

## **MINUTES**

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

**June 27, 2025**

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

Vice Chairman Michael Farrell convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on June 27, 2025, 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 Microsoft Teams videoconference and conference call. The following Commission members participated: Michele Blatt, Ex-Officio; James Dailey; James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Diana Lewis Jackson; Andrew A. Payne; and E. Gail Pitchford. Absent was Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio. Other participants included university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, and Commission staff.

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

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

##### **A. Election of Officers**

Commissioner Dailey reported the recommendation of the Nominating Committee of the following slate of officers:

- Chair: Michael Farrell
- Vice Chair: Andrew Payne
- Secretary: E. Gail Pitchford

There being no other nominations, Vice Chairman Farrell entertained a motion to approve the slate of officers for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Dailey moved to approve the nominated candidates to serve as officers of the Higher Education Policy Commission from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

##### **B. 2026 Meeting Dates**

Commissioner Pitchford moved to approve February 26, June 12, October 2 and December 4 as the 2026 meeting dates. Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Chancellor Tucker provided a brief update. She thanked Christina Cameron for her service on the Commission, and welcomed Steve Roberts, who will serve as an ex-officio member of the Commission beginning July 1, 2025.

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

Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2025, Commission meeting. Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **V. Update from Interagency College-Going Rate Workgroup: Family Engagement Committee**

Ms. Jodi Oliveto, Senior Policy and Program Officer, provided an update on the activities of the Interagency College-Going Rate Workgroup. The Workgroup is a collaborative effort between the Commission and the West Virginia Department of Education.

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

Chancellor Tucker presented the agenda item and recommendations for reappointment beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028:

- Tim O'Neal
- Jack Rossi

Commissioner Pitchford moved approval of the following resolution:

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

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **VII. Approval to Offer Bachelor's Degree Programs**

Dr. Chris Rasmussen, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Denova moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Laurel College of Technology to begin offering bachelor's degree programs with the implementation of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing beginning Spring 2026.

This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**VIII. Approval of Institution Capital Assessments for Fiscal Year 2026**

Ms. Misty Price, Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institution capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2026 as shown in Table 2.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**IX. Review of Tuition and Fees**

Ms. Price presented the informational agenda item.

**X. Review of Fiscal Year 2026 Institutional Operating and Capital Budgets and Approval of Institutional Capital Budgets**

Ms. Price presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Pitchford moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2026 institutional capital budgets.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XI. Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Higher Education Policy Commission Division Operating Budgets and Higher Education System Initiatives**

Ms. Price presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2026 division operating budgets and Higher Education System Initiatives.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XII. WVNET Service and Support Overview**

Mr. Steven White, Executive Director of WVNET, presented the informational agenda item.

**XIII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 WVNET Budget**

Mr. White presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Denova moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2026 West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing budget.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XIV. Approval of Revisions to Commission Rules**

Mr. Joseph Jenkins, General Counsel, explained the proposed revisions to the following rules.

**A. Series 40, Procedural Rule, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action**

Commissioner Pitchford moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 40, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, to be filed with the Secretary of State for the 30-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received, that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**B. Series 41, Procedural Rule, Health Sciences Service Program**

Commissioner Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 41, Health Sciences Service Program, to be filed with the Secretary of State for the 30-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received, that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**C. Series 63, Legislative Rule, Mental Health Loan Repayment Program**

Commissioner Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 63, Mental Health Loan Repayment Program, to be filed with the Secretary of State for a 30-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, forward the rule to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for approval and further legislative action.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**D. Series 64, Legislative Rule, Administrative Exemption**

Commissioner Denova moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 64, Administrative Exemption, to be filed with the Secretary of State for a 30-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, forward the rule to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for approval and further legislative action.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XV. Approval of Repeal of Commission Rules: Series 43, Series 48, Series 51**

Mr. Jenkins explained the need to repeal the rules.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the repeal of Series 43, Purchasing Efficiencies, Series 48, Research Trust Fund Program, and Series 51, Bookstores and Textbooks.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XVI. Approval of Presidential Compensation at Concord University**

Mr. Jenkins presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation contract for Dr. Bethany Meighen as President of Concord University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XVII. Approval of Presidential Compensation at Glenville State University**

Mr. Jenkins presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation contract for Dr. Mark Manchin as President of Glenville State University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XVIII. Approval of Presidential Compensation at West Liberty University**

Mr. Jenkins presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Denova moved approval of the following resolution:

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

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XIX. Possible Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to Discuss Personnel Issues**

**A. Annual Chancellor's Evaluation**

Vice Chairman Farrell entertained a motion to move into executive session. Commissioner Pitchford moved that the Higher Education Policy Commission enter executive session to discuss personnel issues related to the Chancellor's annual evaluation. Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**XX. Additional Board Action and Comment**

Vice Chairman Farrell entertained a motion to rise from executive session.

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

Vice Chairman Farrell stated that no action was taken during the executive

session. He praised Chancellor Tucker for her leadership of the Commission.

**XXI. Adjournment**

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



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Michael J. Farrell, Chairman



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E. Gail Pitchford, Secretary