

DRAFT MINUTES
HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION
February 20, 2014

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bruce Berry convened a meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission at 1:00 PM in the James C. Wilson University Union, West Virginia State University, Institute, West Virginia, and by conference call. The following Commission members were present: Jenny Allen, Bruce Berry, Kathy Eddy, Michael Farrell, Kay Goodwin, David Hendrickson, and John Leon. Absent: Clarence Pennington, James Phares and Gary White.

Also in attendance were institutional presidents, higher education staff, and others.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Leon moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on November 26 and December 6, 2013. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Berry welcomed Commission and audience members to the meeting. He paid tribute to Dr. Hazo Carter, President Emeritus of West Virginia State University, who recently passed away. Dr. Berry then asked the audience to observe a moment of silence.

Chairman Berry expressed the need to ask the Legislature currently in session to spare additional budget cuts to and show support for the state's students.

IV. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Paul Hill provided an update on recent activities at the higher education office. He introduced and gave an overview of the Commission's new website and thanked all who tirelessly worked on this major undertaking, particularly staff members Jessica Tice and Jessica Kennedy.

Chancellor Hill reported that staff continues to be involved with the institutions in the implementation of their campus compact; the reauthorization of academic programs following the mandate of Senate Bill 375, which allows the Commission to assess the performance of all higher education (public and private) institutions in the state; and, among other tasks, the coordination of a system-wide master plan training to be held on March 31-April 1, 2014 at the Embassy Suites in

Charleston with the participation of outside expert speakers in each of the focal areas of access, success and impact. Dr. Hill invited all Commissioners to attend this event.

To conclude, Chancellor Hill thanked Dr. Adam Green, Senior Director of Student Success and P-20 Initiatives, for the development of the text-messaging counseling initiative which was showcased at a recent event hosted by the President in the White House in celebration of educational achievements nationwide.

V. Council of Presidents' Report

Dr. Maria Rose, President of Fairmont State University, reported on behalf of the presidents on issues impacting the institutions mainly the 3.75 percent budget reduction to higher education. President Rose stated that institutions continue to contact their legislative representatives to explain how the cut is affecting functions in their own campus.

President Rose reiterated the presidents' commitment to deliver good quality programs at affordable prices and maintain campus-wide accountability. In closing, she noted that several presidents have voiced concerns over the new wvOASIS data system, particularly its interface with the current system as well as the amount of staff needed for its operation.

VI. Updates from Constituent Groups

A. Advisory Council of Classified Employees

Chairman Berry stated that Council Chair Amy Pitzer was unable to attend the meeting and therefore an update would not be given.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty

Chairman Berry introduced Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt who reported on the Council's behalf. Dr. Shurbutt spoke of the importance of seeking the legislature's interest in higher education and for the Commission to encourage their support. She urged the members to closely monitor Senate Bill 409 and House Bill 4513 which focus on credit transfer compatibility. Dr. Shurbutt asked for special attention when streamlining curricula as to not jeopardize course offerings. In addition, she stated that solutions are needed to increase faculty retention in areas of high turnover and suggested providing incentives such as alternative teaching certifications, tuition waivers and loan forgiveness plans, among others.

C. Advisory Council of Students

Chairman Berry stated that Council Chair E. J. Hassan was unable to attend the meeting and therefore an update would not be given.

VII. **Approval of Marshall University Campus Master Plan**

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Marshall University's Ten-Year 2013 Campus Master Plan.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. **Approval of Institutional Compacts**

Commissioner Eddy moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institutional compact updates 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*.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. **Approval of Institutional Targets on the Metrics in Leading the Way**

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves targets set by system institutions in collaboration with Commission staff, contingent on final approval by institutional Boards of Governors.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. **Access**

A. Overview of College Goal Sunday

Dr. Adam Green, Senior Director of Student Success and P-20 Initiatives, gave an update on the College Goal Sunday FAFSA completion initiative. He explained that College Goal Sunday is an opportunity for students and families to receive free, confidential support in completing the Free

Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). College Goal Sunday workshops were held earlier this month at various locations across the state and are funded, in-part, through grants from the Lumina Foundation for Education and USA Funds. The Commission's goal is to have 55 percent of high school students completing their FAFSA by April 15, 2014.

B. Approval of Series 26, Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program, as an Emergency Rule

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed revisions to Series 26, Legislative Rule, Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program, for submission to the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period.

Further Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Series 26, as an Emergency Rule for filing with the Secretary of State and submission to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability and final filing with the Secretary of State if no substantive comments are received at the conclusion of the comment period.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Success

A. Presentation of 2013 Higher Education Report Card

Dr. Angela Bell, Vice Chancellor for Policy and Planning, stated that pursuant to West Virginia Code §18B-1B-8, the 2013 West Virginia Higher Education Report Card was submitted to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on December 20, 2013. Dr. Bell proceeded to highlight areas of the report.

B. Presentation of 2013 Health Sciences and Rural Health report Card

Dr. Robert Walker, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, stated that pursuant to West Virginia Code §18B-16-9(c), the 2013 Health Sciences and Rural Health Report Card was presented to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on January 6, 2014. Dr. Walker proceeded to highlight areas of the report.

C. Approval of Modification to the Program Review Process

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission delegates the authority for new program approval to the Chancellor, following appropriate advanced notice to the Commission and the opportunity for discussion.

Commissioner Leon seconded the motion. Commissioner Allen opposed the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Impact

A. Overview of From Higher Education to Work 2012 Report

Vice Chancellor Bell explained that From Higher Education to Work in West Virginia is an annual report funded by the Commission and produced by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at West Virginia University. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of employment and income outcomes for men and women who graduated from a public higher education institution in West Virginia and who stay within the state to work after graduation. She presented key findings of new research during 2012.

B. Report on the West Virginia Regional Technology Park (WVRTP) Corporation

Dr. Russell Kruzelock, Chief Executive Officer, provided a summary of his plan for the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. He stated that the vision of the WVRTP is to attract and/or create technology jobs and opportunities for the Kanawha Valley and West Virginia and its focus is to attract technology company tenants that will build critical mass in core, strategic technology areas. These areas include chemical, energy, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology. He noted that the facilities in South Charleston are one of a few locations in the world that offer both the laboratory infrastructure and on-site expertise to bring a new chemical process from demonstration concept to mid-level production scale.

XIII. Approval of Fiscal year 2013 Consolidated Audit

Commissioner Allen moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the audited financial report for the Higher Education Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIV. Legislative Update

Chancellor Hill provided an overview of legislative activity related to higher

education as the West Virginia Legislature's 2014 Regular Session concludes on March 8th. Dr. Hill stated that the budget hearings before the Senate and House Finance Committees proceeded smoothly even though the 3.75 percent reduction to higher education is still applicable excluding financial aid. He noted that House Bill 4513 on college attainment was sent to a particular committee for study over the next year.

XV. Update on Senate Bill 330

Mr. Mark Toor, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, gave a status report on the Commission's major accomplishments in the implementation of Senate Bill 330 during 2013. Among others, he mentioned the creation of the Common Grounds Committee charged with identifying and addressing impediments to full implementation of Senate Bill 330; the full staffing of the Human Resources Office which will aid human resources functions, the development of amendments to retirement plans in order to reduce misuse of loan provisions and administration costs, and the distribution of the Human Resources Report Card for public inspection.

XVI. Additional Board Action and Comment

There was no additional board action or comment.

XVII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bruce L Berry, Chairman

Kathy Eddy, Secretary