



Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM

#	STATUS			NAME	INSTITUTION
	Present		Regrets		
1	x			Mike Lilly	Bluefield State College
2	x			Todd Cimino-Johnson, <i>Legislative Coordinator</i>	Blue Ridge CTC
3	x			Mike Ditchen	Bridge Valley CTC
4	x			Joseph Allen, <i>Chair</i>	Concord University
5			x	Shirley Murphy	Eastern WV CTC
6	x			James Matthews	Fairmont State University
7	x			Marjie Stewart	Glenville State College
8	x			Amine Oudghiri-Otmani	Marshall University
9	x			Katie Hopkins, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Mountwest CTC
10	x			Karen Berneburg	New River CTC
11	x			Amy Cunningham	Pierpont CTC
12			x	Tom Sydow	Potomac State College of WVU
13	x			Max Guirguis	Shepherd University
14	x			Charles Puckett, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	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, <i>Webmaster</i>	WV State University
19	x			Roy Nutter	West Virginia University
20			x	Joel Farkas	WVU at Parkersburg
21	x			Asad Davari	WVU Institute of Tech.

Committee Guest: HEPC Vice Chancellor, Dr. Corley Dennison

Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2020

I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- A. The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM
- B. Minutes of the July 17, 2020 meeting were approved with the following change (July 2020 minutes altered to reflect this change):
 - ~~a. While Ohio has West Virginia's surrounding states each have a post-secondary globalization bill that was developed in order to encourage international student recruitment and retention, West Virginia has no such policy, and the lack of such a policy is likely denying our state many economic and social opportunities.~~
 - a. *While Ohio has a post-secondary globalization bill that was developed in order to encourage international student recruitment and retention, West Virginia has no such policy, and the lack of such a policy is likely denying our state many economic and social opportunities.*

II. Report from Vice Chancellor:

- A. Higher Ed Responses to COVID-19
 - Cases in WV have been relatively small and manageable. Overall, less than 1% of the college population has tested positive for COVID-9, and although there have been difficulties, contact tracing has thus far been effective.
 - The state has provided personal protective equipment, masks, and testing to institutions
 - Spring could see the beginning of a second outbreak, so it is likely that the Spring 2021 semester will be presented in modalities similar to that of the Fall 2020 semester.
 - The Chancellor of the HEPC is emphasizing the need for focus on mental health resources for students and counselors. Institutional counseling and resource centers are experiencing increased activity due to lack of social engagement and other difficulties associated with COVID-19
 - Compared to other states, West Virginia is faring well in terms of the number of infections; for example, the University of Alabama has more cases than all WV institutions combined.
- B. HEPC Updates
 - Fourteen professional development opportunities provided by the HEPC were well-attended. The HEPC is looking to offer more opportunities in January.
 - The September 11 workshop relating to OER had over 140 participants, with faculty being awarded \$1,000 grants upon the publishing of their OER courses on their respective institutional course schedules
 - The goal is to award 75 grants initially, with a number closer to 20 for the second round of awards.

- Institutions should list OER resources in their course schedules and should publish a list of OER classes on their school websites

C. Legislative Updates

- The logistical functioning of the State Legislature will be different this year due to difficulties related to COVID-19. The Capitol will likely close down galleries and expand seating within its chambers for the purposes of social distancing
- The actions of the state legislature will largely depend on election results. It is likely that Republicans will continue to hold both houses, although a Democratic Senate is a possibility.
- There is a concern that the more significant financial effects of COVID-19 have not yet been felt in regards to state budget issues.

D. Institutional Leadership Updates

- WV State University has selected a new president
- Mountwest Community and Technical College has announced two finalists in its presidential search
- Eastern had a failed search for president and is beginning a new search
- West Liberty had a failed presidential search, but are hopeful a selection can be made by January

E. Meeting with West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE)

- Statewide, there is an extreme shortage of substitute teachers. The WVDE has suggested using student teachers to help manage this concern by awarding them with clinical hours. Students who would potentially participate in this program could only serve as short-term substitutes (as opposed to long-term).

