



**ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY**  
**Meeting Minutes – Friday, April 26, 2019**  
**Location: HEPC Conference Room, Charleston, WV**

#	STATUS			NAME	INSTITUTION
	Present	Phone	Regrets		
1		X		Mike Lilly	Bluefield State College
2		X		Todd Johnson & Kathy Cox	Blue Ridge CTC
3	X			Mike Ditchen, <i>Webmaster</i>	Bridge Valley CTC
4		X		Joseph Allen	Concord University
5			X	Shirley Murphy	Eastern WV CTC
6	X			Harry Baxter, <i>Legislative Coordinator</i>	Fairmont State University
7			X	Kevin Evans	Glenville State College
8	X			Marybeth Beller, <i>Chair</i>	Marshall University
9			X	Katie Hopkins	Mountwest CTC
10		X		Karen Carter	New River CTC
11		X		Amy Cunningham, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Pierpont CTC
12	X			Tom Sydow	Potomac State College of WVU
13	X			Max Guirguis, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Shepherd University
14			X	Charles Puckett	Southern WV CTC
15		X		Sylvia Senften	West Liberty University
16	X			Mark Goldstein	WV Northern Community College
17			X	Karen Wines	WV School of Osteopathic Med.
18	X			Barbara Ladner	WV State University
19	X			Roy Nutter	West Virginia University
20			X	Gary Thompson	WVU at Parkersburg
21	X			Asad Davari	WVU Institute of Tech.
				<b>GUESTS</b>	
				Sarah Armstrong Tucker	Chancellor for CTC Education
	Present	Phone	Regrets		

In the presence of a quorum, ACF Chair Marybeth Beller called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

### I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for the meetings of January 28, 2019 and February 8, 2019 were unanimously approved as submitted.

### II. Report on CTC Council Meeting

Mike Ditchen of Bridge Valley CTC presented a concise report on the Community and Technical College Council meeting that took place the day before, on April 25, 2019:

- ❑ ACF Chair Marybeth Beller briefed the CTC Council on what the ACF did during the legislative session. She exhorted council members to support the work of the ACF and its endeavors against campus carry legislation, which could be reintroduced in some form next year.
- ❑ Dr. Mark Stotler, HEPC's Director of Academic Programming, presented a post audit report without much discussion or follow-up.
- ❑ The Council approved tuition increases for a number of institutions in the CTC system. Dr. Sarah Tucker, chancellor of CTC education, expressed her satisfaction at seeing no or minimal increases at several CTCs.
- ❑ The Council approved the programs identified by the state's Department of Commerce as eligible for the West Virginia Invests Grant, which covers the tuition for select certificate and associate degree programs at two-year institutions.

### III. Report on HEPC Meeting

Roy Nutter of WVU presented an extensive report on the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) meeting that took place earlier in the day:

- ❑ ACF Chair Marybeth Beller gave a recap of ACF's advocacy efforts with the state legislature, most notably on the issues of faculty pay raises, PEIA funding, and concealed carry weapons on campus.

- ❑ Honors were given to outgoing interim chancellor Carolyn Long, among other notables leaving the HEPC.
- ❑ There were seven candidates for HEPC interim chancellor. As the ACF meeting was in progress, word came that CTC Education Chancellor Sarah Tucker was selected to head the HEPC. She will have dual roles and keep both titles.
- ❑ Marshall University approved a pay raise for all faculty and staff. It also approved a tuition increase of 3.5 percent.
- ❑ West Virginia University is offering senior faculty and other longtime employees a buyout plan in an attempt to reduce annual expenses.
- ❑ 3000 students have benefited from the Promise Scholarship this year.
- ❑ 3800 students have received money from the Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship program, which awards up to \$5,000 per academic year to students pursuing a degree leading to a teacher's certificate. Recipients must commit to teach at a West Virginia public school for two years for each year of scholarship assistance.
- ❑ The HEPC announced the launch of a new data portal.
- ❑ The HEPC received "A+" bond rating from S&P Global Ratings. As posted on its website, the HEPC holds nearly \$305 million in fixed-rate debt on behalf of public colleges and universities, according to the last audit of June 30, 2018. At present, the HEPC owes \$32 million in debt service on the bonds. Institutions are to be commended for their responsible handling of the debt despite decline in enrollment.
- ❑ The HEPC announced the elimination of some reporting requirements and the transition to electronic reporting for the annual statistical reports.
- ❑ The HEPC is pushing to have the federal sanctions on financial aid removed. These sanctions were imposed on the state by U.S. Department of Education in 2017 for the late filing of a federally-mandated audit report for three years in a row.
- ❑ A program called "Japanese Partners" will enhance cooperation between Japan's higher learning institutions and their West Virginia counterparts.

- ❑ The HEPC announced a goal of raising the state's high school-to-college rate from 30 percent to 50 percent.
- ❑ A study group on higher education will be formed this summer to foster institutional collaboration with both domestic and international partners in the areas of research, culture, and finance.
- ❑ The search for a new General Counsel for HEPC is still underway. The first search was declared a failure. This position was vacated by Bruce Walker in summer of 2018.
- ❑ The manager of the regional technology park reported that new jobs are coming to the state with the moving of a new biotech company into the Charleston area.
- ❑ The state appropriation for the Higher Education Grant Program was approximately \$40.6 million for FY 2019. The FY 2020 appropriation level will not be reduced. This amounts to \$2,400 per student on average. Some 17,000 students received funding through the Higher Education Grant Program last year.
- ❑ The HEPC approved the annual award amount and eligibility requirements for the merit-based PROMISE scholarship program for the 2019-20 academic year. The scholarship amount will remain at \$4,750 annually. The eligibility standards for high school and home-schooled applicants will also be maintained, which are presently as follows: 3.0 GPA and a minimum ACT composite score of 22 or an SAT combined score of 1100.
- ❑ TIAA has transitioned to being the sole record-keeper for retirement information. Records will no longer be held jointly with another company. This should result in administrative cost savings in the long term, which could be passed on to participants.
- ❑ The HEPC approved revisions to the Athletic Training program at Concord University. The existing Athletic Training degree program has been modified into a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSHS). To receive a board certification in Athletic Training, students must enroll in the new 3+2 Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT). This is a 160-credit-

hour degree program that requires the completion of 90 credit hours of undergraduate coursework and 70 credit hours of graduate coursework.

- ❑ The HEPC approved the list of probationary programs offered at four institutions (Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, Marshall University, and WVU Institute of Technology), thereby recommending their termination for not meeting “productivity guidelines.” The four programs are: 1) AAS Architectural Engineering Technology (Fairmont State University), 2) AAS in Electronics Engineering Technology (Fairmont State University), 3) BA in Chemistry (Glenville State College), and BA in Public Service Administration (WVU Institute of Technology). It should be noted that the HEPC could recommend but not mandate these curricular changes. The power to eliminate an academic program rests solely with the institutional governing boards.

#### IV. Update on the Legislative Session

Harry Baxter of Fairmont State University provided an update on legislative actions affecting higher education:

- ❑ Four-year institutions will receive \$24 million in new appropriations. Several institutions have decided to use a portion of the extra money for pay raises. Given the budget shortfalls that most institutions have been facing, there may not be enough money for a 5 percent across-the-board pay raise. On another note, it is unclear whether the \$24 million includes the one-time \$10 million proposed by President Jerome Gilbert of Marshall University as reparation for past cuts.
- ❑ Two-year institutions will receive \$19 million in new appropriations, of which \$10 million will go toward the implementation of SB 1, commonly known as the free community college bill.
- ❑ SB 150 will appropriate money for state agencies during FY 2020, including some higher learning institutions. West Virginia University (WVU), Marshall University, and West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) stand to receive the largest share of funds from this budget bill.

- ❑ SB 673 deals with public higher education planning and accountability. It modified and streamlined the data collection and reporting processes. Most notably, it eliminated the requirements for a Master Plan, Campus Compact, and Human Resources Report Card for higher education, thereby reducing the paper-filing burden on public institutions.
- ❑ SB 636 authorizes legislative rules for the HEPC regarding a number of important issues including acceptance of advanced placement credit, HR administration, PROMISE scholarship, and guidelines for governing boards in employing and evaluating presidents. The bill also authorizes legislative rules for the CTC Council regarding policy issues including tuition and fees, workforce development, technical program development, acceptance of advanced placement credit, and HR administration.
- ❑ Carolyn Long, the outgoing interim chancellor, will be remembered for her strong advocacy for the HEPC whose fate was at stake during the ongoing transitions in higher education. She was also outspoken against the concealed carry bill (HB 2519), which died in the Senate Judiciary Committee after clearing the House.

#### V. Announcements about Upcoming Events

##### ❑ ACF Retreat

The annual retreat will be held on July 12-14 2019 at Chief Logan State Park. The room rate is \$93 (plus 6% tax and 6% occupancy fee). This is the minimum daily rate available to state employees. The initial venue, Twin Falls Resort State Park, had to be changed due to ongoing repairs and improvements to the HVAC system that may not be completed before the retreat. Participants are encouraged to bring tax exempt status verification from their respective institutions in an attempt to have the state tax waived.

##### ❑ WV Great Teachers Seminar

The 2019 West Virginia Great Teachers Seminar will be held on June 17-20, 2019 at North Bend State Park. This is an annual summer retreat that educates faculty on how to be “great teachers.” It is open to all faculty in two- and four-year institutions. May 1st is the soft registration deadline. The hard deadline is June

1st. There are slots still available. No more than two participants and one alternate may register per institution. Former participants can attend again. They can also encourage others to attend by sharing their experience. WVGTS registration is paid for by the HEPC and the CTC Council but participants have to pay for room and meals.

#### VI. Discussion of November 2018 BRC Report

Joseph Allen of Concord University led a discussion on a preliminary report by the Collaboration Subcommittee of the governor's Blue Ribbon Commission that was released on November 27, 2018. The 96-page report did not receive much attention at the time, presumably because higher learning institutions were anxiously awaiting the Commission's final report, which was supposed to be published between December 9 and December 11, 2018. (The Commission did not meet that deadline and has not had a full meeting since December 13, 2018.) The purpose of the report was to identify hindrances to and opportunities for collaboration among higher learning institutions as well as between them and other entities, such as schools, associations, government agencies, hospitals, and nonprofit organizations.

Joseph Allen expressed a concern that the report contains harsh criticisms that do not accurately portray or fairly characterize the collaborative interactions that occur at the national and state levels. He attributes the negative findings not to the lack of meaningful collaboration, but rather to the incomprehensive or incomplete data submitted by some institutions. It is possible that the original information request was not clear or detailed enough, or that some institutions did not fully understand its scope, implications, and intended use. Whatever the reason for the omissions, the report's findings should be considered significant, at least because they were critical of current institutional practices and reflect poorly on the whole state.

It is recommended that each referenced institution review and respond to the concerning findings that may potentially hurt its public image. This becomes

even more important if the BRC or the HEPC will use the report as a basis for developing future policy on external collaboration. For its part, the ACF will send a letter to subcommittee chair Michael Farrell conveying three points: 1) the published report was not reflective of all the collaborative and outreach efforts in the state, 2) the report should be opened back up for colleges and universities to provide further input, and 3) Two-year institutions, which constitute a viable source of collaboration, ought to be included in the updated report. The complete report is available online at: <https://wvblueribbonhighered.org/files/d/c4ea1f08-3c31-4865-9b19-a133cde48100/report-and-recommendations-of-the-collaboration-subcommittee-f1475796xb17fd.pdf>.

#### VII. Discussion of SB 1 and WV Invests Grant

Mike Ditchen gave the following overview of the WV Invests Grant program, which was approved by the state legislature earlier this year:

Created pursuant to Senate Bill 1, WV Invests Grant provides free tuition in West Virginia's community colleges. The basic eligibility requirements and rules can be found on [wvinvests.org](http://wvinvests.org), a website that was specially designed to inform students about the new grant program. The website is up and already taking applications.

WV Invests is a "last-dollar-in" financial aid program, which means that students who qualify for federal financial aid must first submit a FAFSA application. Any balance due after federal financial aid is applied will be automatically paid by the state. However, the grant covers tuition only. Housing, food, books, and supplies must be paid by the student. Financial aid is limited to 90 attempted credit hours.

Applicants must be West Virginia residents who have lived in the state at least one year prior to submitting a WV Invests application. Students pursuing two-year degrees at four-year institutions are also eligible for WV Invests funding. Those who already have a two-year or four-year degree are not eligible.



To remain eligible for grant funding, recipients must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0, complete two hours of community service every semester, and submit to a drug test before the start of each semester. Students who fail the drug test will not be disqualified from the entire program. Rather, they will have to sit out for the semester and reenter in the following semester after passing the drug test.

A minimum of six credit hours per semester is required. Summer classes are covered by the grant. However, students must be enrolled in career-ready, high-demand fields, as determined by the West Virginia Department of Commerce. The list of qualifying degree and certificate programs can be found online at: <http://wvinvests.org/find-a-program>. The Department of Commerce will update this list as the state's workforce needs change.

The grant has a promissory note attached to it requiring recipients to live for two years in the state after receiving their certificate or diploma. For those who fail to meet the two-year residency requirement, the tuition grant they received will turn into a student loan payable to the state.

#### VIII. Remarks by Chancellor Sarah Tucker

Dr. Sarah Tucker, the newly appointed interim Chancellor of the HEPC, made a brief appearance at the meeting and apologized for having to leave early for a press conference. She further elaborated on the WV Invests Grant program and answered a few questions. Below is a summary of her remarks.

Chancellor Tucker began by decrying the fact that as many as 45 percent of West Virginia high school graduates do not go to college. WV Invests will enable two-year institutions to target this population more effectively. A social media firm has been hired to do a social media blitz in an effort to raise the profile of the new grant program, which has already generated a lot of excitement. The WV Invests website has received thousands of hits within days of its launch.

Chancellor Tucker went on to dismiss the idea that WV Invests will siphon off two-year student from transfer majors such as liberal arts or general studies. The population intending to attend a four-year program is distinct from the typical nontraditional student population that applies to a two-year college in order to earn a terminal degree or a degree in a program specified by the Department of Commerce.

Two-year institutions have already approved the list of programs developed by the Department of Commerce. It remains to be seen whether four-year institutions offering two-year diplomas will opt in or out. WV Invests may not make financial sense for such institutions, the reason being that they cannot participate in it unless they reduce the tuition they charge associate degree students to the average tuition at community colleges, which is typically half their regular tuition rate. This is why the list of approved two-year programs available at baccalaureate institutions has not yet been added to the WV Invests website.

Chancellor Tucker offered an important clarification regarding the two-year residency requirement. Students who transfer to a four-year program after receiving grant funding for their associate degree will not be released from the residency requirement. In other words, the time spent pursuing a baccalaureate degree counts as a deferral rather than a fulfillment of the residency requirement. They still have to live in West Virginia for two years after earning the four-year degree. Indicators show that this requirement should not be difficult to meet. At present, 71 percent of community college graduates work in West Virginia, and another 12-14 percent enroll at public baccalaureate institutions in the state.

As for grant-funded students who fail to complete their studies, they will not owe the state money but will have to stay in the state for two years, even if they are unable to secure employment. An exemption is allowed to individuals who leave the state for out-of-state military service, so long as they retain their West Virginia residency status while serving.

Students must take and pay for a mandatory drug test every semester they receive grant funding. The state may contract with drug testing services to help reduce this recurring cost to students.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Guirguis, PhD

Professor of Political Science

Co-Chair, Department of Political Science & Global Studies

Shepherd University

Shepherdstown, WV