

## **MINUTES**

### **WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION**

**October 11, 2022**

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission on October 11, 2022, 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: Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio; James W. Dailey; Diane Lewis Jackson; Andrew A. Payne, and David L. Roach, Ex-Officio. 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.

Chairman Payne proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to Mr. David L. Roach, the newly appointed West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools.

#### **II. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Payne thanked Commission staff for the work they have done, truly going above and beyond, to assist the former students of Ohio Valley University. He added that they have talked to the students and their families helping them with transfer of credits questions, providing letters, and more. Mr. Payne explained that due to Ohio Valley University being a private institution, the Commission's authority over it was limited. After serious issues became apparent, this Commission took the first and only action it could by removing its degree-granting authority. He added that the Commission's Executive Committee has asked Chancellor Tucker to work with the Legislature on possible changes to the law that would allow the Commission to work more directly in protecting students' transcripts.

#### **III. Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker reported that the Financial Aid Division has worked very hard to launch Salesforce, a new technology that simplifies the financial aid application process for students. She added that the system, which is now fully in place, is easy to use by students and counselors, and that with a single click the student can apply for more than one financial aid program at a time. She hopes this technology will result in even more financial aid applications.

Chancellor Tucker further reported that the Division of Student Services has organized student roundtables in which she will be meeting with students during and around College Application and Exploration Week, to be held the first week in November. She

will be traveling to schools, with special focus on those with low college-going rates, to talk to students about their thoughts regarding going to college, the barriers they are facing, and how our agency can help. Dr. Tucker added that principals and counselors will be included in the conversations.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Dailey moved to approve the minutes of the June 10 and July 29, 2022, Commission meetings. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **V. Update on International programs**

Dr. Clark Egnor, Coordinator of International Programs in the Division of Academic Affairs, provided a summary of current international student and faculty outreach support services provided by the Commission. Dr. Egnor spoke of the new U.S. Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program, a grant that the Commission facilitated in partnership with West Virginia State University and Bluefield State University. Dr. Egnor explained that increasing numbers of careers in West Virginia and around the world require familiarity with world languages and cultures, and that combined with the Commission's international efforts, this grant will empower more students, including first generation and low-income, to participate in international internships and acquire the ability to work in global teams.

#### **VI. Research Challenge Fund Annual Report**

Dr. Juliana Serafin, Senior Director of Science and Research, presented a draft report with the results of the annual projects and activities funded by the Research Challenge Fund. She explained that the Research Challenge Fund supports undergraduate and graduate students in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields with the goal of creating a highly skilled diverse workforce leading to new economic possibilities for West Virginia. Dr. Serafin stated that the final report will be submitted to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability (LOCEA).

#### **VII. Research Trust Fund Annual Report**

Dr. Serafin presented the Research Trust Fund Annual report for Fiscal Year 2022. She explained that in compliance with statutory requirements, the Science, Research, and Technology Division along with Marshall University and West Virginia University prepare a report to the Commission with the fiscal year activities within the Research Trust Fund. The report for Fiscal Year 2022 shows that Marshall University and West Virginia University continue to use the proceeds from investments of private gifts and state matching funds to provide scholarships and fellowships to undergraduate and graduate students, support prominent scholars and faculty, and support research initiatives at the universities. Dr. Serafin added that the report will be forwarded to the Governor and LOCEA by January 1, 2023.

#### **VIII. Vision 2025: Science and Technology Strategic Plan Annual Report**

Dr. Serafin presented the Vision 2025: West Virginia Science and Technology

Strategic Plan Report. She stated that according to legislative mandate, the West Virginia Science and Research Council report annually to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on progress in implementing its state science and technology strategic plan, as well as any updates to it. She explained that the strategic plan was developed to attract federal research funding and high-tech industries to West Virginia. It prioritizes these four science and technology platforms for the state, based on four research grants and workforce needs: Life Sciences, Computer and Data Science, Advanced Manufacturing, and Advanced Energy. Dr. Serafin added that the new plan has specific goals in five focus areas: STEM Talent Pipeline, Research Enterprises, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, High-Tech Companies and Stakeholder Alignment.

#### **IX. Approval of Presidential Search Procedure**

Ms. Kristin Boggs, General Counsel, presented an overview of the presidential search procedure adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors on September 13, 2022.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Presidential Search Procedure adopted by the West Liberty University Board of Governors.

Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **X. Approval of Doctor of Information Technology**

Dr. Randall Brumfield, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the proposed Doctor of Information Technology program at Alderson Broaddus University.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Alderson Broaddus University to begin offering doctorate degree programs with the implementation of the Doctor of Information Technology, effective January 2023. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **XI. Consideration of Annual Reauthorization**

Dr. Brumfield provided an overview of the proposed annual reauthorization for Wheeling University.

Commissioner Cameron moved approval of the following resolution:

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

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chancellor Tucker acknowledged Wheeling University President Ginny Favede who joined by video conference. She thanked President Favede for the University's initiative to contract with a third-party repository to protect the records of its students and alumni.

## **XII. Presentation of 2022 Champions of College Access and Success**

Ms. Elizabeth Manuel, Senior Director of Student Services, provided an overview of the Champions of College Access and Success recognition awards. Ms. Manuel explained that principals, counselors, and staff from 38 high schools across West Virginia are being recognized for their schools' efforts to make students aware of higher education opportunities after they graduate. To qualify for the award, high schools must participate in the following college-planning events during the school year: College Application and Exploration Week, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Campaign, and College Decision Day Event. The Champion schools were presented with certificates and banners and invited to a luncheon at the Culture Center.

## **XIII. Additional Board Action and Comment**

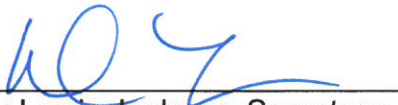
There were no additional Board actions or comments.

## **XIV. Adjournment**

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



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Andrew A. Payne, Chairman



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Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary