

## MINUTES

### HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

December 3, 2010

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairman David Hendrickson convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 a.m. in the R. Emmett Boyle Conference Center at West Liberty University in Wheeling, West Virginia. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, John Estep, Kay Goodwin, David Hendrickson, and John Leon. Absent: Bob Brown, Steven Paine, and David Tyson. Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Berry moved approval of the minutes of the meetings held on July 23, 2010, August 23, 2010, and October 5, 2010, as provided in the agenda materials. Mr. Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### 3. Introductions

Chairman Hendrickson introduced and welcomed Ms. Jenny Allen as the new member of the Commission.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Hendrickson provided a summary of accomplishments in the last year, including no tuition increases, the success of the RBA Today adult learner program, the newly implemented textbook policy, and the strides made in the areas of college access. He also expressed his enthusiasm over the addition of the West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park.

Chairman Hendrickson presented a resolution on behalf of the Commission to Dr. Bruce Flack for his exemplary service to the state's higher education system.

#### 5. Chancellor's Report

Dr. Brian Noland, Chancellor, thanked Mr. Robin Capehart, President of West Liberty University for hosting the Commission. Chancellor Noland commended West Liberty for record enrollment, the Highlands Center, and for the new science center to be developed in the next two years.

Chancellor Noland provided an overview of recent activities of the Commission,

including the receipt of record amounts of federal funding for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and record enrollment numbers at institutions across the state. He also urged that additional means of completion be implemented in the coming year.

## **6. Annual Reports from Constituent Groups**

### **A. Advisory Council of Faculty**

Dr. Betty Dennison, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF), and Associate Professor of English at Mountwest Community and Technical College, provided an introduction of fellow ACF members and indicated Dr. Roy Nutter and Dr. Eric Root would actively participate in the discussion on behalf of the ACF.

Dr. Dennison reviewed the activities of the ACF in the past year and discussed "Achieving the Future in 2011," a brochure compiled by the Council.

Dr. Dennison discussed the high percentage of developmental courses offered at all of the institutions and suggested that students are less ready to graduate than they have been previously. She mentioned that special services need to be implemented to assist with student retention and suggested that development courses be renamed as "refresher" courses. Chairman Hendrickson inquired if faculty had suggestions to improve student retention and encouraged the ACF to continue to work on retention issues on campus.

Chairman Hendrickson and members of the Commission thanked the group for the annual report.

### **B. Advisory Council of Classified Employees**

Mr. Mike Dunn, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE), provided an introduction of fellow ACCE members. Mr. Dunn reviewed the ACCE's presentation, A Winning Strategy for West Virginia Higher Education System, Employees and Students.

Mr. Dunn stated that personnel are vitally important in the retention of students and suggested that social circumstances also be examined when determining why students are not retained.

Chancellor Noland inquired as to the volume of attrition that has occurred due to the salary pressures. ACCE representatives reported that this has caused a reduction in the number of positions available at some institutions. Mr. Jared Tice, West Virginia Northern Community College, mentioned that some classified employees' annual incomes place them below the poverty level.

Chairman Hendrickson and members of the Commission thanked the group for the annual report.

### **C. Advisory Council of Students**

Mr. Joshua Lawson, Chair of the Advisory Council of Students (ACS), and student at Concord University, provided an introduction of fellow ACS members and provided an overview of student concerns, including retention rates, textbook costs, and academic honesty. Mr. Lawson mentioned that the ACS is concerned that retention rates drop after refund checks are distributed, as some students stay enrolled long enough to receive their refund and then drop out, and asked if there is a way to limit funds that are returned to students. The ACS also indicated concern about textbook costs and the trend of paying nearly equal amounts for tuition and textbooks each semester. Chairman Hendrickson asked how many campuses have policies in place where students can rent textbooks and requested that colleges who have renting policies send data to the Commission once it is available.

Mr. Lawson mentioned that retention rates across the state are low and that the ACS felt that students could be better utilized to assist. He cited Concord's University 100 class, in which freshmen students can interact with select upperclassmen who are involved in the course to help familiarize new students with the college. Chairman Hendrickson suggested that a student mentor program be started at each college. He then charged that the ACS be formally involved in the retention efforts on campus and asked that Mr. Lawson develop a plan to assist with retention rates. He asked that the plan be formally presented to the Commission at the May meeting.

Chairman Hendrickson and members of the Commission thanked the group for the annual report.

## **7. Access**

### **A. Fall 2010 Enrollment Report**

Mr. Rob Anderson, Senior Director of Policy and Planning, presented a report that examined enrollment trends within West Virginia from an institutional and system perspective. Mr. Anderson noted that headcount enrollment was at an all-time high for the fall 2010 semester.

### **B. Update on College Access Challenge Grant Funds**

Dr. Adam Green, Director of Student Success and P-20 Initiatives, provided an update on College Access Challenge Grant funds. Dr. Green reviewed the funding plan of the College Foundation of West Virginia (CFWV). To date, 46,000 accounts have been created.

### **C. 2010 Financial Aid Comprehensive Report**

Dr. Angela Bell, Research and Planning Analyst, provided an overview of the report and discussed the growth in financial aid during the last four years. Highlights of the state-level programs were reviewed by Dr. Bell.

Dr. Bell reported that no changes were recommended for the PROMISE Scholarship Program. Dr. Leon inquired about the possibility of having PROMISE recipients “pay back the state” by staying and working in West Virginia for two years upon their graduation. Chairman Hendrickson recommended that the idea of obligatory internships for PROMISE recipients be examined and findings reported to the Commission during the summer quarterly board meeting.

### **D. Net Price Calculator**

Dr. Kevin Walthers, Vice Chancellor for Administration, provided an overview of the Net Price Calculator, which is required by the Federal Higher Education Opportunity Act to be provided students and parents by the institutions in the interest of transparency regarding college costs. Dr. Walthers introduced Brian Hoover and Candace Frazier of West Virginia University who demonstrated the Net Price Calculator that is utilized at West Virginia University. The template for the calculator is already in place, but each institution can customize their own. Dr. Walthers encouraged institutions to place the calculator online near the front of the school’s website.

## **8. Cost and Affordability**

### **A. Legislative Auditor Departmental Review of Higher Education Policy Commission**

Chancellor Noland provided a summary of the Higher Education Policy Commission and Council for Community and Technical College Education Legislative Performance Review Audit. Chancellor Noland described the purpose of the performance review and explained some of the findings including the rule on transitional fees and the cost management plan of institutions. He also cited the affordability of higher education in West Virginia and reviewed the general funding environment.

### **B. Approval of 2010 Series Higher Education Policy Commission Revenue Bonds**

Mr. Richard Donovan, Chief Financial Officer distributed the updated Bond resolution and discussed the process for determining the projects to be funded from the bond issue.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fifth Consolidated Supplemental Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$90 million in State of West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Revenue Bonds (Higher Education Facilities) 2010 Series.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **C. Approval of Fiscal Year 2012 Capital Projects**

Mr. Donovan presented the prioritized list of high priority capital projects addressing Educational and General (E&G) deferred maintenance and code compliance projects.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the prioritized capital project lists in Table 1 for Fiscal Year 2012 and directs the staff to report the capital project priorities to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability as required by state law.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **9. Learning and Accountability**

### **A. Chancellor's Diversity Initiative**

Dr. Jacob Gross, Research and Planning Analyst, and Dr. Brittan Hallar, Post Doctoral Research Assistant, provided updates on the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative. Dr. Hallar discussed the work of the Council which was established as a steering body and consists of educational, business, community, and philanthropic representatives from across the state, as well as national experts.

Dr. Gross reviewed the draft recommendations which included the appointment of a diversity coordinator who would oversee, direct, and further the goals of the initiative. It was also recommended that Campus and Community Teams based in each institution serve as the conduit between the Commission and each campus and community, and that a standing Diversity Council would advise the Commission regarding the implementation of current recommendations and long-term strategies.

Drs. Gross and Hallar will present a full report at the January Commission meeting.

## **B. Approval of Master of Education in Multicultural Instructional Leadership**

Dr. Kathy Butler, Special Assistant to the Chancellor, reviewed the goals of the Master of Education in Multicultural Instructional Leadership at West Virginia State University.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Education in Multicultural Instructional Leadership to be implemented at West Virginia State University, effective August 2011.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **C. Approval of Authorization of National College to Operate in Parkersburg, West Virginia**

Dr. Bruce Flack, Director of Academic Affairs, presented a request from the National College to establish a campus in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He reviewed the proposal submitted by the institution to offer two baccalaureate degrees in business administration and six associate degrees.

Dr. Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the request of National College to open a campus in Parkersburg, West Virginia and to commence offering of degree and diploma programs in 2011, with baccalaureate degree programs limited to Bachelor of Business Administration – Management and Health Care Management.

Approval of authorization is also contingent upon National College filing with the Commission the list of Parkersburg Campus faculty with degrees held prior to its operation in Parkersburg.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **D. Approval of Series 20, Authorization of Degree-Granting Institutions**

Dr. Flack summarized the changes to the proposed rule after the public comment period. He reported that no written comments were received, only verbal comments were submitted.

Dr. Leon moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Series 20, Authorization of Degree Granting Institutions, as revised, for submission to the Secretary of State and to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for further legislative action.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **E. Approval of West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Revised Mission Statement**

Dr. Flack presented the revised mission statement for the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revised mission statement of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **F. Report on Institutional Program Review**

Dr. Mark Stotler, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, provided a report on the annual institutional program review process. Dr. Stotler commented that a total of 86 programs system wide, were reviewed during this process, with 19 programs identified for corrective action or submission of a follow up report. Two were identified for further development and no programs were targeted for termination. Dr. Stotler reported that five programs at West Virginia University were designated as a program of excellence.

### **10. Innovation**

#### **A. Division of Science and Research Annual Report**

Dr. Paul Hill, Vice Chancellor for Science and Research, presented the Division of Science and Research Annual Report which includes a broad overview of programs. Dr. Hill discussed highlights of the state's Research Trust Fund; Research Challenge Fund; and Eminent Scholars Recruitment and Enhancement Initiative. Dr. Hill also provided updates on the progress made under the 2006 National Science Foundation Research Infrastructure Improvement Awards through EPSCoR, grant summaries, and financial information.

## **B. Research Trust Fund Annual Report**

Dr. Hill provided a summary of the Research Trust Fund Annual Report. The report provided an overview of the most up-to-date figures of the State's account; monies drawn down by Marshall University and West Virginia University; gifts received; endowments established; and, reports from the two universities. The report also included information on the fund's interest account, which supports competitive research opportunities for the state's other four-year institutions.

Chairman Hendrickson asked why more money cannot be made from investments and asked that the issue be taken up with the Legislature and made a top priority. Dr. Leon inquired as to what is being invested in.

## **C. West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park**

Dr. Hill presented updates of the West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park (WVERTP). He highlighted the findings of the comprehensive report completed by Battelle Memorial Institute including recommendations offered regarding the park.

## **11. Additional Board Action and Comment**

### **A. Approval of West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Presidential Search Process**

Mr. Bruce Walker, General Counsel, provided an overview of the presidential search procedures adopted by the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Governors.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Presidential Search Procedure adopted by the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Governors.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **B. Approval of Presidential Contract and Compensation Package**

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation increase and extension of President Krepel's contract as requested by the Fairmont State University Board of Governors.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**12. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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David K. Hendrickson

Chairman

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Kathy Eddy

Secretary