

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

September 19, 2025

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Farrell convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on September 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., 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; E. Gail Pitchford, and Steve Roberts, Ex-Officio. Other participants included university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, and Commission staff.

Chairman Farrell secured a quorum.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell welcomed everyone to the meeting and made brief remarks.

III. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Tucker provided an update on financial aid modernization efforts and recognized staff who received the Chancellor's Award of Excellence. She also introduced Briana Warner, Director of Communications for the Commission and Council.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2025, Commission meeting. Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

V. West Virginia Higher Education Retirement Plan Update

Ms. Patricia Humphries, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, provided an update on the work of the Retirement Committee and introduced Mr. Michael Sanders of CapTrust, which provides investment advisory fiduciary services for the Higher Education Retirement Plan. Mr. Sanders presented an overview of recent changes and accomplishments executed by CapTrust to better serve plan participants.

VI. Approval of Vision 2030: West Virginia Science & Technology Plan

Dr. Janet Rorrer, Senior Director for STaR Division, shared an overview of the updated plan.

Commissioner Pitchford moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Vision 2030: West Virginia Science & Technology Plan.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Approval of Lancaster Bible College to Offer Courses in West Virginia

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 Lancaster Bible College to offer college courses to students at Lodestar Mountain Inn beginning with the Fall 2025 semester. This approval expires June 30, 2026, subject to renewal.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Approval of Presidential Compensation

Mr. Joe Jenkins, General Counsel, 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. Michael Davis as President of Fairmont State University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Additional Board Action and Comment

There was no additional action or comment.

X. Adjournment

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



Michael J. Farrell, Chairman



E. Gail Pitchford, Secretary