaining the channels of communication open and transparent. He thanked Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and his staff for their work to develop a new funding formula. In addition, Chairman Payne was happy to announce the renewal of the \$24 million GEAR UP grant.

#### III. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker reported that the agency received news in the last week that its application for renewal of the GEAR UP grant was approved. She added that over the next seven years the \$24 million grant will provide extra help to more than 17,500 students in 11 counties to prepare for college and career training programs. She thanked Senators Shelley Capito and Joe Manchin and Governor Justice for their support in obtaining the grant. She also thanked Elizabeth Manuel, Senior Director of Student Services, and her team and partners who spearheaded the grant application.

Chancellor Tucker reported that as part of the Ascendium project, the Commission has started implementing the Open Educational Resources program, entitled Open Learning WV, to help offset textbook costs for students by offering faculty the opportunity to use digital course materials. She thanked Dr. Corley Dennison, now Vice Chancellor Emeritus of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Christopher Treadway for developing the program.

Further, Chancellor Tucker reported on the funding formula for higher education. She stated that at a recent working session with the presidents, there was positive

consensus as to why there is a need for identifying determining factors to fund higher education in West Virginia. The group has developed guiding principles and will continue to work on funding metrics for the plan to provide to the Legislature ahead of the 2022 regular session.

Chancellor Tucker proceeded to announce that Dr. Randall Brumfield has been selected as the new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Christopher Treadway, former Senior Director of Policy and Research, is the new Vice Chancellor for the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education. There is a search underway for the Senior Director of Research.

#### **IV. Updates from Constituent Groups**

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

Ms. Jenna Derrico, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees and an employee at West Virginia Northern Community and Technical College, provided the annual update on behalf of classified employees. Ms. Derrico focused on the following topics: campuses hiring increasing number of non-classified positions which is creating a large, un-represented class of employees with lack of employee protections; adequate funding from the Commission to conduct an external market study and collection of data; request for an update from the Chancellor on the current state of institutional policy review; adequate funding from the institutions to address inequities in employee compensation compared to each other and external markets, and to attract and retain quality employees; and support from the Commission as the Advisory Council of Classified Employees explores barriers to shared governance.

##### **B. Advisory Council of Students**

Ms. Alyssa Parks, Chair of the Advisory Council of Students and a student at Marshall University, reported on behalf of the students. Ms. Parks stated that as a newly elected Council Chair, she met with staff from the Commission to discuss the role of the Council. She further stated that the Council is promoting vaccination and proper procedures to stay healthy on campus. It is encouraging student involvement and inclusion of non-traditional students, veterans, parents, minorities and other groups in campus life. Ms. Parks stated the Council will hold a meeting in October to define its goals and objectives for the next academic year.

##### **C. Advisory Council of Faculty**

Mr. Charles Puckett, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty and faculty member at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, provided the annual update on behalf of faculty. He stated that faculty wishes to ensure that higher education is funded to develop the educated workforce needed to grow the state economy. It supports an initiative to recruit and retain global talent to West Virginia. It wishes to ensure that the changing employee health-care needs are effectively and continually met. It wishes to ensure transparent and fair employment practices such as due process protection, shared governance, and preserving tenure and

academic freedom. It supports the improvement of the state's broadband coverage. Moreover, faculty wishes to ensure that the institutions are able to regulate the safety and security of their campuses.

#### **V. Update from Council of Presidents**

Dr. Mirta Martin, President of Fairmont State University, reported on behalf of the Council of Presidents. Dr. Martin stated that the presidents continue working collaboratively on several issues. She said that they have successfully confronted the Delta variant of COVID-19 without having to close their institutions and thanked Dr. Cynthia Persily, the Commission's Senior Director of Health Sciences, for providing vaccine and other relevant information. Dr. Martin stated that the presidents have continued to work with Commission staff on developing a performance-based funding formula. Further, the presidents received a cyber-security presentation from Homeland Security staff. To end, President Martin expressed the Council's gratitude to the Chancellor and Commission members for their support of their institutions.

#### **VI. Campus Update from Concord University**

Dr. Kendra Boggess, President of Concord University, updated the Commission about the mission of Concord University and its distinguished legacy of providing quality education for generations under its motto of Come To Learn Go To Serve. She stated that this year marks the institution's 150th anniversary and celebrations will begin with Homecoming and will continue until next year's Homecoming. She spoke of life on campus; improvements to facilities; the work of the Concord University Foundation; and the various programs that assist students such as the CU Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, Laptop Lenders, and CU Veterans Club. She stated that new academic programs were implemented such as the Master's in Business Administration, which is an accelerated eight-week online course; the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies Degree in Esports; the Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Productions; the Bachelor of Science in Digital Professional Communications; CU Rise, an accelerated bachelor's program focused primarily on STEM and Psychology programs; and new health sciences and athletic programs. Dr. Boggess added that the university has arranged for undergraduate students to conduct geological research in Greenland. President Boggess finalized her presentation by thanking the Chancellor and the Commission for their support of Concord university.

#### **VII. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved to approve the minutes of the Higher Education Policy Commission meetings held on June 11 and July 19, 2021. Commissioner Burch seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **VIII. Approval of Revisions to Series 59, Procedural Rule, Awarding Undergraduate College Credit for Prior Learning, Advanced Placement Credit, and College-Level Examination Program**

Dr. Cynthia Persily, Senior Director of Health Sciences, provided information regarding the proposed revisions to Series 59, Procedural Rule, Awarding Undergraduate

College Credit for Prior Learning, Advanced Placement Credit, and College-Level Examination Program.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 59, Procedural Rule, Awarding Undergraduate College Credit for Prior Learning, Advanced Placement Credit, and College-Level Examination Program to be final filed with the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **IX. Approval of Fiscal Year 2022 WVNET Budget**

Dr. Carl Powell, Director of the West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing, provided information regarding the proposed network's budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2022 West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing budget.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **X. Approval of Appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors**

Chancellor Tucker provided information regarding the proposed appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the following appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors.

Membership ending June 30, 2023:

- **Kevin DiGregorio**, Director of the Chemical Alliance Zone
- **Michael J. Farrell, Esquire**, Farrell, White and Legg, PLLC
- **Steve Hedrick**, President and CEO of MATRIC
- **Sarah Armstrong Tucker**, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education

Membership ending June 30, 2024:

- **Georgette George**, CEO at Monarch Holdings
- **David Hendrickson**, Hendrickson & Long, PLLC
- **Diane Lewis Jackson**, Action Facilities Management, Inc.

Commissioner Burch seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XI. Confirmation of Interim Presidential Appointment and Approval of Interim Presidential Compensation**

Ms. Boggs presented information regarding the interim presidential appointment and approval of presidential compensation at West Virginia State University.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission confirms the appointment of Ericke Cage, JD, LLM as Interim President of West Virginia State University and approves his compensation as proposed by the West Virginia State University Board of Governors.

Commissioner Farrell seconded he motion. Motion passed.

**XII. Confirmation of Campus Facilities Master Development Plan Update**

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor of Finance, presented information regarding the update to West Liberty University's campus facilities master development plan.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission confirms the update to the West Liberty University Campus Facilities Master Development Plan.

Commissioner Burch seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XIII. Vision 2025: Science and Technology Annual Report**

Dr. Juliana Serafin, Director of Science and Research, reported that the West Virginia Science and Research Council completely revised its strategic plan "Vision 2025: West Virginia Science and Technology Plan", which was developed with the input of stakeholders from industry, higher education and state government. She added that the plan focuses on attracting future federal research funding and new high-tech industries to West Virginia. Dr. Serafin provided a detailed summary of the revised plan.

**XIV. Report on Master's Degree Programs**

Ms. Sheree Bryant, Director of Academic Programming, presented a report on the viability of master's degree programs at Concord University, Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University. She stated that in the past year the number of graduate programs implemented across these institutions increased by four to 37 since their initial offerings in 2004. She summarized notable achievements at each institution including number of enrollees and graduates.

**XV. New Program Post-Approval Audit**

Ms. Bryant presented a detailed post-audit summary of the Master of Education in Instructional Leadership Program at West Virginia State University. The program was approved by the Commission in 2016. The audit is mandated by Series 11, Procedural Rule, Submission of Proposals for Academic Programs at Public Regional Institutions and the Monitoring and Discontinuance of Existing Programs which states that all academic programs shall be reviewed three years after their initial approval.

**XVI. Presentation of 2021 Champions of College Access and Success**

Ms. Elizabeth Manuel, Senior Director of Student Services, reported that The Champion of College Access and Success recognition awards are presented by the Commission to select schools for their efforts to make students aware of higher education opportunities after they graduate. She added that principals, counselors and staff from 16 high schools in West Virginia are being recognized today. Ms. Manuel gave a detailed summary of the program and introduced the representatives from the "champion schools."

Commissioner Dailey asked Ms. Manuel how the information is disseminated to participants in this event. She replied that it is shared with school counselors, E-servers, and social media sites.

**XVII. Additional Board Action and Comments**

There were no additional board action items or comments.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

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



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Andrew A. Payne, Chairman



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Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary