

## **MINUTES**

### **HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION**

**February 17, 2012**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman David Hendrickson convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 10:00 AM in the Building 740 Auditorium at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park in South Charleston, West Virginia. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, John Estep, Kay Goodwin, David Hendrickson, Jorea Marple, and David Tyson. Absent: Bob Brown and John Leon. Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Allen moved approval of the minutes of the meetings held on December 6, 2011, December 9, 2011, and December 29, 2011, as provided in the agenda materials. Secretary Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **3. Chairman's Report**

##### **A. Discussion on Textbook Affordability**

Chairman Hendrickson introduced Bruce Hildebrand, Executive Director for Higher Education at the Association of American Publishers, to discuss textbook affordability. Mr. Hildebrand introduced Stephen Hochheiser, Vice President of Cengage Learning and Dr. Debra Volzer, Senior Executive Director of Pearson Learning Solutions, who discussed the various initiatives undertaken at their respective publishing companies to keep the price of textbooks affordable for students.

Chairman Hendrickson inquired if the materials provided by the publishers can be found online and if the type of device utilized affects the student's ability to access information. Mr. Hildebrand responded that approximately 90 percent of the course materials can be accessed digitally and the material is created to be utilized by a variety of e-readers.

Patrick Crane, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, provided an overview of the results from an informal survey conducted by members of the Advisory Council of Students at their respective institutions.

## **B. Progress Report on Senate Bill 330 Implementation**

Mr. Rob Anderson, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, provided an update regarding the implementation and status of Senate Bill 330. Dr. Bruce Berry, Vice Chairman, urged institutional presidents to allow employees to attend meetings regarding Senate Bill 330 and, most importantly, to fully fund the salary schedule.

## **C. Interim Reports from Constituent Groups**

### **1. Advisory Council of Students**

Mr. Ray Harnell, Chair of the Advisory Council of Students (ACS) and student at Marshall University, presented information regarding a recent social media campaign to advocate for continued and increased funding of the Federal Pell Grant. Mr. Harnell noted the ACS has a number of initiatives, but a primary focus is the Pell Grant, which is facing a decrease in state and federal allocations in the presence of tuition increases. The ACS has drafted a petition, which will be distributed to representatives in Washington, D.C. in order to express that students are concerned with the decreased funding for the Pell Grant.

### **2. Advisory Council of Faculty**

Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt, member of the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF), provided an introduction of fellow ACF members in attendance at the meeting. Dr. Shurbutt discussed the importance of shared governance and the need for a faculty representative on the Commission. Dr. Shurbutt noted that a faculty perspective would be useful for many of the issues considered by the Commission.

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

Mr. Mike Dunn, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE), and fellow member Ms. Johnna Beane, discussed the on-going college completion efforts and the work of the College Completion Task Force. Mr. Dunn thanked Mr. Anderson and Dr. Berry for attending a meeting to discuss the on-going work pertaining to Senate Bill 330. Mr. Dunn noted the ACCE is comprised primarily of blue collar workers and stressed the importance of providing information regarding adult learner opportunities to such employees.

#### **4. Chancellor's Report**

##### **A. Overview of Transition Steering Committee for West Virginia University Institute of Technology**

Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, provided an overview of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology Revitalization Committee. Chancellor Hill discussed the creation of an online survey for alumni, community members, faculty, staff, and students in order to provide recommendations to the Committee. Chancellor Hill noted that an initial meeting has been scheduled for March 15 and will be held on campus.

##### **B. Update on 2012 Legislative Session**

Chancellor Hill provided a brief update regarding the 2012 regular legislative session. Bruce Walker, General Counsel, reviewed proposed legislation, including a \$20 million addition to the Research Trust Fund, commonly known as "Bucks for Brains."

Chancellor Hill also provided an update regarding the recent meeting of the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses to discuss possible next steps for nursing at students of Mountain State University due to accreditation issues.

#### **5. Access**

##### **A. Update on College Access and P-20 Initiatives**

Dr. Adam Green, Senior Director for Student Success and P-20 Initiatives, presented a report on key efforts aimed at assisting students and families in preparing for and succeeding in college. Dr. Green discussed the federally-funded GEAR UP program, the federally-funded College Access Challenge Grant program, the College Goal Sunday initiative, and the College Foundation of West Virginia (CFWV) initiative. Dr. Green noted that more than 100,000 accounts have been created on [www.cfwv.com](http://www.cfwv.com), with nearly 9,000 accounts belonging to adult learners.

Commissioner Eddy inquired if the program is continuing to meet the objectives and goals of the GEAR UP grant and Ms. Allen inquired regarding the efforts being made to renew the grant. Dr. Green indicated that there have been struggles, particularly in math, but that the program is pre-dominantly successful in meeting the metrics of the grant and the Commission will pursue a grant renewal.

## **6. Cost and Affordability**

### **A. Approval of Fiscal Year 2011 Consolidated Audit**

Dr. Ed Magee, Vice Chancellor for Finance, provided an overview of the Higher Education Fund, which is comprised of all activity related to operations of Commission and Council member institutions, which are independently audited. Dr. Magee introduced Mr. Dennis Juran of Deloitte & Touche, who discussed the audit report and reviewed handouts.

Commissioner Eddy inquired how this information had been shared with the institutions. Dr. Magee indicated the report has been provided to the institutional chief financial officers.

Ms. Eddy inquired if there are any specific concerns the Commission should be aware of as a result of this audit. Dr. Magee noted there is a continued increase in the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability, with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 increase equal to 81 percent of the Fund's unrestricted net assets.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission accepts the audited financial report for the Higher Education Fund for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2011.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **B. Approval of Housing Demand Study at West Virginia State University**

Mr. Richard Donovan, Senior Director of Facilities, provided an overview of a housing demand study, which was conducted by Mantra, LLC at the request of West Virginia State University. Mr. Donovan introduced Bryce Casto, the institution's Vice President for Student Affairs, who discussed the study and the involvement of students in the process.

The purpose of the study was to determine the demand for housing, the optimal size of the project, the best location on or adjacent to the campus on which to build the project, what to do with obsolete housing when the new housing is available, how to finance and develop the project, and how to structure a request for proposals. Mr. Donovan noted the study identified a need to develop new campus housing that will enhance the institution's residence life program.

Vice Chairman Berry inquired as to how many students are currently residing on-campus. Mr. Donovan indicated there are 308 students living in the

residence halls.

Mr. Tyson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves West Virginia State University's Housing Demand Study and approves proceeding with the project through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

*Further Resolved*, That upon completion of the RFP process, the University shall present its recommendations to the Commission for further consideration prior to proceeding with the project.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **C. Approval of Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center Animal Facility Annex Construction Project and Financing Resolution**

Mr. Donovan provided an overview of the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center Animal Facility Annex construction project. The proposed annex will allow for the expansion of biomedical research activity and infrastructure. Mr. Donovan noted the present facility no longer meets the requirements of a modern lab animal vivarium and noted the rapid expansion in research areas that depend upon the use of animals. The new facility would incorporate necessary support spaces and the existing facility would be renovated depending upon programmatic needs.

Secretary Goodwin inquired if student fees would be utilized to fund the project. Mr. Donovan indicated that student fees were identified as a funding source.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center Animal Facility Annex Construction Project and Financing Resolution.

Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion failed.

## **7. Learning and Accountability**

### **A. Presentation on Advanced Academy of West Virginia Proposal by West Liberty University**

Chancellor Hill introduced Robin Capehart, President of West Liberty University, who provided an overview of the proposed program. President

Capehart stated that the Advanced Academy of West Virginia is slated to begin as a pilot project in August 2012 at the institution's Highlands Center in coordination with RESA-6 and Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, and Wetzel Counties. The Academy will be under the leadership of the Honors College and will be open to students with a 3.5 GPA and a combined score of 1110 on the SAT or composite score of 24 on the ACT.

Chairman Hendrickson inquired how many students were expected to participate in the first year of the program. President Capehart responded that a minimum of 30 students are expected and that dual credit opportunities would continue to be offered for students.

### **B. 2011 Higher Education Report Card**

Dr. Angela Bell, Interim Vice Chancellor for Policy and Planning, presented highlights from the *2011 West Virginia Higher Education Report Card*. Dr. Bell noted that the report contains sections with statewide, regional, and national data and implications as well as detailed information and analysis about the state's public four-year colleges and universities under the jurisdiction of the Commission and the state's public two-year colleges under the jurisdiction of the Council for Community and Technical College Education.

Among the many highlights from the report, Dr. Bell noted that an additional 10,000 students received financial aid during the past academic year.

### **C. 2011 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card**

Dr. Robert Walker, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, presented highlights from the *2011 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card*. Dr. Walker noted that the report contains various sections including enrollment, retention, graduation, loan indebtedness, and job placement. Dr. Walker discussed the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) Step 3, which is the final test that must be completed by allopathic medical students and reviewed the passage rates at Marshall University and West Virginia University.

Secretary Goodwin inquired if students could wait to take the USMLE Step 3 exam, or if it is necessary to take it at the end of the first year of residency. Dr. Walker indicated that students can wait to take the exam until the second year of residency.

### **D. Approval of Institutional Compact Updates**

Dr. Kathy Butler, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided information regarding institutional involvement in the implementation of the Commission's Master Plan. Dr. Butler stated that the original institutional compacts were

approved by the Commission in January 2009 and the 2011 updates were the third in a series of required yearly updates regarding progress in meeting the goals and strategies outlined in the compacts. Dr. Butler provided an overview of the process utilized to evaluate the compact updates, which included a team review with Commission staff and external consultants.

Dr. Butler noted that each compact update outlined team recommendations and comments on each institutional report and included a chart summarizing institutional goals for enrollment, retention rates, graduation rates, degree production, and degree production in STEM and health fields.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institutional compacts for Bluefield State College, Concord University, Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, Marshall University, Shepherd University, West Liberty University, West Virginia State University, and West Virginia University that have been developed in conjunction with the Higher Education Policy Commission master plan, Charting the Future, 2007-2012.

Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **E. Approval of Master of Social Work at Concord University**

Dr. Butler presented a proposal from Concord University to implement a Master of Social Work program. The program is designed to prepare graduates for advanced generalist social work practice in southern West Virginia and to accommodate students with varied preparation through two separate tracks. Dr. Butler stated that Concord University will offer the program as an online/hybrid program with minimal face-to-face classroom instruction. Dr. Butler noted the program will be subject to a post-audit review conducted by the Commission during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Mr. Tyson moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Social Work to be implemented at Concord University, effective August 2012.

Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **F. Approval of Bachelor of Arts in Art at Glenville State College**

Dr. Butler presented a proposal from Glenville State College to implement a Bachelor of Arts in Art program. The proposed program offers majors in two

areas, including Studio Art and Graphic and Digital Design. The 120-hour program is designed to be completed in eight semesters. Dr. Butler noted one additional faculty member and limited adjunct faculty will be necessary for the program and will be covered by tuition and fee revenues. Dr. Butler also noted the program will be subject to a post-audit review conducted by the Commission during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Dr. Berry requested information on funding for the program. Dr. Butler indicated that minimal budgetary resources would be necessary for the program.

Secretary Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Bachelor of Arts in Art at Glenville State College, effective August 2012.

Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**G. Approval of Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training at West Liberty University**

Dr. Butler presented a proposal from West Liberty University to implement a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training. The degree program is a 120 credit hour course of study and will be designed for students interested in careers in athletic training or related fields, or further study at the graduate level. Dr. Butler indicated that, while there are currently seven athletic training programs in West Virginia, only three such programs are at public institutions.

Dr. Butler noted additional faculty will be added as the demand for courses increases and such expenses will be covered by tuition and fee revenues. Dr. Butler also noted the program will be subject to a post-audit review conducted by the Commission during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training at West Liberty University, effective August 2012.

Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

### **A. Approval of Appointment to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors**

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

### **B. Approval of Presidential Search Procedure for Bluefield State College**

Chancellor Hill provided an overview of the presidential search procedure adopted by the Bluefield State College Board of Governors on January 27, 2012, pursuant to Series 5 of the Commission's rules. As stated in Series 5 and the proposed search procedure, Chancellor Hill will serve as an ex-officio member of the Search Committee. Chancellor Hill stated that any presidential selection and compensation will require Commission approval and, as such, will appear on a future meeting agenda.

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 Bluefield State College Board of Governors.

Mr. Estep seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **C. Approval of the Creation of an Audit Committee**

As a follow-up to the audit presentation, Commission members discussed the need for a standing committee to review the issue on a regular basis in addition to the yearly presentation to the full Commission.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the creation of an Audit Committee.

Mr. Tyson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Hendrickson requested that Commissioner Eddy serve as the Chair of the Audit Committee and work with Dr. Magee and Commission staff to complete the Committee and move forward as discussed by the Commission.

**9. 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