

## MINUTES

### HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

September 13, 2011

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairman David Hendrickson convened a special meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 2:00 PM in the Presidents' Conference Room at 1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia and by conference call. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, John Estep, David Hendrickson, and Kay Goodwin. Absent: John Leon, Jorea Marple, and David Tyson.

#### 2. Approval of Financing Plan for Headquarter Building at Mountwest Community and Technical College

Mr. Richard Donovan, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the request from Mountwest Community and Technical College to issue revenue bonds to cover a portion of the costs associated with the construction of a new headquarter building. Mr. Donovan noted that pursuant to West Virginia Code §18B-10 and §18B-19, the Commission holds bonding authority for all public higher education institutions. Mr. Donovan introduced bond counsel, who were available to answer questions.

Secretary Goodwin moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the resolution prepared by bond counsel to issue revenue bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3.5 million by the Mountwest Community and Technical College Board of Governors for the renovation, improvement, equipping, and furnishing of the Mountwest Community and Technical College Headquarter Building.

Dr. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### 3. Approval of Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriation Request

Dr. Ed Magee, Senior Director of Finance, provided an overview of the appropriation request for Fiscal Year 2013. He noted that the request was formulated as a result of discussions with presidents and others at the August 5, 2011 Commission meeting and staff review and analysis regarding the needs of the Commission and the system for the upcoming funding cycle. Dr. Brian Noland, the Commission's Chancellor, provided an overview of the process for

submitting the annual appropriation request to the West Virginia State Budget Office and, subsequently, the West Virginia Legislature. Secretary Goodwin requested clarification regarding the additional requests.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2013 appropriation request as submitted to the West Virginia State Budget Office.

Ms. Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **4. Approval of Series 32, Tuition and Fee Policy**

Dr. Magee provided an overview of the proposed policy to assess tuition and fees at the state's four-year public colleges and universities. Dr. Magee noted that the rule was originally approved by the Commission at the August 5, 2011 meeting for filing with the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period. Dr. Magee provided an overview of the revisions based on comments received during the comment period. Dr. Magee noted that, since a number of substantive changes were made, staff recommends filing the rule with the Secretary of State for an additional comment period.

Vice Chairman Berry encouraged institutions to submit comments as soon as possible during the next comment period in order to allow staff adequate time to review any comments received and make any necessary revisions to the rule.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed revisions to Series 32, as a legislative rule, for filing with the Secretary of State for an additional 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 substantive comments are received.

Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **5. Approval of Interim President at Bluefield State College**

Chancellor Noland provided a report regarding the recommendation of the Bluefield State College Board of Governors to appoint Dr. Thomas E. Blevins, Dean of the School of Education; Dean of the Virtual College and Technology; and Professor of Education and English, as Interim President. Chancellor

Noland recommended the Commission's approval of Dr. Blevins' interim appointment. Chancellor Noland noted that a draft contract has been submitted for review and the terms and compensation are similar to other interim appointments and comparable to the current president.

Chancellor Noland thanked President Albert Walker for his service to the institution and southern West Virginia since becoming president in 2002. He wished Dr. Walker well in his new presidency at Harris-Stowe University. President Walker thanked the Chancellor for his comments and the Commission for their support.

Dr. Berry moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointment by the Bluefield State College Board of Governors of Dr. Thomas E. Blevins as Interim President of Bluefield State College, under the terms and conditions and compensation established by the Board, and delegates to the Chancellor the authority to approve, as to form, the contract between Dr. Blevins and the Bluefield State College Board of Governors.

Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Chairman Hendrickson moved consideration of the approval of presidential compensation at West Virginia State University as tabled at the August 5, 2011 meeting. Secretary Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the presidential compensation changes for West Virginia State University, as proposed and requested by the West Virginia State University Board of Governors.

Secretary Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Hendrickson indicated that, with the start of the Fall semester, he and other members of the Commission have received complaints from students and their families regarding textbook costs. As a result, he advised all institutions to be prepared to provide updates regarding institutional initiatives and policies to increase textbook affordability. He noted that he will distribute an official letter requesting a formal update in the coming weeks. In closing, the Chairman stated that the discussion will be added to the agenda for a future Commission meeting.

**7. 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