

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

December 16, 2022

I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission on December 16, 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, Chair of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education; James W. Dailey; Michael J. Farrell; Andrew A. Payne; David L. Roach, Ex-Officio, State Superintendent of Schools; and Donna L. Schulte. Other participants included 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 announced that due to time constraints on some of the Commissioners, the order of agenda items during the meeting would be different than what was previously distributed. He did not present a formal report.

III. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker reported that during College Application and Exploration Week, she held roundtable discussions with students at Madison Middle School, Liberty High School, and Herbert Hoover High School to learn more about their plans after graduation and how the state can best support them in reaching their goals. Chancellor Tucker added that from these meetings, she learned that dual enrollment is important to students and wants to make this issue a priority for higher education at the upcoming legislative session.

Additionally, Dr. Tucker met with the principals and guidance counselors and plans to reach out to those who are new to their schools to share ideas and work together to help students pursue their academic goals and ensure that the state's workforce remains competitive.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Roach moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022, Commission meeting. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

V. Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Audit Presentation

Mr. Robert Wallett, Interim Vice Chancellor of Finance, presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Audit. He called on Michael Jones of Clifton Larson Allen, LLP, the firm in charge of conducting the audit, to provide additional explanation or answer any questions from the members.

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, 2022.

Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VI. Approval of Lindsey Wilson College to Continue to Offer Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Programs at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

Dr. Randall Brumfield, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, presented an overview of the proposed request by Lindsey Wilson College to continue to offer baccalaureate and master's degree programs at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the request of Lindsey Wilson College to continue to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services and Counseling and a Master of Education in Human Development at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College extending through December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Approval of Doctor of Education

Vice Chancellor Brumfield presented an overview of the proposed Doctor of Education degree as requested by West Liberty University.

Commissioner Cameron moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves West Liberty University to implement the Doctor of Education, effective December 2022. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Approval of Capital Project Priorities

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

Commissioner Dailey 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 Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Approval of Interim Presidential Compensation

Ms. Kristin Boggs, General Counsel, presented an overview of the interim presidential compensation as proposed by the West Liberty University Board of Governors.

Commissioner Roach moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation contract for Dr. Cathy Monteroso as Interim President of West Liberty University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Update on West Virginia Regional Technology Park

Mr. Matthew Ballard, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park (WVRTP), presented an update on progress and projects at the 258-acre park. He stated that WVRTP is home to 25 businesses and 1,000 jobs; it now houses the National Weather Service Local Forecast Office; it hosts the Science on a Sphere exhibit; and it just opened a new wing for the nursing program at BridgeValley Community and Technical College. Additional plans are underway for land development in partnership with the City of South Charleston, the opening of a café, parking improvements and event hosting. Mr. Ballard stated that things are going well at WVRTP.

XI. Annual Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

Ms. Jenna Derrico, member of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees and an employee at West Virginia Northern Community College, provided a report on behalf of classified employees. Ms. Derrico explained the Council's mission and briefed the members on issues of importance to employees. She mentioned the lack of representation for non-classified employees as they transition from classified positions to non-classified status; delays in the market study; and permanent resolution to PEIA's funding. Ms. Derrico added that an opinion survey has been sent to staff and hope to receive them in the next few weeks.

B. Advisory Council of Students

Students Bella Griffiths and Stella Dunn reported on behalf of the Advisory Council of Students. Ms. Griffiths briefed the members regarding the Council's current activities including the Green Bandana Initiative to raise awareness of student mental health issues; working with other institutions to encourage students to be involved in their communities; collecting books for children in hospitals, hygiene products for the wellness center, and food items for the food pantries. She added that the Council is planning dinners with members of the legislature hoping to have them sponsor the campus Hunger Free Bill to aid in the elimination of food insecurity among students. She encouraged the institutions to use social media as a way to engage their students.

C. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Joel Farkas, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty and professor at WVU Parkersburg, provided an update on behalf of faculty. He explained the Council's mission and briefed the members on its activities and concerns. Dr. Farkas reported that the Council has been working on the faculty's legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative session; it is involved in promoting student health and safety; and it is advocating for the statewide expansion of broadband to aid in student success. Further, the Council has been discussing dual credit and alternative college credit options, academic freedom, the institutions' role in the state's economic development, and the issue of campus carry.

XII. Report on Fall 2022 Enrollment

Dr. Zornitsa Georgieva, Senior Director of Research, presented an analysis of current enrollment data resulting from the Fall 2022 census data collection along with a discussion of historical enrollment trends. She provided detailed information regarding headcount enrollment, fall-to-fall retention rates, college-going rate, FTE enrollment, and student subpopulation enrollment trends.

XIII. Overview of the West Virginia Student Aid Management System

Mr. Matthew Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration, reported that the Division of Financial Aid has implemented a new online portal for state financial aid. The portal allows students to create an account and apply for multiple state financial aid programs, edit their applications, track the status of their application, and view their award information. He added that the portal is powered by Salesforce and provides the Division of Financial Aid new capabilities in managing student information and providing better customer service to students.

XIV. Presentation of 2022 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report

Dr. Cynthia Persily, Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences, presented the 2022 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report. She indicated that the report includes admissions data, licensure exam data, and student debt data from the medical schools at Marshall

University, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, and West Virginia University. Additionally, it includes graduation data from other health professions programs; Health Sciences Service Program, Choose WV, Mental Health Loan Repayment Program and Medical Student Loan Program data; and, Rural Health Initiative program profiles. Dr. Persily noted that according to legislative code, the *Report* will be presented to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in 2023, and it will be posted to the Policy Commission's website.

XVI. Implementation of TIAA RetirePlus Select

Ms. Patricia Humphreys, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, provided a report on the implementation of TIAA RetirePlus Select. She explained that after meetings of the Commission's finance committee, it has agreed to move the employee retirement plans to TIAA RetirePlus Select. She added that it retains the best aspects of target date funds and includes features that may provide significant value for participants, and that including TIAA Traditional as part of each investment model will help the plan achieve its goal of providing lifetime retirement income and help employees of West Virginia higher education institutions achieve their retirement goals. Participants still will have the flexibility to choose investments, but the guided path developed for this plan will consider their age, their risk tolerance and retirement goals. Ms. Humphreys made available the brochure "Preparing Employees for New Realities of Retirement – WVHEPC October 2022."

XV. Additional Board action and Comment

There were no additional Board actions or comments.

XIV. Adjournment

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



Andrew A. Payne, Chairman



Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary