



Meeting Minutes
Date: January 21, 2021
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.

Guest: Dr. Corley Dennison, HEPC

Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2020

I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- A. The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM
- B. October minutes approved; November minutes approved pending addition of attendance record.

II. Old Business

A. ACF Meeting Dates

- January 21, 2021
- April 30, 2021
- June 11, 2021

III. HEPC/Statewide Report from Dr. Corley Dennison

A. Legislative Issues

- The legislation session is starting late this year, with representatives and senators returning on February 10.
- The Inauguration for Justice will be outside and will have no national guard but will have state troopers.
- It is not anticipated that any bills directly related or focused upon higher ed will come before the legislature this session.
- That said, there are certain items that could more indirectly affect higher ed: there is discussion that there will be an attempt to pass a k-12 bill to establish more control over public schools, bills related to charter schools will likely come up, and in terms of public school, discussions of having more specific requirements on teacher evaluations and notions that teacher pay should be based on performance are likely to come to the forefront given our current leadership. Most impactful, though, if the plan comes to fruition, would be a massive tax reform bill:
- The senate side of the legislature is talking about greatly reducing or eliminating income tax, which provides 47% of the state's income—this could mean that our state budget goes from \$4 billion to \$2 billion Such tax reform would have huge impact on state, and would involve the state gathering revenue from other sources, namely a “value added tax” – an expanded sales tax that would have to go to a 10% sales tax on retail, lawyer fees, accountant fees, barbershops, etc.—and would be amongst the highest sales taxes in the country.
- Craig Blair is the new President of the Senate. He used to be Chair of the Finance Committee and was the one that initially floated the value added tax idea years ago. Roger Hanshaw might not remain Speaker of the House. It is not clear Hanshaw supports eliminating the income tax, and the bill therefore might not leave the House. Attorneys, accountants, etc, will likely lobby because it would have such far reaching implications.

- The legislature's methods of functioning during the times of COVID-19 are still being worked out due to the guidelines instituted in the state constitution; according to constitution, they must meet for 60 days, pass a budget, and vote in-person. Pre-session legislative committee meetings are being held virtually, and then they will likely meet in large rooms (to facilitate social distancing) and vote in person. Galleries will likely be closed to public and be screened on WPBS Channel 2 to the public, Congress members will likely use galleries to increase social distancing, and Speaker Hanshaw has publicly discussed meeting intermittently until the entire body is vaccinated, because the constitution does not require 60 continuous days of meeting, just 60 days of meeting period.
- Early bills are the ones to look at closely, as those are the ones that likely have the most support behind them.

B. Vaccination Updates

- Three thousand vaccinations have been dispersed to higher ed faculty, staff, and students so far, with higher education institutions getting around 1000 doses a week (overall) throughout the continuation of the process.
- Around 5,000 doses are planned to be administered to students in health care fields, student teachers, and students who complete clinicals initially, with the vaccine being extended to others afterward. The entire process will likely take until March/April.
- The HEPC is hoping for a Fall on-campus return that is mostly "normal," but there will still likely be health/safety precautions employed due to COVID-19.
- Surveillance testing begins February 1, in which 10% of campus population will be tested weekly.
- This semester, student nurses will be trained and recruited as vaccinators; will likely see requests from public health departments.
- Funds from the CARES Act are coming to West Virginia, but we do not know the amount of those funds yet.
- In the second bill of the CARES Act, there were significant funds allocated to higher ed: \$24 billion, with no funds to go to for-profit institutions, and the interpretation of how those funds can be spent is largely seen as broad/liberal.

C. HEPC General Areas of Concern for all WV Higher Ed Institutions

- There is significant concern about student return in the Fall.
- FAFSA applications are down almost 2,000 overall, with especially low numbers of submissions coming from high school students that are Pell eligible, and with surprisingly higher numbers of submissions coming from returning adults or non-traditional learners. Because of this, and because Promise Scholarship applications are extremely down (around 4,000), the HEPC encourages our institutions to work on recruiting high school students, especially as they have little contact with high school guidance counselors due to COVID-19.
- Similarly, institutions will need to concern themselves with the potential lack of college preparedness on the part of incoming students due to recent changes in learning environments; campuses need to be prepared for remedial corequisite math and English courses, then, to be ready to address student needs.

- There is a need for increased student support services and advising, including mental health services.

IV. New Business/Discussion

A. Globalization Recruiting and Retention Initiative

- The ACF requested Clark Egnor's (from the HEPC) presence at the next ACF meeting in April in order to discuss higher ed globalization recruiting and retention initiatives.
- ACF Representative Amine Oudghiri-Otmani has already met with Senator Bob Plymale to discuss legislative support regarding this initiative and plans to set up more meetings in the future.

B. IBOGs at WV Higher Ed Institutions

- Some IBOGs are creating new curriculum without faculty input, but due to the expanded power of state IBOGs, there is little HEPC oversight. If any curriculum additions take baccalaureate programs beyond their 120-hour limit, though, can be evaluated by the HEPC.
- Institutional IBOG members are directly appointed by the governor, and again, because of the gutting of previous laws, they have a large amount of autonomy. IBOGS have more control over the four-year regionals than the CTCs, and while the original legislation removing HEPC oversight occurred in 2017, it seems that many IBOGS across the state are only now beginning to realize that they have a large amount of authority and, accordingly, seem to be expanding their oversight at most institutions. If schools do particularly well (according to the laws on the books now), they can lose even more oversight. WVU and Marshall are legislatively exempt and must report information to HEPC, but most other IBOGs are pretty much free from HEPC oversight.
- If an institution meets 3/5 of the legal criteria, an institution can request to be exempt from HEPC oversight (regional 4 years and CTCs). The most important of these criteria are the following: CFI of 1.5, 60% retention, appropriate enrollment level, appropriate level of cash-on-hand.
- Benefit of being administratively exempt from HEPC oversight: there is a legislative misperception of the process and its efficiency, so while institutions could/would likely benefit from oversight, they are largely permitted to operate as they see fit.
- IBOG members are not to profit in any way from their appointment, but some might be blurring the lines a bit through the acceptance of institutional paid contract work. The concern was raised that the committee is unsure who to take issues regarding ethics and IBOGS to in order to ensure proper practices are employed. For example, how should institutions deal with secret meetings and/or secret votes held by their respective IBOGs? Since all IBOG members at every institution are required to do ethics trainings, and the HEPC creates and facilitates that, IBOG appointees were to have completed an ethics form before the beginning of their appointment. It was mentioned that it might be beneficial for the committee to take a closer look at the guidelines included/emphasized in these trainings/forms.

C. Relationship between HEPC and Program Review

- All graduate programs require HLC review, but not all undergraduate programs.
- The HLC still asks HEPC about programs and program approval, even though HEPC's oversight has been limited to the aforementioned statewide IBOG laws.
- Need to discuss efficiency of high-cost programs across state institutions.

D. Committee Concerns/Points of Consideration

- At the WVCTC meeting, there were two program reviews, Pierpont's interim President and salary were approved, and the importance of recruitment of high school or traditional students was emphasized; in the last 4-5 years, WV has lost approximately 42,000 people from our overall population, and the trends/date shows us that in terms of recruiting and retention, this is the demographic our institutions would benefit most from targeting.
- U.S. Senator Manchin's push for broadband should be beneficial not just for our students, but for the entire state, due to the changing landscape of work-from-home careers/opportunities.
- Unsure about how we will visit legislature given COVID-19. Because it is/was an election year there is a delay, and the session does not even begin until February 10. The committee is tentatively planning to set up Zoom meeting sessions with legislators sometime during Spring Break/around the 3rd week of March.
- Vaccine distribution seems to be going relatively smoothly at most institutions, although some institutions experienced significant delays/issues due to organizational/functional/administrative errors.
- What are our campuses doing regarding diversity initiatives? ACF Committee members plan to bring forth their respective institutional plans/ideas to the next ACF meeting.

V. Adjournment