

MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

February 11, 2011

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Hendrickson convened a special meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 9:00 AM in the Presidents' Conference Room at 1018 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia and by conference call. The following Commission members were present: Bruce Berry, Bob Brown, Kathy Eddy, John Estep, David Hendrickson, and Kay Goodwin. Absent: John Leon, John "Ted" Mattern, and David Tyson.

At the request of Chairman Hendrickson, Ashley Schumaker conducted a roll call of Commissioners. Chairman Hendrickson noted that Commissioner Tyson recused himself from participating in the meeting.

2. Preliminary State Authorization for Tri-State College of Pharmacy

Dr. Robert Walker, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, provided information regarding Tri-State College of Pharmacy's request for Preliminary State Authorization including the Commission's April 23, 2010 approval through October 23, 2010 and subsequent extensions by Dr. Brian Noland, Chancellor, through February 15, 2011.

Vice Chairman Berry noted that the Commission had concerns about the institution's request at the April 23, 2010 meeting including not fulfilling all of the essential conditions as outlined in the Commission's Series 20 and a lack of confirmation regarding the receipt of federal stimulus funding, which to-date has not been received.

Dr. Walker introduced Dr. Pedram Ghafourifar, Director of the Tri-State Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, to provide an overview of the institution's request and the progress to-date. Dr. Ghafourifar provided detailed information regarding program development, library resources, educational and clinical partnerships, technological advancements, accreditation status, fundraising efforts, and facility renovation.

Secretary Goodwin inquired about the institution's use of federal funding including stimulus and financial aid. Dr. Ghafourifar responded that no federal funds have been or will be utilized to operate the institution.

Vice Chairman Berry thanked Dr. Ghafourifar for his presentation, but expressed continued concern regarding the institution's lack of progress in meeting the essential conditions.

Secretary Goodwin stated that the institution will not be alone in the pursuit of opening a School of Pharmacy and questioned the need for new programs when examining the state's demand for additional pharmacists. She further noted that pass rates and employment statistics are not yet available for pharmacy graduates from the University of Charleston, the state's newest pharmacy program.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission declines to extend Preliminary State Authorization for Tri-State College of Pharmacy.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

David K. Hendrickson

Chairman

Kathy Eddy

Secretary