

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

August 24, 2018

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission on August 24, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the David K. Hendrickson Conference Center of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, 2000 Union Carbide Drive, South Charleston, West Virginia. The following Commissioners were present: Jenny Allen (by phone); James W. Dailey (by phone); Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis (by phone); Dale Lowther; Andrew A. Payne; Steven L. Paine, (Ex-Officio), (by phone); and Donna L. Schulte. Absent was Commissioner Robert L. Brown (Ex-Officio). Also in attendance were Interim Chancellor Carolyn Long, institutional presidents, higher education staff, members of the faculty and classified staff councils, and others.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Payne moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on June 13, June 22, and July 10, 2018. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Farrell welcomed Commission members and the audience to the meeting. He stated that the role of higher education is alive and well in West Virginia. He clarified the purpose of the Blue Ribbon Commission, and indicated that it is exploring structural efficiencies to the higher education system but that the Legislature will make the ultimate decision regarding any proposed changes.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Ms. Carolyn Long, Interim Chancellor, thanked the Commission for her assignment as Interim Chancellor and to the staff for their willingness to work together in this new phase. She reported that she met with the presidents and some of the Board of Governors members, and appreciated their openness and candor. She attended meetings of the Jobs Investment Trust Fund Board, the WV Regional Technology Park Board, and the State Board of Education. She looks forward to partnering with the Board of Education to further collaboration between the two agencies. Ms. Long mentioned the many projects spearheaded by Commission staff and the activities in which they are participating.

V. Council of Presidents' Report

Dr. Kendra Boggess, Chair of the Council of Presidents, reported that the presidents met and discussed various issues such as the need for reduction in the workforce required to operate OASIS; the report to the Legislature on the real estate properties owned or leased by the institutions; the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission; and most importantly, the funding formula for higher education. The presidents agreed that it is imperative that all institutions be equally funded. They request that the Commission make available the original funding model and look at other funding models for guidance. Dr. Boggess asked that all presidents be allowed to be more involved in the funding dialogue.

VI. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

The Council did not present a report.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Dr. Mary Beth Beller, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty, reported that in response to a request from Chairman Farrell, the Council worked with faculty to develop an open source of materials they commonly use in the classrooms that can be shared by all faculty, in order to lower the cost of books and other resources for their students. Dr. Beller stated that the Council wrote a letter to the Blue Ribbon Commission asking that faculty be included in its deliberations. As the Blue Ribbon Commission's work progresses and no response has been received by the Council, it is asking the Policy Commission to advocate the faculty's participation. She added that the success of the Blue Ribbon Commission depends on the input of all constituencies. Chairman Farrell responded by encouraging constituencies to attend the Blue Ribbon Commission meetings. He asked that they identify themselves in advance of the meeting so that he can call on them when a pertinent issue arises.

C. Advisory Council of Students

The Council did not present a report.

VII. Access

A. Approval of Eligibility Requirements for the PROMISE Scholarship Program

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, provided an overview of the proposed eligibility requirements for the PROMISE Scholarship Program. After discussion, a motion was offered.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed eligibility requirements for the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Success

A. Report on Master's Degree Programs

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, reported that in accordance with West Virginia Code §18B-1A-6(g), Concord University, Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University have submitted reports on the viability of master's degree programs at their respective institutions. Dr. Stotler provided a summary of notable developments and achievements in the graduate offerings at each institution and a chart that lists number of program enrollees and graduates.

IX. Impact

A. Approval of System Master Plan

Dr. Zornitsa Georgieva, College Access and Success Research and Policy Analyst, presented recommendations on the proposed reauthorization of the current System Master Plan. Chairman Farrell asked Dr. Georgieva to forward the presentation to Dr. Jay Cole, who is managing the data for the Blue Ribbon Commission, so that the members are aware of the metric goals set for adoption. After discussion, a motion was offered.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves reauthorization of the current system Master Plan, "Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact." for two additional years.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Update on Statewide Attainment Goal Campaign

Dr. Christopher Treadway, Senior Director of Research and Policy, presented an overview of the Commission's new statewide campaign "West Virginia's Climb", aimed at increasing the educational attainment rate of working-age West Virginians from 31.4 percent to 60 percent by the year 2030. He indicated

that the campaign seeks to encourage collaboration among four-year colleges and universities, community and technical colleges, career and technical education centers, K-12, business and industry, government agencies and philanthropic organizations. It will also provide a framework for new college access and student success initiatives.

