



**ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY**  
**Meeting Minutes – Friday, June 26, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom – 1:00 PM**

#	STATUS			NAME	INSTITUTION
	Present	Phone	Regrets		
1			X	Mike Lilly	Bluefield State College
2	X			Todd Cimino-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 and James Matthews	Fairmont State University
7	X			Marjie Stewart	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 Herrington	WV Northern Community College
17	X			Celia McLay	WV School of Osteopathic Med.
18	X			Barbara Ladner	WV State University
19	X			Roy Nutter and David Hauser	West Virginia University
20	X			Joel Farkas	WVU at Parkersburg
21	X			Asad Davari	WVU Institute of Tech.
				<b>GUESTS</b>	
				Corley Dennison	Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, HEPC
	Present	Phone	Regrets		

The Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) held a virtual Zoom meeting on June 26, 2020. ACF Chair Amy Cunningham called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

#### I – Updates from the Higher Education Policy Commission

Dr. Corley Dennison, the HEPC’s Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, gave the following updates at the beginning of the meeting:

1. Ascendium Education Group, a national leader in higher education philanthropy, has awarded the state \$750,000 to “support student success and accelerate degree completion.” The grant money will benefit rural, first-generation, and low-income students. This will give impetus to the West Virginia Climb initiative, which aims to equip 60 percent of the state workforce with a postsecondary certificate or degree by 2030. The WV Climb campaign was launched in 2018.

2. Senate Bill 760 was passed toward the end of the 2020 legislative session, and the governor signed it at the very end of the bill-signing window. It allows higher learning institutions that meet at least three of five criteria to be administratively exempt from several areas of HEPC oversight, including academic programs, institutional mission definitions, capital improvement projects, and acquisitions and purchases. Broadly stated, the criteria established by the bill pertain to enrollment rates, retention rates, graduation rates, and the financial state of the institution seeking exemption. HEPC is still combing through the bill and will promulgate some rules this summer.

3. Shepherd University has been exempted from HEPC oversight pursuant to SB 760, making it the first institution to take advantage of the new legislation and the fourth one in the state to receive this status. The other three institutions are West Virginia University, Marshall University, and the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine, which were exempted from HEPC oversight by the state legislature in 2017. When asked about his thoughts on why more institutions want to be free from HEPC control, Dr. Dennison said that there is a misperception that HEPC

oversight can be onerous or time-consuming when in fact the HEPC has been quite receptive to and efficient in approving various institutional requests.

4. Although the HEPC had to cancel its spring “OER Course Development Workshop,” it remains committed to popularizing Open Educational Resources among faculty in an attempt to save students the cost of textbooks that puts a heavy burden on their finances. A recent study has shown that when students save money, they tend to enroll in more classes and complete more credits. The HEPC wants to promote the wider use of OER by working with institutions and providing mini-grants, trainings, and web-based resources.

5. The impact of the pandemic on fall enrollment has been limited so far. At the four-year institutions, there has been a slight drop in incoming freshmen, while upper classes seem to be holding their numbers. There is also a relatively small change in incoming enrollment at the community colleges, but an uptick is expected shortly before the beginning of the fall semester.

6. Higher education institutions in general and the faculty in particular are to be commended for adjusting quickly to the online switch in the spring. In preparation for the fall semester, institutions need to develop social distancing plans and modified operational procedures to safeguard the health of the campus community. They should also be “remote-learning ready” in case a statewide spike in COVID-19 cases triggers another round of closures.

## II – Updates from the June 26th Meeting of the HEPC

Amy Cunningham and Roy Nutter provided updates from the HEPC meeting that took place earlier the same day:

1. HEPC Chairman Michael Farrell thanked Interim Chancellor Sarah Tucker and institutional presidents for their input, support, and collaboration during the statewide lockdown. He also expressed his gratitude toward the state legislators,

the Governor's Office, and the WV delegation in Congress for helping institutions offset the negative fiscal impact of the pandemic.

2. Interim Chancellor Sarah Tucker reported that the HEPC has approved the suspension of the standardized test score requirement for the Promise Scholarship due to delays in testing results for the SAT and ACT. She also urged attention to the psychological wellness of students who may have anxiety about returning to campus in the fall.

3. Chris Treadway, the HEPC's Senior Director of Research and Policy, gave a presentation titled "College-Going Rate of 2019 West Virginia Public High School Graduates." He reported that the percent of those who enrolled in college immediately after graduating high school was 50.5 in 2019, which was a modest increase over the 2018 rate of 50.1 percent.

4. The following measures were approved at the meeting:

- The appointments to the Chancellor Search Committee.
- The updated Shepherd University Campus Facilities Master Development Plan.
- The appointment and compensation of the president of Glenville State College, as recommended by the Board of Governors.
- The compensation package for the president of Bluefield State College, as recommended by the Board of Governors.
- The annual reauthorization of four-year degree-granting institutions.
- A provisional annual reauthorization for Wheeling University, subject to the submission of quarterly reports and periodic benchmarking information.
- The spending plans recommended by the West Virginia Science and Research Council for Fiscal Year 2021.
- The "Administratively Exempt" status of Shepherd University.
- A Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Concord University.
- A Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling at West Liberty University.

### III – Update on Great Teachers Seminar (GTS)

Participating institutions need to get the names of faculty members to Mark Goldstein as soon as they are selected in order to finalize the list of attendees. A slight delay beyond the deadline of June 30th should not be a problem, but it would be very helpful to provide the names earlier, if at all possible. Typically, each institution sends to GTS two participants who want to develop or hone their instructional abilities. The preference this year, however, is to have one faculty member who is experienced, especially in remote or online instruction, and another one who is less experienced.

### IV. Update on the Annual ACF Retreat

Amy Cunningham reported that a large majority of ACF members voted to have a virtual one-day retreat this year on July 17th. There was some discussion about the retreat's agenda. Besides the recurring agenda items, the following items were proposed and agreed to:

- Promise Scholarship: Credit hour issues with seniors and financial aid.
- Transparency in institutional personnel policies.
- The Department of Education mandates that will affect higher education nationwide.
- A potential “Global Initiative” bill to attract international students to WV.
- The “Seal of Biliteracy” program that recognizes high school graduates who have acquired proficiency in a foreign language.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Guirguis, PhD

Professor of Political Science

Chair, Department of Political Science, Global Studies, & Geography

Shepherd University

Shepherdstown, WV