

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

June 12, 2026

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Farrell convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on June 12, 2026, 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, Michelle Blatt, Ex-Officio, and Steve Roberts, Ex-Officio. 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 Payne moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2026, Commission meeting. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell recognized Dr. Chris Treadway's contributions to the work of the Commission, especially in regard to the higher education funding formula, as Dr. Treadway moves into a new role as president of BridgeValley Community and Technical College.

A. Election of Officers

Commissioner Denova 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, Chairman Farrell entertained a motion to approve the slate of officers for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the nominated candidates to serve as officers of the Higher Education Policy Commission from July 1, 2026, to

June 30, 2027. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. 2027 Meeting Dates

Commissioner Payne moved to approve February 26, June 11, September 17, and December 10 as the 2027 meeting dates. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Tucker provided an update on Commission-sponsored events and student accomplishments, including the GEARUP Career Academy which brought in over 60 West Virginia businesses and 1,000 high school students. Chancellor Tucker thanked House Education Chairman Statler for sharing his time with attendees of the Student Leadership Conference. She also introduced the incoming president of Shepherd University, Dr. Cameron Wesson, who was in attendance.

Chancellor Tucker closed by recognizing the incredible work of Dr. Chris Treadway in his eleven years of dedicated service to the Commission and Council for Community and Technical College Education.

V. Approval of Appointment to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Roberts moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointment of Tammy Brown to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board.

Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VI. Approval of Lancaster Bible College to Continue Offering Courses in West Virginia

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 Lancaster Bible College to continue to offer college courses to students at Lodestar Mountain Inn in Pendleton County through June 30, 2027

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Approval of Master of Science in Engineering Technology

Dr. Rasmussen presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Bluefield State University to offer the Master of Science in Engineering Technology program 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 at that time.

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Possible Executive Session Under the Authority of W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4 to Discuss Licensure of Wheeling University

A. Approval of Provisional Reauthorization of Wheeling University

Dr. Rasmussen presented the agenda item. Chairman Farrell invited Mr. David Hendrickson, chairman of the Wheeling University Board of Trustees, to address the Commission and answer questions.

No executive session was requested.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves provisional reauthorization of Wheeling University.

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Approval of Institution Capital Assessments for Fiscal Year 2027

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

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institution capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2027 as shown in Table 2.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Review of Tuition and Fees

Ms. Price presented the information item.

XI. Review of Fiscal Year 2027 Institutional Operating and Capital Budgets and Approval of Institutional Capital Budgets

Ms. Price presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2027 institutional capital budgets.

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Higher Education Policy Commission Division Operating Budgets and Higher Education System Initiatives

Ms. Price presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2027 division operating budgets and Higher Education System Initiatives.

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 WVNET Budget

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

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2027 West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing budget.

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIV. Approval of Revisions to Commission Rules

Mr. Joe Jenkins, General Counsel, presented each of the rule revisions.

A. Series 6, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Adult Part-Time Student (HEAPS) Grant Program

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 6, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Adult Part-Time Student Grant 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 Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed

B. Series 42, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 42, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Higher Education Grant 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 Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed

C. Series 7, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-State Student Excellence (Promise) Scholarship Program

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 7, Legislative Rule, Promise Scholarship 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 Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed

D. Series 34, Legislative Rule, Medical Student Loan Program

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

approves revisions to Series 34, Legislative Rule, Medical Student Loan 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 Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed

E. Series 41, Procedural Rule, Health Sciences Service Program

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 41, Procedural Rule, Health Sciences Service 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 Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed

F. Series 63, Legislative Rule, Mental Health Loan Repayment Program

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves revisions to Series 63, Legislative Rule, 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 Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed

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

A. Annual Chancellor's Evaluation

B. Approval of Chancellor's Contract

Executive session was not requested. Mr. Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, presented the agenda items for consideration.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker's contract as proposed.

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVI. Possible Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4(9) & (12) to Discuss Matters Involving Commercial Competition and Matters Rendered Confidential by Statute Regarding the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation

Chairman Farrell entertained a motion to enter executive session.

Commissioner Pitchford moved that the Higher Education Policy Commission enter executive session to discuss matters rendered confidential by statute regarding the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed and Commissioners moved into a private meeting space.

When Commissioners returned to the regular meeting space, Chairman Farrell entertained a motion to rise from executive session.

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

Chairman Farrell stated that no action was taken during executive session.

XVII. Approval of Appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors

Chancellor Tucker presented names for consideration for appointment to the board of directors for the West Virginia Regional Technology Park.

Commissioner Roberts moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointments of

- Bill Crane
- Kevin DiGregorio
- Michael J. Farrell
- Sarah Armstrong Tucker

to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors, to terms beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVIII. Additional Board Action and Comment

XIX. Adjournment

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

Michael Joseph Farrell

Michael J. Farrell, Chairman

E. Gail Pitchford

E. Gail Pitchford, Secretary