



ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY
Meeting Minutes – Friday, September 27, 2019
Location: HEPC Conference Room, Charleston, WV

#	STATUS			NAME	INSTITUTION
	Present	Zoom	Regrets		
1			X	Mike Lilly	Bluefield State College
2			X	Todd Johnson	Blue Ridge CTC
3	X			Mike Ditchen, <i>Webmaster</i>	Bridge Valley CTC
4		X		Joseph Allen, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	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			Amine Oudghiri-Otmani	Marshall University
9		X		Katie Hopkins	Mountwest CTC
10		X		Karen Carter	New River CTC
11	X			Amy Cunningham, <i>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		Kathy Harrington	WV Northern Community College
17		X		Celia McLay	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.
				GUESTS	
				Corley Dennison	Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
	Present	Zoom	Regrets		

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:10.

1. Charles Puckett reported that the CTC Council had a conference call meeting on August 22nd in which a budget similar to this year's budget was presented.

2. Roy Nutter gave the following report on the September 27th HEPC meeting:

i. Michael Farrell, HEPC Chairman, voiced optimism that a proposed midyear budget cut of 4.6 percent may not be necessary if state revenue recovers enough by year-end.

ii. Amy Pitzer, Chair of Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE), expressed concern that job classification has not been happening, the Compensation Committee has not been meeting as required by state code, and staff are losing their voice in many institutions across the state.

iii. Series 61, which is a procedural rule for *Choose West Virginia Practice Program*, was approved as expected. Under this new program, the state will reimburse nonresident medical students the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition (\$30,000) for every year they practice medicine in West Virginia after completion of their training. The award is limited to a maximum of four years.

iv. Specialists for the U.S. Census Bureau provided a brief presentation in which they emphasized that students who live on campus for most of the year should be counted in the city where they attend school rather than at their home address. Instructors should impart this information to students.

v. West Virginia State University has partnered with a Chinese institution to offer a cooperative B.S. degree in math, which was approved at the meeting.

vi. According to the annual report on Vision 2025 (WV Science & Technology Strategic Plan), research expenditure at public institutions of higher education has reached \$210 million, West Virginia University has regained its Carnegie R1 ranking, and Marshall University has been recognized as an R2 research institution for the first time.

vii. HB 206, an education reform bill that passed in the 2019 special session, includes measures to address teacher shortages in West Virginia. Of particular note is the Teacher Education Loan Repayment Program, which applies to teachers who teach in critical shortage fields and to school counselors who work at high-needs schools.

3. Dr. Corley Dennison, HEPC's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, joined the meeting and provided the following updates:

i. The HEPC has had a busy summer, working mostly with private institutions that are introducing new programs or experiencing financial difficulties.

ii. The HEPC held a special workshop earlier in September to improve academic advising, especially that increasing numbers of older and working adults are seeking higher education. At present, the average age of students at two-year institutions is 29 and at four-year institutions is 25. It is quite possible that demand for micro-credentials, certificates, and shorter programs may increase as a result of this trend.

iii. The number of 18-year-olds has been flat or slightly declining, but is projected to precipitously fall by the mid-2020s in many states, including West Virginia. This means that the overall number of high school graduates will also drop in the coming years. Higher learning institutions need to adopt proactive strategies to achieve their enrollment goals for new students.

iv. A total of 16,888 high school juniors took the SAT this year in West Virginia. When surveyed about their intended college majors, the test-takers gave the following answers: 30 percent chose health sciences, 10 percent chose engineering, 8 percent chose biology, 7 percent chose business, and 6 percent chose education. None of the other 35 majors received over 4 percent. It was unexpected and remarkable to find that 61 percent of high school graduates in West Virginia are interested in only 5 majors. Colleges and universities should be prepared to cater to these students and equip them with the skills they need to be successful in their preferred majors.

v. The College Board, the nonprofit organization that administers the SAT, has decided to abandon the much-criticized Environmental Context Dashboard (commonly referred to as the “adversity score”) in favor of a new tool known as “Landscape.” The Landscape estimate will summarize all the relevant high school and neighborhood information of the applicant in a single number that institutions can use, along with the SAT score, to identify and better accommodate incoming students who may have difficulty adapting to social and academic life on campus. This data can also be useful in devising retention and advisement strategies.

vi. The issue of textbook affordability falls under Series 51, which governs the selection, adoption, use, and sale of course materials. The HEPC Chancellor wants to revise Series 51 to include a new section on Open Educational Resources (OER). While no plans are being considered to mandate the use of OER, the HEPC wants to organize a workshop on the challenges and benefits of adopting OER. Campus representatives would, in turn, share the information learned with faculty at their respective institutions in an attempt to popularize the use of OER.

vii. West Virginia Invests, the state-funded financial aid program, now has 1500-2000 students enrolled in it, which is a good start given the short time it has been in operation. While similar programs exist elsewhere, West Virginia is the only state that requires students to take a regular drug test to keep the grant. The state has contracted with a service-provider that will charge a flat fee of \$35 per test.

viii. The West Virginia Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Studies (FACDIS) is having its annual workshop on October 24 and 25. The future is still precarious for FACDIS, as WVU has extended its funding of the organization for just another year. Without a viable path forward, this could be the last FACDIS workshop.

4. Webmaster Mike Ditchen reported that the development of the new brochure is well underway. He urged everyone to provide articles, quotes, and graphics for the remaining two panels of the brochure. He suggested that awareness-raising

material on the value of higher education for the state and the region would be most appropriate.

5. ACF Chair Amy Cunningham gave the following updates:

i. So far, 7 out of 21 institutions have endorsed ACF's legislative agenda for the current academic year.

ii. The ACF will give its annual presentation to the CTC Council in October and the HEPC in December.

iii. Mike Ditchen is in the process of finalizing the registration form for the 2020 Great Teachers Seminar, which will be held in the third week of June.

iv. The next ACF retreat will be held on July 17-19, 2020. The consensus was to have the retreat at Oglebay Resort and Conference Center near Wheeling, WV.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Guirguis, PhD

Professor of Political Science

Co-Chair, Department of Political Science, Global Studies, and Geography

Shepherd University

Shepherdstown, WV