

MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

August 23, 2010

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Hendrickson convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 1:00 PM in the 9th Floor Conference Room at 1018 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia and by conference call. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Bob Brown, Kathy Eddy, John Estep, Kay Goodwin, David Hendrickson, John Leon, and David Tyson. Absent: Steve Paine.

2. Oath of Office

Ms. Jenny Allen, a new member of the Commission, was sworn in and welcomed by Chairman Hendrickson.

3. Update on West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park

Dr. Paul Hill, Vice Chancellor for Science and Research, provided a brief overview of the ongoing progress of the West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park. Dr. Hill reported that the West Virginia Community and Technical College System approved the architectural design for the Advanced Technology Center for the Advantage Valley Region which will be located at the park. He further explained that representatives of Battelle have hosted several meetings to gather input to develop the master plan for the West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park.

Dr. Hill reported that state education agencies and organizations are invited to apply for federal stimulus funding through the Government Services Fund which will provide funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to assist with building renovations and associated costs for education and research facilities. Dr. Hill stated that approximately \$12.25 million may be available to help offset such costs for the West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park. Commission members expressed their support of an application for funding from the Government Services Fund and encouraged Dr. Hill to move forward with applying for this assistance.

4. Approval of Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriation Request

Dr. Kevin Walthers, Vice Chancellor for Administration, provided an overview of the process for submitting the annual appropriation request to the West Virginia State Budget Office. He reported that for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, Commission staff recommends additional funding be requested in areas that are essential in meeting the mission of the Commission. The FY 2010 appropriation request will focus on the following areas, financial aid, capital improvements, institutional performance funding, West Virginia Perinatal Partnership, and the Tuition Contract Program.

Secretary Goodwin asked if the Commission collects data on the number of students receiving loans to help offset the increasing costs of tuition. Dr. Brian Noland, Chancellor, reported that this information is available for students attending public institutions of higher education and addressed the need to increase funding for state-level need-based financial aid programs.

Discussion followed on the State's Six-Year Financial Plan a request from Vice Chairman Berry for an explanation regarding funding for the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriation request to be submitted to the West Virginia State Budget Office.

Secretary Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5. Approval of Financing Plan at Concord University

Mr. Richard Donovan, Chief Financial Officer, presented a request from Concord University to secure financing through the United States Department of Agriculture to fund various institutional capital improvement projects. Dr. Charles Becker, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance, answered questions regarding the financing plans for the projects.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the financing plan of Concord University for renovation of the J. Frank Marsh Library, The University Child Care Center, and Towers Residence Hall.

Mr. Tyson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Possible Executive Session

Dr. Berry moved to go into Executive Session under the authority of WV Code §6-9A-4 to discuss personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Ms. Eddy. Motion passed.

Dr. Berry moved to rise from Executive Session. Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A. Approval of Presidential Contracts and Compensation Packages

Chairman Hendrickson reported that the Commission considered presidential contracts and compensation for Bluefield State College, Concord University,

Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, and West Liberty University.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the presidential compensation contract change proposed by the Board of Governors of Bluefield State College, Concord University, Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, and West Liberty University.

Commissioner Brown acknowledged the exemplary performance of the presidents but expressed reservation in approving additional compensation for these individuals when other institutional faculty and staff are not receiving salary increases in view of the difficult financial and economic status of the State.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion.

A roll call of votes was taken and the results were as follows:

In favor: Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, Kay Goodwin, John Leon, and David Tyson

Opposed: Bob Brown and John Estep

Motion passed.

Chancellor Noland was directed to work with the institutional governing boards to effectuate the change of the presidential contracts.

7. Additional Board Action and Comment

There was no additional board action or comment.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

David K. Hendrickson

Chairman

Kathy Eddy

Secretary