X. Report on Campus Safety Plans

Mr. James King, Director of Facilities and Sustainability, reported that under the provisions of Series 54, Procedural Rule, Campus Safety Procedures, each institution is required to review its emergency plans annually, and each president is to submit an update by June 30. He stated that the Commission has been actively engaged in promoting best practices regarding campus safety and emergency response since the inception of the rule in 2014. Efforts have been ongoing to strengthen partnerships among campuses and organizations such as the Red Cross, utility companies, law enforcement and local response agencies to prepare for a range of emergency circumstances by continuously updating procedures, designations and training scenarios.

XI. Report on West Liberty University Campus Facilities Plan

Mr. King reported that to comply with the Commission's June 22, 2018 request for West Liberty University to coordinate and submit a campus facilities plan in relation to the construction of its soccer field complex, it has hired the architectural firm, The Mills Group, specifically for this purpose. University officials, The Mills Group and Commission staff are assessing and compiling the data necessary to meet the recommendations in West Virginia Code, and will be ready to present a final draft of the campus facilities plan in the next six to eight months.

XII. Approval of West Liberty University Bond Issuance

Dr. Edward Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, provided an overview of the proposed bond issuance as requested by West Liberty University. After discussion, a motion was offered.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves and confirms the 2018 West Liberty University bond issuance as submitted. If the final agreement requires additional conditions, they must be presented to the Chancellor who is hereby delegated the authority to approve the final documents.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Progress Report on Funding Model Research Study

Dr. Treadway provided a summary and overview of the feedback submitted during the Funding Model Research Study public comment period, from March 23 to April 27, along with recommendations for modifications to the proposal based on public feedback. Mr. Scott Boelscher, Senior Associate with HCM Strategists post-secondary policy team, with whom the Commission has contracted to assist with the project, joined by telephone to answer any questions or concerns.

XIV. Presentation of Report from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

Dr. Treadway gave a detailed overview of the “Sustaining Public Higher Education Services in Every Region of West Virginia” study conducted by researchers with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

XV. Approval of Fiscal Year 2019 Division of Science and Research Spending Plans

Dr. Jan Taylor, Director of Science and Research, presented an overview of the proposed Science and Research spending plans for Fiscal Year 2019.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2019 spending plans as recommended by the West Virginia Science and Research Council.

Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVI. Approval of Fiscal Year 2019 WNET Budget

Mr. Matthew Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, presented an overview of the proposed budget for the West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing for Fiscal Year 2019.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2019 West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing budget.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVII. Approval of Revisions to Series 4, Procedural Rule, Rules and Administrative Procedures

Ms. Candace Kraus, Interim General Counsel, provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Series 4, Procedural Rule, Rules and Administrative Procedures.

Commissioner Payne moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 4, Procedural Rule, Rules and Administrative Procedures, to be filed with the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XVIII. Series 5, Legislative Rule, Guidelines for Governing Boards in Employing and Evaluating Presidents

Ms. Kraus provided an overview of the comments submitted during the thirty-day public comment period to the proposed revisions to Series 5, Legislative Rule, Guidelines for Governing Boards in Employing and Evaluating Presidents. The revisions are the result of House Bill 2815, passed during the 2017 Legislative Session, which removed authority of the Higher Education Policy Commission in approving the appointment and compensation of presidents at the exempted institutions. In addition, the legislation removed the requirement that the Commission approve the appointment of a president at a non-exempt institution and instead gives it the authority only to confirm an appointment. Ms. Kraus noted that these comments were not relative to the content of the rule and therefore, no additional revisions to Series 5 were made.

XIX. Series 59, Procedural Rule, Awarding Undergraduate College Credit for Prior Learning, Advanced Placement Credit, and College-Level Examination

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the comments submitted during the thirty-day public comment period to the proposed revisions to Series 59, Procedural Rule, Awarding Undergraduate College Credit for Prior Learning, Advanced Placement Credit, and College-Level Examination. He noted that these comments were not relative to the content of the rule and therefore, no additional revisions to Series 59 were made.

XX. Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to Discuss Property Issues and Pending and Potential Litigation

Commissioner Payne moved to convene in Executive Session under the authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss property issues and pending potential litigation. Commissioner Lowther seconded the motion. Motion passed.

After deliberations, the Commissioners returned to open session.

Chairman Farrell stated that no decisions were made or actions taken during Executive Session. The following issues were discussed:

- A. Consideration of matters involving or affecting the purchase, sale or lease of property, advance construction planning, the investment of public funds or other matters involving commercial competition, which if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the State or any political subdivision.
- B. Attorney-Client privileged matter which, by express provision of federal law or State statute or rule of court are rendered confidential, or which are not considered a public record within the meaning of the Freedom of Information Act as set forth in West Virginia Code Article 1, Chapter 29B.

XXI. Additional Board Action and Comment

There were no additional actions or comments.

XXII. Adjournment

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



Michael J. Farrell, Chairman



Diane Lewis, Secretary