

## MINUTES

### WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

July 12, 2023

#### I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a special meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on July 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in the Ninth Floor Conference Room at 1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was also accessible by teleconference and Zoom video. The following Commission members participated: Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio, Chair of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education; James W. Dailey; James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; Andrew A. Payne; and Gail Pitchford. Other participants included representatives from Alderson Broaddus University, state college and university administrators, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Commission staff, and others.

Chairman Payne secured a quorum and gave a brief overview of the agenda.

##### A. Oath of Office

Chairman Payne administered the Oath of Office to new Commissioner Gail Pitchford and welcomed her to the Commission.

#### II. Reauthorization Application of Alderson Broaddus University

Chairman Payne provided an overview of the status of the reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University. He stated that the Commission has twice postponed the reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University to allow the institution and the Commission's staff time to gather and analyze additional financial and enrollment information for the 2023-24 academic year. He further stated that the Commission continues to be concerned about the university's financial viability and whether it can survive through the coming academic year.

Mr. Payne explained that the Commission's first concern, and statutory duty, is to protect the students who have paid to receive a quality education. He emphasized that the Commission expects to receive truthful and complete oral and written statements from those who come to testify on behalf of the institution. He stated that representatives of Alderson Broaddus University and its Board may be invited to join the Commission during executive session.

Following the chairman's remarks, Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the Commission's statutory authority for

reauthorization and the timeline of agency interactions with the University. He also explained the academic effects of a potential mid-semester closure.

Ms. Misty Price, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities, reported on the financial matters at the University.

The following representatives from Alderson Broaddus University were invited to publicly respond and answer questions:

Dr. Andrea Bucklew, Interim President  
Dr. James Owston, Provost & Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Greg Cascione, Interim Vice President for Advancement  
Ms. Carrie Bodkins, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Athletics  
Mr. James Garvin, Board Chair

### **III. Executive Session under Authority of W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4 to Discuss Licensure**

Chairman Payne entertained a motion to move to executive session.

Commissioner Farrell moved that the Higher Education Policy Commission move into executive session to discuss matters related to the reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University. Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Chairman Payne entertained a motion to rise from executive session.

Commissioner Cameron moved that the Higher Education Policy Commission rise from executive session and resume the business meeting. Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Payne stated that no action was taken during executive session. He proceeded to entertain a motion to act on the reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission provisionally reauthorizes Alderson Broaddus University.

*Further Resolved*, That the Commission authorizes the Chancellor to enter an order directing the steps Alderson Broaddus University must take to remain provisionally authorized, including, but not limited to:

- Submitting to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs appropriate plans related to the teach-out and/or transfer of currently enrolled students;

- Making arrangements to secure transcripts and financial aid records;
- Submitting monthly to the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities information showing financial performance and operational stability; and
- Provide any other information requested by the Chancellor.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **V. Adjournment**

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

*Andrew Payne*

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Andrew A. Payne, Chairman

*Diana Lewis Jackson*

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Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary