

Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeals Minutes

Microsoft TEAMS

April 10, 2025, at 12:00 P.M.

The meeting of the Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeal was called to order by Zak Ritchie, Acting Chair, on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 12:22 P.M. after determination that a quorum of members was present through a silent roll call. Committee members attending the meeting: Jonathan “Zak” Ritchie and Jamion Wolford, Anthony Woods was absent.

The following West Virginia State Treasurer’s Office (WVSTO) staff members attended the meeting: Amy Willard, Michelle Penaloza, Lindsay Marchio, Mindy Parsley, James Fuerhoff, Amy Constable, Kayla McNair, Kortnie Workman, and Elizabeth Liston.

The agenda for the meeting consisted of the following:

- I. Welcome – Introductions/Roll Call – Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes from the February 27, 2025, meeting
- III. Review and Consideration of Applicant Appeals
- IV. Review and Consideration of Reimbursement Appeals
- V. Future Meetings
- VI. Adjournment

Approval of the Minutes

Zak Ritchie, Acting Chair, indicated the first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the February 27, 2025, meeting, which were distributed to the members prior to the meeting. The Acting Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes and none were noted. Jamie Wolford moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Zak Ritchie. The Acting Chair asked for discussion and there was none. The Acting Chair polled the members and the motion to approve the minutes was adopted.

Review and Consideration of Applicant Appeals

The Acting Chair indicated the next item on the agenda of the meeting was the review and consideration of applicant of appeals pursuant to W.Va. CSR 112-19-11. Zak Ritchie made a motion to enter Executive Session as provided in *[West Virginia Code, Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section (4), Subsection (b), Subdivision (12)]*, which states a public agency may hold an Executive Session if there is discussion of “...any matter which, by express provision of federal law or state statute or rule of court is rendered confidential, or which is not considered a public record within the meaning of the freedom of information act.” Jamion Wolford seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Acting Chair polled the members, and the motion was approved to move into Executive Session.

The Committee entered Executive Session at 12:23 P.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 12:38 P.M. The Acting Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Zak Ritchie made the following motion regarding applicant appeals:

- For appeal #318, I hereby move the appeal be approved and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the applicant of the Board's determination.
- For appeals #317 and #319, I hereby move the appeals be denied and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the applicants of the Board's determination.

Jamion Wolford seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Acting Chair polled the members, and the motion carried.

Review and Consideration of Reimbursement Appeals

Zak Ritchie, Acting Chair, indicated the next item on the agenda of the meeting was the review and consideration of applicant of appeals pursuant to W.Va. CSR 112-19-11. Zak Ritchie made a motion to enter Executive Session as provided in *[West Virginia Code, Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section (4), Subsection (b), Subdivision (12)]*, which states a public agency may hold an Executive Session if there is discussion of "...any matter which, by express provision of federal law or state statute or rule of court is rendered confidential, or which is not considered a public record within the meaning of the freedom of information act." Jamion Wolford seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Acting Chair polled the members, and the motion was approved to move into Executive Session.

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 12:40 P.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 12:49 P.M. The Acting Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Zak Ritchie made the following motions:

For appeals R240 through R244, R246 through R251, and R266, I hereby move the appeals be denied and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the account holder of the Board's determination.

For appeals R245, and R252 through R265, I hereby move the appeals be approved and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify participants of the Board's determination.

The Acting Chair asked if any members wished to vote separately on any of the student reimbursement appeals and the offer was declined. Jamion Wolford seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Acting Chair polled the members, and the motion carried.

Future Meetings

The Acting Chair indicated that the next order of business was to discuss future meetings. He stated that the Committee on Appeals will meet as needed depending on eligibility appeals received by staff.

Staff will coordinate with Committee members on the need for meetings when appeals are received. The date and time of any meetings will be announced later in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

No additional discussion was heard regarding future meetings.

Adjournment

The Acting Chair asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee on Appeals. Hearing none, Mr. Wolford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ritchie seconded the motion. Upon hearing no discussion, the Acting Chair polled the members and the motion to adjourn the meeting passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Liston

Minutes approved by the Committee on June 12, 2025



Anthony Woods
Chair of Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeals