

MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

April 26, 2013

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Hendrickson convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:30 AM in the Erickson Alumni Center on the campus of West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, John Estep, David Hendrickson, John Leon, James Phares, and David Tyson. Absent: Bob Brown and Kay Goodwin. Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Estep moved approval of the minutes of the meetings held on January 23, 2013 and February 1, 2013 as provided in the agenda materials. Mr. Tyson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Chairman's Report

A. Formation of a Nominating Committee

Chairman Hendrickson announced the formation of a Nominating Committee consisting of Commissioners Estep and Leon with Secretary Goodwin as Chair. Chairman Hendrickson indicated that the Nominating Committee will meet and recommend a slate of officers for consideration by the full Commission during a special meeting to be held in June.

B. 2014 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Hendrickson announced the 2014 meeting dates as follows: Thursday, February 20, 2014 at West Virginia State University; Friday, April 25, 2014 at Fairmont State University; Friday, August 1, 2014 in Charleston; and Friday, November 21, 2014 at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Chairman Hendrickson noted that Ashley Schumaker, Senior Director of Board and Public Relations, will distribute the schedule to members of the Commission, institutional representatives, and the general public. The schedule will also be posted on the Commission's website.

C. Interim Reports from Constituent Groups

1. Message from the Advisory Council of Students

Chairman Hendrickson indicated that Adam Fridley, Chair of the Advisory Council of Students (ACS), was not able to attend the Commission meeting due to preparing for the close of the Spring semester and, therefore, the Advisory Council of Students did not provide an update.

2. Advisory Council of Faculty

Chairman Hendrickson introduced Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF). Dr. Shurbutt thanked Chairman Hendrickson for his leadership and collaborations with faculty. Dr. Shurbutt discussed the importance of the adoption of a new paradigm for higher education with a Pre-K through 20 approach to better prepare West Virginia students to meet the needs of the current economy.

3. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

Chairman Hendrickson indicated that Amy Pitzer, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE) was not able to attend the Commission meeting due to preparing for the close of the Spring semester and, therefore, the Advisory Council of Classified Employees did not provide an update.

4. West Virginia University Institute of Technology Update

Chairman Hendrickson introduced Carolyn Long, Chief Executive Officer at West Virginia University Institute of Technology, who provided a campus update. Ms. Long thanked Chairman Hendrickson, Chancellor Paul Hill, and members of the Commission for their support of the institution and indicated that 118 students were anticipated to graduate during the Spring 2013 Commencement. Ms. Long noted that the institution is anticipating increases in both overall enrollment and retention. Ms. Long discussed various campus updates including renovations to campus infrastructure and the addition of Wi-Fi capabilities in all residence halls and classrooms.

4. Special Recognition

1. Commissioner John Estep

Chairman Hendrickson presented a resolution and Blenko vase to Commissioner Estep for his contributions as a member of the Commission.

Commissioner Estep noted that he was honored to serve on the Commission and commended members of the Commission, Chancellor Hill, and staff for advancements that have been made across the state's higher education system.

2. Commissioner David Tyson

Chairman Hendrickson presented a resolution and Blenko vase to Commissioner Tyson for his contributions, both as former Chairman and as a member of the Commission.

Commissioner Tyson thanked Chairman Hendrickson, Chancellor Hill, members of the Commission, and staff for the opportunity to serve the faculty, staff, and students in West Virginia.

3. Closing Remarks

Vice Chairman Bruce Berry presented a resolution and Blenko vase to Chairman Hendrickson for his contributions as Chairman of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission from 2009-2013.

Chairman Hendrickson thanked the members of the Commission, Chancellor Hill, and staff for their dedication to the faculty, staff, and – most importantly – the students of West Virginia. He commended the work that has been done to advance the state's higher education system and urged that efforts be refocused regarding financial need and graduation rates.

4. Concord University President Gregory Aloia

Chancellor Hill highlighted President Aloia's contributions to Concord University and the State of West Virginia and thanked him for his service. Chancellor Hill advised that a resolution has been prepared and will be presented to President Aloia at a later date in honor of his exemplary service.

5. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Hill discussed statewide commencement activities and noted that more than 10,000 students are slated to receive a degree at the conclusion of the Spring 2013 semester.

Chancellor Hill reviewed the distribution and implementation of the 2013-2018 Master Plan, *Leading the Way: Access. Success. Impact.*, noting that the Master Plan was granted final approval as part of the February 1, 2013 Commission meeting and was approved by the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for full implementation. Chancellor Hill indicated that the plan focuses on access, success, and impact, with a central goal of producing 20,000

additional graduates over current degree production by 2018.

Chancellor Hill provided updates regarding several on-going initiatives including: international education, the Beckley Center, and the search for an Executive Director of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. Chancellor Hill also provided an overview of the regular session of the West Virginia Legislature which included an extended session for the budget and a special session. Chancellor Hill provided highlights of the session including: a requirement for a veteran advocate at all public higher education institutions; comprehensive education reform to increase the level of collaboration between the Commission and the West Virginia Department of Education; and the Commission's oversight and administration of the West Virginia Center for Nursing.

6. Assessment

A. Review and Analysis of the Class of 2012 High School Senior Opinions Survey

Dr. Sarah Tucker, Director of Planning and Research, and Mr. Chris Davies, Research Fellow, provided an overview of the Class of 2012 High School Senior Opinions Survey. The Class of 2012 High School Senior Opinions Survey was designed to be representative of the seniors enrolled in public high schools in 2012 and utilized data from 51 of the 115 high schools across the state. The survey was designed as an evaluation tool for the state's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant, which provides educational services to help students plan, apply, and pay for college. The survey asked students a series of questions regarding high school experiences and plans after graduation.

Mr. Davies noted the survey focused on five key areas: academic preparation in high school, sources of college information, financial aid awareness, collegiate plans, and college decisions. Mr. Davies indicated that the survey was distributed to 8,513 seniors and that 4,409 valid surveys were received, resulting in a 51.8 percent response rate.

As part of the presentation, Dr. Tucker noted that West Virginia is ranked 45th in the nation in regards to tuition rates.

Dr. Leon inquired if the increased knowledge of GEAR UP translates into an increase in the college-going rate. Dr. Tucker indicated that staff is working to determine that information.

B. Overview of Rural Definition

Ms. Laura Boone, Director of Health Science Programs, reviewed the official definition of the word "rural" as it relates to rural health program activities. Ms. Boone noted that the new definition utilizes the Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes developed by the federal Health Resources and Services

Administration. Each zip code in West Virginia is assigned its own score on a scale of one through 10. Under this definition, rural is any zip code with a RUCA code of four or higher.

C. Approval of Bachelor of Science in Nursing at West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Dr. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, presented a proposal from West Virginia University at Parkersburg to implement a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The degree program is a 120 credit-hour course of study. Dr. Stotler noted that a specific need has been identified in Wood County for 80 percent of all nurses within the hospital to hold a bachelor degree in nursing. Currently, the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses available in the area will not meet the workforce demand.

Dr. Stotler indicated that the program will be subject to a post-audit review conducted by the Commission during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Bachelor of Science in Nursing to be implemented at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, effective August 2013, contingent upon approval by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

Further Resolved, That this approval expires in August 2015 if the program is not fully implemented at that time.

Mr. Tyson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

7. Collaboration

A. Approval of Reciprocity Agreement Between West Virginia and Maryland

Dr. Stotler provided an overview of a request from West Virginia University to renew an agreement, originally signed in 1979, with the State of Maryland for an additional three years, extending through June 30, 2016. Dr. Stotler stated that, according to the agreement, Garrett College, located in Maryland, will accept up to 125 full-time equivalent (FTE) students per fiscal year from various West Virginia counties for enrollment in a select number of certificate and associate degree programs offered at the institution. Dr. Stotler noted that, in exchange, West Virginia University will enroll Garrett College graduates at the main campus in Morgantown and at Potomac State College of West Virginia University in Keyser in degree programs not offered at Frostburg State University, also located in Maryland.

Mr. Tyson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the reciprocity agreement between West Virginia University and Garrett College until June 30, 2016.

Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Reciprocity Agreement Between West Virginia and Ohio

Dr. Stotler provided an overview of a request from West Virginia University to renew an agreement, originally signed in 1985, with the State of Ohio, through June 30, 2015. The agreement provides an opportunity for qualified non-resident students to enroll on a resident tuition and fee charge basis and involves West Virginia University, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, West Virginia Northern Community College, Belmont Technical College, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Washington State Community College.

Dr. Stotler stated that the proposed agreement merges two separate agreements, which were approved in 2011.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the tuition reciprocity agreement between West Virginia and Ohio involving West Virginia University, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, West Virginia Northern Community College, Belmont Technical College, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Washington State Community College until June 30, 2015.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Appointments to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board

Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, provided an overview of the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board, which is statutorily charged to provide financial aid expertise and policy guidance to the Commission and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Council) on matters related to federal, state, and private student financial aid resources and programs.

Mr. Weingart noted that the Board consists of seven members. Three members are appointed by the Commission, two members by the Council, one member by the West Virginia Independent Colleges and Universities, and one member by the West Virginia School Counselor Association. According to statute, although original appointments by the Commission were for different term lengths,

subsequent appointments shall be for three-year terms and members are eligible to succeed themselves for one additional consecutive term.

Mr. Weingart recommended the appointment of Kaye Widney, Vice President for Student Services at Fairmont State University, consistent with a recommendation from the West Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointment to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors

Chancellor Hill provided a brief overview of Senate Bill 484, which provided for a new corporation to be established for operation and development of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park and authorized the appointment of a Board of Directors. Chancellor Hill noted that, according to state law and Board bylaws, the Commission is to annually approve appointments, but is not provided with a directive regarding the duration of such appointments.

Chancellor Hill recommended that the remaining original board members be reappointed to one-year terms and that Kevin DiGregorio and Steven Hedrick be added to the board. Chancellor Hill advised that the appointment process may be revised in future years.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors.

Further Resolved, That the Commission directs the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors to amend its bylaws to establish staggered appointment terms.

Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Approval of Membership to the Compensation Planning and Review Committee

Mr. Mark Toor, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, reviewed Senate Bill 330, which requires the Commission and the Council to establish a Compensation Planning and Review Committee, which is charged with managing all aspects of compensation planning and review for institutional classified employees. Mr.

Toor noted that this Committee consists of four members representing the statewide Advisory Council of Classified Employees, two members representing the Advisory Council of Faculty; four human resources administrators; and a president from each of the two systems.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointments to the Compensation Planning and Review Committee.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

F. Approval of Membership to the Job Classification Committee

Mr. Toor reviewed Senate Bill 330 which requires the Commission and Council to establish a Jobs Classification Committee, which is charged with maintaining a uniform system for classifying jobs and positions for institutional classified employees. Mr. Toor indicated that this Committee replaces the former Job Evaluation Committee and shall consist of four classified employees and six Human Resources specialists.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointments to the Job Classification Committee.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. Fiscal Responsibility

A. Approval of Great West Financial Retirement Plan Investment Option Change

Mr. Toor provided an overview of retirement plans available to West Virginia public higher education employees, which includes TIAA-CREF, Great West Financial, and the State Teachers' Retirement Plan. Mr. Toor indicated that Great West Financial's Guaranteed Fixed Fund (GFF) will be closed to new deposits beginning August 30, 2013 and will be replaced with a Guaranteed Interest Fund (GIF).

Mr. Tyson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves changes to the Great West Financial plan document to substitute the Guaranteed Interest Fund for the Guaranteed Fixed Fund.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Fiscal Year 2014 Higher Education Resource Assessment

Dr. Ed Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented the proposed Higher Education Resource Assessment (HERA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. Dr. Magee noted that HERA funds are utilized by the Commission to support statewide initiatives and projects as well as for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program. Dr. Magee stated the HERA is calculated based on Fall enrollment in the current year to determine each institution's assessment for the subsequent fiscal year. Dr. Magee noted that a project listing will be presented for the Commission's review and approval at an upcoming Commission meeting.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2014 Higher Education Resource Assessment.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Fiscal Year 2014 Institutional Capital Assessments

Dr. Magee presented the proposed institutional assessments for debt services and facilities planning administration payments. Dr. Magee stated that Commission staff will transfer the funds from institutional accounts on September 1 and March 1 in order to make the debt service payments.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institutional capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2014 as shown in Table 2.

Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Soccer Complex Improvements at Shepherd University

Based on discussion during the April 17, 2013 work session, a staff presentation was waived.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Shepherd University's Soccer Field Improvements Project with a total estimated budget of \$2,224,100, and the lease-purchase financing of a portion of the project up to \$1 million at an interest rate not to exceed 1.5 percent through a financing contract the West Virginia Department of Administration has with SunTrust Equipment Finance Corporation.

Mr. Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Presentation of the West Virginia Comprehensive Financial Aid Report 2012 Federal Aid and Student Loan and the 2013 Institutional Aid Supplements

Mr. Weingart provided an overview of the West Virginia Comprehensive Financial Aid Report 2012 Federal Aid and Student Loan and the 2013 Institutional Aid Supplements. Mr. Weingart explained that the supplemental materials provide more specific and in-depth information regarding the federal and institutional aid that West Virginia's postsecondary students receive. Mr. Weingart reviewed the status of the Federal Pell Grant Program, Subsidized Stafford Loan, Direct Loans and noted that 49.8 percent of in-state students utilize student loans.

Ms. Eddy inquired as to the impact the Federal Sequestration will have on West Virginia. Mr. Weingart indicated it would be less than \$100,000. Chancellor Hill requested clarification regarding the effect of the Sequestration on student veterans. Mr. Weingart indicated that it is a work in progress and the information is not yet available.

F. Approval of Fiscal Year 2014 Distribution Plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

Mr. Weingart provided an overview of Series 42, the legislative rule which regulates the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program and allows staff to make adjustments to the award structure for the program. He noted that the state's financial aid programs are exempted from any budget reduction for FY 2014 and that revenues are anticipated to remain at the same base level as the 2012-13 academic year. Mr. Weingart also reviewed the award process for the program.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Distribution Plan for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

G. Approval of Fiscal Year 2014 Eligibility Requirements, Annual Award Amount, and Summer Awards for the PROMISE Scholarship Program

Mr. Weingart provided a detailed overview of eligibility requirements, summer awards, and the annual award amount for the PROMISE Scholarship Program. Mr. Weingart noted that \$200,000 has been allocated for summer awards and indicated that no changes have been made to the eligibility requirements, which have been in effect since the 2007-08 academic year. He indicated that staff

recommends that the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board continue to study the options available for utilizing the balances that will begin accruing during the 2013-14 academic year.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves proposed eligibility requirements, annual award amount, and summer awards for the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

Dr. Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

9. Possible Executive Session under the Authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to Discuss Personnel and Property Issues

Dr. Berry moved to go into Executive Session under the authority of West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss personnel and property issues. The motion was seconded by Mr. Estep. Motion passed.

Dr. Berry moved to rise from Executive Session. Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Hendrickson reported that the Commission discussed the items noted on the agenda during Executive Session, but no action was taken.

There was no subsequent discussion or action.

10. Additional Board Action and Comment

There was no additional board action or comment.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

David K. Hendrickson

Chairman

Kathy Eddy

Secretary