

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

December 12, 2025

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Farrell convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on December 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., in the David K. Hendrickson Conference Center, 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: James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Diana Lewis Jackson; Andrew A. Payne; E. Gail Pitchford, and Steve Roberts, Ex-Officio. Absent were Michelle Blatt, Ex-Officio, and James Dailey. Other participants included university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, and Commission staff.

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Pitchford moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2025, Commission meeting. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell recognized Patricia Humphries, former Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, for her many years of service to higher education in West Virginia.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Tucker provided a brief update and expressed her gratitude to Patricia Humphries for her service.

V. Annual Update from Advisory Council of Students

Mr. Colin Street shared the annual update from the Advisory Council of Students.

VI. Annual Update from Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Joel Farkas provided the annual update from the Advisory Council of Faculty.

VII. West Liberty University Campus Development Plan Progress Report

Ms. Misty Price, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities, presented the information item and introduced President Tim Borchers from West Liberty University. President Borchers and staff provided an update on campus activities and plans for future improvements.

VIII. Approval of Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling

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

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves West Liberty University to offer the Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling beginning with the Fall 2026 academic term. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Presentation of 2025 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report

Ms. Amanda McCarty, Senior Director of Health Sciences, shared an overview of the report as an information item.

X. Report on Fall 2025 Enrollment

Dr. Zorrie Georgieva, Senior Director of Research, presented the Enrollment Report as an information item.

XI. Presentation of 2025 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, presented the report as an information item.

XII. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2025 Consolidated Audit

Ms. Price presented the agenda item and introduced representatives from the audit firm, CliftonLarsonAllen. The auditors shared a presentation of the audit findings.

Commissioner Roberts 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, 2025.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Approval of Revisions to Series 30, Procedural Rule, Purchasing

Mr. Joe Jenkins, General Counsel, explained the proposed revisions to the rule.

Commissioner Pitchford moved approval of the following resolution:

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

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIV. Additional Board Action and Comment

There was no additional action or comment.

XV. Adjournment

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

Michael J. Farrell

Michael J. Farrell, Chairman

E. Gail Pitchford

E. Gail Pitchford, Secretary