

MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

August 5, 2011

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Hendrickson convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 10:00 AM in the Foundation Hall on the campus of Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, John Estep, Kay Goodwin, David Hendrickson, John Leon, and David Tyson. Absent: Bob Brown and Jorea Marple. Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

2. Campus Welcome and Recognition

Chairman Hendrickson introduced Dr. Stephen J. Kopp, President of Marshall University, who provided a campus welcome and gave a brief presentation about the institution. President Kopp discussed recent improvements including updates to campus infrastructure and an increase in international students.

Following President Kopp's presentation, he and Dr. Brian Noland, Chancellor, jointly recognized Dr. Brian Antonsen, Dr. Shari Clarke, and Dr. Tammy Johnson for their service to Marshall University and the state's higher education system. Dr. Antonsen was featured on the cover of the Spring 2011 edition of *The Neuron* and was presented with a framed copy. Dr. Clarke was recognized for her work on the Adult Learner Task Force and was presented with a certificate of appreciation. Dr. Johnson was recognized for her work on the Chancellor's Diversity Council and presented with a certificate of appreciation.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Allen offered a motion to amend the April 29, 2011 minutes to reflect her vote in support of the approval of the changes to the Rural Health Education Partnership Program. Ms. Eddy moved approval of the minutes of the meetings held on April 25, 2011, April 29, 2011 as amended, May 18, 2011, and June 22, 2011. Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Hendrickson congratulated Commission staff on the receipt of a \$5.25 million grant from the Economic Development Administration for the renovation and redevelopment of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. The grant funding

will be utilized to renovate Building 770 and will help solidify the Tech Park as a leader in the region and the state.

With the onset of the new academic year, Chairman Hendrickson challenged the president to take steps to improve college completion rates and urged that the focus of the upcoming school year be on each student. In closing, Chairman Hendrickson thanked President Kopp and the entire campus community for hosting the Commission.

5. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Noland provided a detailed report regarding current Commission and statewide initiatives and discussed the projected Fall enrollment. Chancellor Noland provided an overview of the higher education financial conditions around the nation and noted that West Virginia is in a unique position given that most states are focused on downsizing faculty and staff and making budget cutbacks. Chancellor Noland referenced statewide and national concern regarding the low graduation rates of for-profit colleges and universities.

In closing, Chancellor Noland commended Rob Anderson and Dr. Kathy Butler for their work with the DegreeNow initiative; Dr. Adam Green for his efforts on the annual Student Success Summit; Judge Dan O'Hanlon for his work with the 2011 West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference; and Dr. Shenita Brokenburr for her efforts on Senate Bill 330.

6. Consent Agenda

Dr. Berry moved the adoption of the consent agenda including the following items:

A. Approval of Property Acquisition for Fairmont State University

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves an amendment to the Campus Master Plan to adjust the property acquisition boundaries for the Gaston Caperton Center in Clarksburg.

Further Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves acquisition of the property and improvements on Lots No. 535 and No. 535 ½ on West Main Street, in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

B. Approval of Capital Improvements for West Virginia University

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Advanced Engineering Research Building, the Agricultural Sciences Building, the College of Physical Activities and Sport Sciences Building, and the Student Health Facility as provided in West Virginia Code §18B-19 for projects in excess of \$15 million.

Further Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Resolution prepared by bond counsel approving and authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds by the West Virginia University Board of Governors to finance, in whole or part, the capital projects in its Multi-Year Capital Budget in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$200 million, and the refinancing of all or some to the outstanding lease-purchase agreements in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$50 million.

C. Approval to Increase Investment Authority for Marshall University and West Virginia University

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the requested increase in Marshall University's investment authority with the Marshall University Foundation, Inc. and in West Virginia University's investment authority with the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

7. Access

A. Postsecondary Student Transfer in West Virginia: Analysis and Policy Recommendations

Mr. Rob Anderson, Senior Director of Policy and Planning, and Dr. Angie Bell, Interim Director of Financial Aid, provided an overview of a statewide transfer study, which was generated in response to a request from the Commission and the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability. The request was for staff to study the extent to which undergraduate students are able to transfer from West Virginia public institutions to public baccalaureate institutions without transition barriers and course duplication.

Dr. Bell provided an overview of the transfer dynamics in West Virginia, outcomes of students who transfer to four-year public institutions as compared with non-transfer students; a summary of the existing transfer policy; and information regarding national trends. Dr. Bell also reviewed the recommendations from the report, which included creating a transfer web portal; shifting the burden of getting transfer courses substituted for requirements after the initial registrar assessment from students and to the institutions; and adding new financial aid options for transfer students. The proposed portal would be utilized to educate students about the Core Coursework Transfer Agreement and transfer requirements at individual institutions, and should be linked to institutional websites in a prominent location, the Commission and Council websites, and the College Foundation for West Virginia located at www.cfww.com.

Secretary Goodwin thanked Dr. Bell for the study and asked which groups needed to be made aware of the report and its findings. Dr. Bell noted the importance of buy-in and collaboration across campuses, and suggested the report be utilized by faculty members and admissions and registrar staff across the institutions.

B. Update on College Access and P-20 Initiatives

Dr. Adam Green, Director of Student Success and P-20 Initiatives, provided an overview of college access and student success initiatives including the College Foundation of West Virginia; the College Access Challenge Grant; the West Virginia GEAR UP Grant; and the College Goal Sunday initiative. Dr. Green showed a video from the second annual GEAR UP U!, a four-day academic summer academy held on the campus of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Ms. Eddy inquired if the goals and objectives of GEAR UP were being met in order to position the Commission for application and possible receipt of a new grant. Dr. Green indicated that due to the economy, future funding is tenuous, but that GEAR UP students were showing academic progress.

8. Learning and Accountability

A. Approval of Master of Arts in Health Promotion at Concord University

Dr. Kathy Butler, Senior Director of Academic Affairs, presented a proposal from Concord University to implement a Master of Arts in Health Promotion. Dr. Butler noted the program is designed to be completed in two years and that no other higher education institution in West Virginia offers a graduate degree in health promotion. Dr. Butler also noted the program will be subject to a post-audit review conducted by the Commission during the 2014-15 academic year.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Arts in Health Promotion to be implemented at Concord University, effective Spring 2012.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Master of Education in Special Education at Concord University

Dr. Butler presented a proposal from Concord University to implement a Master of Education in Special Education. Dr. Butler noted that funding for

the program will be generated through tuition and fees. The program will be subject to a post-audit review conducted by the Commission during the 2014-15 academic year.

Secretary Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Education in Special Education to be implemented at Concord University, effective August 2011.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Report on Master's Degree Programs

Dr. Butler provided a report on accomplishments and developments in the offering of graduate programs at Concord University, Fairmont State University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University. Dr. Butler reported that the first master's level programs were approved for initial offering in the 2003-04 academic year. Dr. Butler stated that the number of graduate programs across the institutions has increased from five to twenty over the eight-year period and, with the exception of West Liberty University, each of the institutions had completed the eighth year of graduate program offerings. West Liberty University implemented its first graduate program during the 2008-09 academic year.

9. Innovation

A. Report on the West Virginia Regional Technology Park

Dr. Paul Hill, Vice Chancellor for Science and Research, provided an overview of the status and work of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation. The Corporation held its initial meeting after filing Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State. The initial meeting was organizational in nature and provided an opportunity to approve several business items to establish the day-to-day operation of the Corporation and the Tech Park. Chairman Hendrickson commended Dr. Hill on the progress made thus far at the Tech Park.

B. Approval of Transfer of Tenant Leases and Income to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation

Dr. Hill provided an overview of the affiliation agreement between the Commission and the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation that was authorized and signed immediately following the initial organizational meeting of the Corporation's Board of Directors. The agreement provides for the Corporation to assume responsibility for serving as the fiscal agent on

behalf of the Commission for the operations of the WVRTP and for managing the day-to-day functions.

Mr. Tyson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, as recognized by the Affiliation Agreement, hereby transfers all tenant rental and service agreements and accrued funds pursuant to their issuance, to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation.

Further Resolved, That the Corporation shall provide full accounting of fund income and expenditures to the satisfaction of the Commission on a quarterly basis and undergo a full financial audit as required by West Virginia Code §18B-1F-7 by June 30, 2012.

Dr. Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

10. Cost and Affordability

A. Approval of Fiscal Year 2012 Division Operating Budgets and Higher Education Resource Assessment (HERA) Projects

Dr. Ed Magee, Senior Director of Finance, provided an overview of funding from state appropriations and the Higher Education Resource Assessment (HERA) charged to all in-state and out-of-state students for operation of the Commission and statewide projects and initiatives. Dr. Magee also reviewed the proposed Commission and divisional budgets for Fiscal Year 2012, which total approximately \$9.7 million, of which, personal services, employee benefits, and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) equate to 61 percent of the operating budget.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2012 division operating budgets and Higher Education Resource Assessment projects.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Fiscal Year 2012 Division of Science and Research Spending Plan

Dr. Hill presented the proposed spending plan for the Research Challenge Fund, the Research Trust Fund, and the National Science Foundation (NSF) infrastructure programs and described components of the program budget.

Chairman Hendrickson asked about the investment of interest on the trust fund. Dr. Hill indicated that would require legislative action.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approve the Fiscal Year 2012 spending plan as recommended by the Science and Research Council.

Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Fiscal Year 2012 Budget for West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing

Ms. Roberta Haddix, Deputy Director/Assistant Director of Administration at West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing (WVNET), presented the proposed budget. Ms. Haddix provided background on expenditures and revenues, noting that WVNET operating revenues are generated from the following sources: state appropriation, contracts, services, interest income, and an allocated portion of HERA funding. Ms. Haddix stated that the budget includes an operation budget and pass-through budget.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2012 West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing budget.

Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Series 32, Tuition and Fee Policy

Chancellor Noland provided an overview of West Virginia Code §18B-10-1, which requires the Commission to propose a legislative rule to govern the establishment, collection, and expenditure of tuition and other fees by the institutional governing boards. Chancellor Noland thanked President Kopp and Dr. Kevin Walthers for their leadership on the development of the rule.

Secretary Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed Series 32 as a legislative rule for filing with the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period.

Further Resolved, That staff is instructed to forward the legislative rule to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for approval

and further legislative action at the conclusion of the comment period if no comments are received during the comment period.

Dr. Leon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriation Request

Chancellor Noland provided an overview of the budget forecast for higher education and the projected needs of the state's higher education system. Chancellor Noland described the process for budget requests and urged the examination of financial aid and operating costs. He indicated that the needs across the system are pronounced and include a plethora of items ranging from deferred maintenance to various institutional requests. He also led a discussion regarding the appropriation request for Fiscal Year 2013.

Ms. Eddy suggested a focus on need-based funding and urged institutions to continue to focus on efficiencies. Ms. Eddy indicated she was a strong proponent of the implementation of the funding formula. Chairman Hendrickson suggested increased funds for the Regents Bachelor of Arts Program. President Kopp inquired about the ramifications if funding for the federal Pell Grant was cut and how that would impact the state's need-based program, the West Virginia Higher Education Grant.

Secretary Goodwin indicated she is supportive of minimizing and freezing tuition as well as moving away from the reliance upon adjunct faculty. Dr. Suzanne Shipley, President of Shepherd University, responded that she has noticed a direct correlation between full-time faculty and graduation rates and indicated that the Shepherd University Board of Governors chose to view the increased spending in full-time faculty as an investment. Robin Capehart, President of West Liberty University, mentioned that the switch to full-time faculty is expensive, but that he was a proponent of the funding formula, because it rewards those who fulfill their public responsibility.

Dr. Leon requested information regarding full-time and part-time faculty and asked what push back would ensue if full-time faculty had increased course loads each semester. Dr. Gregory Aloia, President of Concord University, stated the focus is more on a core teaching instructor, which is a pipeline into a tenure-track position where a pool of instructors are cultivated to be actively involved with the institution and engaged in the discourse of their discipline.

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

A. Approval of Presidential Contracts and Compensation Packages for Concord University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia State University

Members of the Commission elected to vote on each presidential contract and compensation package individually.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the contract and compensation package for Concord University as proposed by the Concord University Board of Governors.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation package for Shepherd University as proposed by the Shepherd University Board of Governors.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Tyson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation package for West Liberty University as proposed by the West Liberty University Board of Governors.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Eddy moved to table the approval of the contract and compensation package for West Virginia State University.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed with Mr. Tyson voting no.

B. Appointment of West Virginia Regional Technology Park Executive Director

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission delegates to the Chancellor the authority to enter into a contract with the Executive Director of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park under the terms and conditions communicated to the Commission once a final candidate has been selected.

Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

12. Additional Board Action and Comment

A. Approval of Purchase and Financing of The Augusta on the Square

Chancellor Noland presented a resolution to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds by the West Virginia University Board of Governors to finance the acquisition of real and personal property for The Augusta on the Square.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Resolution prepared by bond counsel approving and authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds by the West Virginia University Board of Governors in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$14 million to finance the acquisition of real and personal property commonly referred to as The Augusta on the Square.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

David K. Hendrickson

Chairman

Kathy Eddy

Secretary