F. International Student Recruitment and Retention Initiative

- The HEPC agrees that this initiative is well-worth pursuing, although we might consider advocating for a legislative resolution rather than an amendment to state code.
- It was suggested that Clark Egnor of the HEPC might be willing to meet with the ACF in order to discuss the geographical regions currently most open to international student recruitment. Rural schools, for example, might want to look toward developing relationships with communities in Africa and Central America.

III. Report on HEPC Meeting

- The September 2020 HEPC meeting (held immediately prior to the ACF's September 18 meeting) included presentations from the Advisory Council of Faculty, The Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE), and the state's student government association.

- The state legislature has reportedly not met with ACCE for years, although it is required to in state code
- The ACF Presentation was given by the ACF Chair, and highlighted the importance and successes of instructional versatility. The ACF's new globalization initiative was discussed, as well.
- It appears that the Spring 2021 semester will likely mirror the Fall 2020 term
- The members of ACF should inquire about the status of ACCE at our respective institutions in order to gain insight into how it is currently functioning
- The West Virginia Governor's office is developing a plan to implement and provide random testing at higher education sites/campuses, but not much else is yet known.
- It was determined that the ACF should examine state code in relation to the course hours requirement of the Promise Scholarship. Because thirty hours is required each academic year, it can cause student difficulties in regards to financial aid and appropriate course/program scheduling

IV. Old Business

A. ACF Meeting Dates

- October 8, 2020
- November 20, 2020
- January 21, 2021
- April 30, 2021
- June 11, 2021
- The ACF will likely hold an informal meeting/discussion through email before November 20th in order to discuss possible legislative initiatives

B. Postsecondary Globalization Bill

- Senator Robert Plymale has voiced interest in supporting ACF's globalization bill
- Members of the ACF are encouraged to pursue relationships with individual members of the legislature in order to advocate for this cause.

C. Legislative agenda discussion

Possible themes/concerns to consider:

- Faculty resilience
- Instructional versatility
- Static enrollment concerns.
- Broadband
- Statewide enrollment trends
- Indispensability of higher ed in local communities in dealing with COVID-19
- HEPC providing workshops and training
- Innovations Pertaining to Great Teachers Seminar/professional development

- Increased ACF support of the HEPC
- Statewide library consortium (get report about success of that program)
- Technological infrastructure: old tech, old computers, subpar connectivity

V. New Business/Discussion

A. ACF presentation to HEPC

- December 2: State-mandated annual ACF Presentation to the HEPC

B. Retired teachers as adjuncts

- Math departments often have difficulty finding adjuncts, and retired math teachers prove to be valuable educators. Unfortunately, they are limited hour-wise by the state, perhaps due to the need for substitute teachers in public schools.
- According to state code, teaching a 9 credit-hour load per semester is allowed for most adjuncts, but only a 6 credit-hour load is allowed for retired teachers.

C. WV Invests Grant/transfer programs

- Community colleges are advocating for the possible expansion of the West Virginia Invests Grant so that it includes 2 year transfer programs. Due to previous pushback from the administrations of some of the state's 4 year institutions, however, arguing for such an initiative might prove difficult.

D. Open Government Proceedings Act (6-9a)

- The Open Government Proceedings Act (6-9a) in state code states that institutional boards of governors must behave transparently and are not permitted to go into executive session to discuss topics which are not approved for executive session
- Conducting votes in executive session is an illegal act; voting must be presented at a publicly announced open meeting

E. U.S. Department of Education Guidelines for faculty qualifications (e.g. dual enrollment)

- As the Higher Learning Commission and other accrediting bodies still require college faculty to have at least 18 hours of graduate credit in their teaching discipline, it does not seem that there will be any marked changes pertaining to institutional hiring practices this academic year.

F. Need for distance learning, training, and support for teach infrastructure (HEPC level)

- (See "Legislative agenda discussion" under "Old Business")

VI. Adjournment