

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

December 15, 2023

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Michael J. Farrell convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on December 15, 2023, 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 Zoom videoconference and conference call. The following Commission members participated: Michele Blatt, Ex-Officio, State Superintendent of Schools; Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio, Chair of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education; James W. Dailey; James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Andrew A. Payne; and E. Gail Pitchford. Other participants included university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, and Commission staff.

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

II. Chairman's Report

Vice Chair Farrell thanked Chancellor Tucker and Commission staff for their work to support students.

III. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Tucker made brief remarks.

IV. Annual Updates from Constituent Groups

- A. Jenna Derrico, member of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees and an employee at West Virginia Northern Community College, provided a report on behalf of classified employees.
- B. Walker Tatum, Student Body President at Marshall University, reported on behalf of the Advisory Council of Students.
- C. Eloise Elliot, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty and professor at West Virginia University, provided an update on behalf of faculty.

V. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2023 Commission meeting. Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VI. Approval of Interim Presidential Compensation

General Counsel Kristin Boggs presented the item.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation contract for Dr. Darrin Martin as Interim President of Bluefield State University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dr. Martin was invited to the podium and shared a brief update on behalf of Bluefield State University.

VII. Presentation of Campus Facilities Master Development Plan – Bluefield State University

Ms. Misty Price, Vice Chancellor for Finance, introduced the agenda item. Mr. Ron Hypes provided an update on the Allied Health Wing for Bluefield State University.

VIII. Presentation of Campus Facilities Master Development Plan – Marshall University

Vice Chancellor Price introduced the agenda item. Ms. Brandi Jacobs-Jones provided the campus update on behalf of Marshall University.

IX. Approval of Bachelor of Science in Aviation/Commercial Pilot: Fixed Wing Joint Degree

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented an overview of the proposed joint program.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the joint degree in Aviation/Commercial Pilot: Fixed Wing to be offered simultaneously by both West Liberty University and Marshall University effective August 2024.

Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Report on Fall 2023 Enrollment

Dr. Zorrie Georgieva, Senior Director of Research and Analysis, presented the enrollment report and described current trends.

XI. Presentation of 2023 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report.

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, presented an overview of the report.

XII. Approval of Extending Deadline for the Promise Scholarship Program and the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

Mr. Weingart presented an overview of the proposed deadline extensions.

Commissioner Cameron moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves extension of the deadline for the Promise Scholarship Program and the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Presentation of 2023 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report

Ms. Jordyn Reed, Administrator for the West Virginia Center for Nursing, presented an overview of the report.

XIV. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Audit

Ms. Price presented an overview of the audit findings and introduced Michael Johns of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Mr. Johns presented additional details of the audit.

Commissioner Cameron 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, 2023.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XV. Additional Board Action and Comment

There were no additional board actions or comments.

XVI. Adjournment

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

Andrew Payne

Andrew A. Payne, Chairman

Diana Lewis Jackson

Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary