

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

December 13, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission on December 13, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., by Zoom video and teleconference. The following Commission members participated: Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio; James W. Dailey; James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; Andrew A. Payne, and E. Gail Pitchford. Absent was Michele Blatt, Ex-Officio. Other participants included university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Higher Education Policy Commission staff, and others.

Chairman Payne secured a quorum.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Payne welcomed all participants to the meeting. He thanked Dr. Nemitz, President of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, for agreeing to host the Commission; however, due to weather, the meeting was held by Zoom.

III. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Tucker also thanked Dr. Nemitz and expressed regret that the Commission was not able to meet in person as originally intended.

She shared an update about the newly-convened Interagency College-Going Rate Workgroup. The workgroup is a collaboration between the West Virginia Department of Education, the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, and the Commission, and is focused on four key areas to address the state's low college-going rate.

IV. Annual Update from Advisory Council of Students

Luke Sweat, Chair of the Advisory Council of Students, presented to the Commission. He shared the group's legislative priority, a grant program designed to provide physical support to students in the form of food, medical, and hygiene items.

V. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2024 Commission meeting. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VI. Presentation of 2024 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report

Ms. Jordyn Reed, Administrator, presented the agenda item.

VII. Report on Fall 2024 Enrollment

Dr. Zorrie Georgieva, Senior Director of Research, presented the report.

VIII. Presentation of 2024 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

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

IX. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2024 Consolidated Audit

Ms. Misty Price, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities, introduced the agenda item. Christina Bowman from CliftonLarsonAllen presented the audit findings.

Commissioner Jackson 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, 2024.

Commissioner Pitchford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Approval to Offer Master's Degree Programs

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the agenda item.

Commissioner Cameron moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Davis & Elkins College to begin offering master's degree programs with the implementation of the Master of Science in Sport Management.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Approval of Presidential Compensation

Ms. Kristin Boggs, 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. Darrin Martin as President of Bluefield State

University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Additional Board Action and Comment

There was no additional action or comment by the board.

XIII. Adjournment

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

Andrew Payne

Andrew A. Payne, Chairman

Diana Lewis Jackson

Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary