1. **Call to Order**

A meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission was held on April 25, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. at the Summit Conference Center, Charleston, West Virginia. Present at the meeting were: Kay Huffman Goodwin, Elliott G. Hicks, John R. Hoblitzzell, J. Thomas Jones, Ron D. Stollings, David Stewart, and Shawn Williams. Also in attendance were Chancellor J. Michael Mullen, institutional presidents, higher education staff members, legislative staff, members of the news media and others. Absent from the meeting: Edith C. Altmeyer and Richard J. Shearer.

2. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Hicks moved approval of the minutes of the March 7, 2001 meeting of the Commission and acceptance of the March 27, 2001 meeting, April 6, 2001 meeting, April 10, 2001 meeting, and April 11, 2001 meeting. Mr. Stollings seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

3. **Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Mullen asked Vice Chancellor for Administration John Thralls and Policy Commission General Counsel Bruce Walker to brief the Commission on the outcome of the legislative Budget Digest and Senate Bill 703.

4. **Executive Committee Report**

Ms. Williams reported that the Committee met by conference call on April 10, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the agenda for the April meetings of the Policy Commission.

5. **Committee of the Whole Items**

The Commission convened into a Committee of the Whole to consider the following items:

A. **Policy on Major Substantive and Structural Changes at Institutions**

The Commission reviewed and discussed a draft policy on major substantive and structural changes at institutions. Aims McGuinness of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems gave a presentation for the Commission's consideration.

B. **Action on Institutional Compacts and Master Plans**
Mr. Jones moved that the Commission takes the following action for each of the master plans and compacts presented by the public higher education institutions:

The Commission accepted the master plan/compacts for the following institutions with an expectation that the institution will file a progress report in November 2001: Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Marshall University, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, and West Virginia University at Parkersburg. In addition, the Commission requested compact revisions in November 2002 from Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College and West Virginia University.

The Commission conditionally accepted the master plan/compacts for the following institutions who are expected to submit revised master plan/compacts in November 2001 to address any conditions raised by the Commission: Bluefield State College, Concord College, Fairmont State College, Glenville State College, Potomac State College, West Liberty State College, and West Virginia Northern Community College.

The Commission found weaknesses in the master plan/compacts for the following institutions and requested revisions before the May 30 meeting: West Virginia State College and Shepherd College.

C. Audited Financial Reports Fiscal Year 1999-2000

Representatives from the national accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, LLP reported on their findings of the financial and bond audits at each West Virginia public institution of higher education for Fiscal Year 1999-2000.

D. Request for Proposals for Targeted 653 Funds

Senate Bill 653 established funding priorities for higher education in West Virginia through the creation of three different funding categories: Independently Accredited Community and Technical College Development, Research Challenge, and State Priorities. Jim Skidmore, Vice Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education and Workforce Development, reported on the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

E. Peer Equity Report

The Chancellor reviewed a report on the allocation of peer equity and inflation pool funds, based on 1999-2000 revenue and fall 1999 FTE assuming attainment of 76.92% minimum of peer funding level over a four year period. The Commission agreed to delay action until it meets by conference call within the next two weeks.

F. Officer Nominating Committee

Chair Hoblitzell appointed the following Commission members to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee: Edith C. Altmeyer, Richard J. Shearer and Ron D. Stollings.
6. Academic Policy Committee Items

Ms. Williams reported that the Committee met at 1:30 p.m. on this date to review and make recommendations on the following agenda items:

A. Approval of Policy on Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards

Ms. Williams moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the statement, *Policy on Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards*. This approval is to be effective pending the outcome of a study of placement scores. Based on the results of the study, the policy may be revised at a future date.

Mr. Stollings seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

B. Report on Health Sciences Technology Academy

Ms. Williams reported that the Academic Policy Committee heard a report on the Health Sciences and Technology Academy from its director, Dr. Ann Chester.

C. Briefing on Senate Bill 703 Academic Issues

Ms. Williams reported that Bruce Flack, Director of Academic Affairs, and Jim Skidmore, Vice Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education and Work Force Development briefed the Committee on SB 703 issues.

7. Finance Committee Items

Mr. Jones reported that the Finance Committee met at 1:30 p.m. on this date to review and make recommendations on the following agenda items:

A. Budget Digest Policy and Individual Project Recommendations

Mr. Jones reported that the Committee discussed recommendations made to the Legislature regarding appropriations being sought by institutions for possible Budget Digest consideration, and developed policy recommendations for use in the future.

B. Student Fees and Charges for the 2001-2002 Academic Year

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission agreed to meet as soon as possible after the Interim Governing Board meeting on May 2, 2001 to review and approve student fees for the 2001-02 academic year.
C. Institutional Items from Interim Governing Board

i. Prospectus for Aerospace Center - Fairmont State College

Mr. Jones moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the prospectus for the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center Phase II Expansion and Remote Campus Site Aviation Maintenance Technical Training Network Project, and authorizes Fairmont State College to solicit expressions of interest from architectural engineering firms for planning, programming and schematic drawings for a technology center in accordance with Series 54, *Capital Project Management*.

Mr. Stollings seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

ii. Acceptance of Property for Aerospace Center - Fairmont State College

Mr. Jones moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves acquisition of 4.49 acres of land adjacent to Fairmont State College’s Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center from the Benedum Airport Authority at no cost to the College or the Policy Commission.

Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

iii. Lease/Purchase Transaction - West Virginia University

Mr. Jones moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves a resolution that authorizes West Virginia University to enter into a long-term, lease-purchase financing arrangement designed to provide for the acquisition of capital equipment.

Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

iv. Construction of a Transgenic Care Facility - West Virginia University

Mr. Jones moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission grants
the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center permission to construct a Transgenic Care Facility in renovated space in the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center.

Mr. Stollings seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

**v. Student Housing and Parking Project - Marshall University**

Mr. Jones moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the resolution presented in the agenda book which authorizes Marshall University to proceed with financing, design and construction of student housing/parking project in accordance with Series 54, *Capital Project Management*.

Kay Goodwin Huffman recused herself from discussion of the item and abstained from voting.

Mr. Stollings seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

**vi. Acceptance of Real Property - Marshall University**

Mr. Hicks moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission accepts, as a gift, the remaining undivided ownership interest in the academic portions of the Marshall University Medical Center from Cabell Huntington Hospital Inc., and authorizes the University’s president to execute the necessary legal documents to effectuate such transfer, subject to review by the Commission’s legal counsel.

Mr. Jones recused himself from discussion of the item and abstained from voting.

Mr. Stollings seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

**vii. Prospectus for Student Housing and Parking - Fairmont State College**

Mr. Jones moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the project prospectus for a new residence hall, parking and conversion of Morrow Residence Hall to office and classroom use, and authorizes Fairmont State college to proceed with the project in accordance with Series 54, *Capital Project Management*. 
Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

viii. **Survey of Capital Projects**

The Commission was updated on the progress of the Capital Projects Committee and discussed a formal process for identifying needs for capital investments and for determining priorities for such investments. A list of the Committee’s priority capital projects was reviewed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

________________________________ Chairman
John R. Hoblitzell

________________________________ Secretary
J. Thomas Jones