

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

December 10, 2021

I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission on December 10, 2021, at 10:00 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; Andrew A. Payne; and Donna L. Schulte. Other participants included state college and university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, and Commission staff.

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

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Payne thanked the presidents for their hard work looking after their students with the additional support they have needed adjusting to the pandemic. He stated he is proud of our students for deciding to return to the campuses despite the challenges presented by COVID-19. Mr. Payne added that he applauds the institutions in their collaboration with the Commission staff in creating a final funding formula.

III. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker reported that as a member of the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia Board she offered to announce at this Commission meeting the winner and finalists of the Foundation's Professor of the Year Award. They were:

Winner: Dr. Stephen F. Criniti of West Liberty University
Finalists: Dr. Michael Fultz of West Virginia State University
Dan Hollis of Marshall University
Dr. Julie Reneau of Fairmont State University
Dr. Michael Smith of Bluefield State College

Chancellor Tucker congratulated the faculty members and invited Dr. Criniti to speak. She then asked Mr. Kelley Castleberry from Graystone Consulting, a Foundation board member, to speak on behalf of the Faculty Merit Foundation.

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 an update on behalf of classified employees. Ms. Derrico focused on allowing staff participation in the development of the funding formula as well as in the classification market study. She invited Commission classified staff to attend the upcoming meetings of the Council. Ms. Derrico mentioned that the Council is pleased to have good communication with the Commission and its staff.

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 the Council is working closely with Carolyn Canini, the Commission's Director of Behavioral Health Programs, in training and projects that support student mental health in all campuses. She added that upcoming Council projects include the Month of Service in March, a food-drive competition, the community clean-up campaign and other endeavors.

C. Advisory Council of Faculty

The Advisory Council of Faculty did not provide an update.

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 to work with Policy Commission staff on the creation of the performance-based funding formula. She thanked the members of the Legislature for listening to their concerns and praised Chancellor Tucker for carrying the campuses' message to the Legislature and the Governor.

President Martin conveyed to President Jerome Gilbert, who will be leaving Marshall University at the end of December, her gratitude and that of the presidents for his friendship and leadership.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Presentation of 2021 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

C. Report on Program Review

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve item A. on the consent agenda, approval of minutes of the Commission meeting held on October 4, 2021. Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Items B. and C. on the consent agenda were informational reports included with the agenda packet.

VII. Revocation of Authorization to Confer Degrees in West Virginia

This item was moved forward on the agenda to accommodate travel for Ohio Valley administrators. Dr. Randall Brumfield provided information regarding the revocation of authority for Ohio Valley University to confer degrees in West Virginia.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission revokes Ohio Valley University's authorization to confer degrees in the State of West Virginia effective June 30, 2022.

Further Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission authorizes the Chancellor to enter an order directing the steps Ohio Valley University must take to wind down its operations pending loss of its authorization, which steps shall include, but not be limited to, not accepting or enrolling new students beginning with the Spring 2022 semester; not returning any current students to campus for the Spring 2022 semester, except for students scheduled to graduate at the end of the semester who wish to return to complete their degrees; developing and executing appropriate plans related to the teach-out and/or transfer of currently enrolled students; providing transcripts and financial aid records and/or assistance to students; and any other necessary and appropriate student services.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Fiscal Year 2021 Consolidated Audit Presentation

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor of Finance, provided an overview of the fiscal year 2021 consolidated audit presentation.

Commissioner Farrell 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, 2021.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Approval of Capital Project Priorities

Ms. Noel Knille, Director of Facilities and Sustainability, gave an overview of the proposed capital project priorities.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the prioritized capital project list and directs staff to report the capital project priorities to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in January as

statutorily required.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Approval of Suspension of the Assessment Standards for the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program

Mr. Brian Weingart gave an overview of the proposed suspension of the assessment standards for the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves suspension of the college-ready assessment standards for the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars application process.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Review of 2017 Probationary Programs

Ms. Nikki Bryant provided a review of the programs that were placed on probation in 2017 for failing to meet the required standards.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission recommends the termination of twenty-two programs that fail to meet the productivity standards as provided in Series 10, Policy Regarding Program Review.

Further Resolved, That this recommendation be forwarded to the appropriate institutional governing boards for final action and that the action taken be reported to the Chancellor.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Program Productivity Review

Ms. Nikki Bryant provided an overview of the results of the biennial program productivity review.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission recommends to the respective institutional governing boards that the designated low-productivity programs be placed on probationary status in accordance with Series 10, Procedural Rule, Policy Regarding Program Review.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Report on Textbook Affordability

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of Academic Affairs, provided a report on textbook affordability. He stated that because of the focus to implement the Open Education Resources (OER) initiative to reduce the rising cost of textbooks, institutions were asked to report on their progress in this area and to report additional information on efforts to reduce textbook costs for students. Dr. Dennison summarized the results of OER at each institution.

XIV. Approval of Master of Business Administration Program

Dr. Randall Brumfield, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, gave an overview of the proposed Master of Business Administration Program at Bluefield State College.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Business Administration program at Bluefield State College, for implementation in August 2022. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. Approval of Master of Arts in Education and Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Randall Brumfield gave an overview of the proposed Master of Arts in Education and Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction degrees at Glenville State College.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Arts in Education and Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction degrees at Glenville State College, for implementation in August 2022. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the programs are not fully implemented.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVI. Approval of University Status

Dr. Randall Brumfield provided information regarding Glenville State College's request to be granted university status.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the designation of university status for Glenville State College.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVII. Additional Board Action and Comments

Chancellor Tucker paid tribute to departing Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert, thanking him for being a great partner in higher education.

XVIII. Adjournment

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



Andrew A. Payne, Chairman



Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary