



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, June 10, 2021

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Virtual (on Zoom)

#	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			Tom Isaacs	Bridge Valley CTC
4	x			Joseph Allen, <i>Chair</i>	Concord University
5			x	Shirley Murphy	Eastern WV CTC
6	x			Bill Harrison	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			Jack Thatcher (alternate for Kristie Bridges)	WV School of Osteopathic Med.
18	x			Barbara Ladner, <i>Webmaster</i>	WV State University
19	x			Eloise Elliott	West Virginia University
20	x			Joel Farkas	WVU at Parkersburg
21	x			Asad Davari	WVU Institute of Tech.

The Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) held a virtual Zoom meeting on June 10, 2021. ACF Chair Joseph Allen called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

I – Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 30th meeting were approved with a minor typographical correction.

II – Welcome of New and Continuing Members

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and introducing new members who joined the ACF in May and June of 2021. Max Guirguis was selected as the minute-taker for the day.

III – Updates from HEPC Meeting

The Chair provided the following updates from the Higher Education Policy Commission meeting that took place earlier in the day:

1. Michael Farrell has served out his term as HEPC Chairman. He is stepping down to be replaced by Andrew “Drew” Payne.
2. Chairman Farrell read a resolution honoring Dr. Corley Dennison, who is retiring as the HEPC’s Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Dr. Dennison has served in that capacity since 2014.
3. Chancellor Sarah Tucker reported that some 2,000 high school graduates have received the merit-based Promise Scholarship. That number represents a large drop of about 700 awardees compared to previous years, although an increase may still occur as the fall semester nears. The Chancellor also presented a well-received report on the Nursing Career Pathways, which is a legislation-based initiative aimed at addressing the critical need for nurses in West Virginia.
4. Dr. Christopher Treadway, Senior Director of Research and Policy, reported on the recent college-going patterns of high school graduates in the state. The data confirmed the expectation that high-income household students are going to

college at a much higher rate than their low-income peers. More specifically, socio-economically advantaged students attend college at a rate of 58.8 percent, whereas the less advantaged students have an attendance rate of 33.8 percent. Dr. Treadway noted that the collected demographic data could be utilized to identify and serve vulnerable student populations that need extra resources and support.

5. Speaking for the Council of Presidents, President Mirta Martin of Fairmont State University commended students and faculty for persevering through the unique challenges of the past academic year. She also praised institutions for complying with public health and safety measures related to COVID-19.

6. Matt Ballard, Director of WV Regional Technology Park, reported that a multi-million dollar fiber optic high-speed Internet project is in the final stages of completion. He further reported that 14 acres of wooded land are being cleared for commercial development.

7. Dr. Carl Powell, Director of West Virginia Network, reported that WVNET has turned 45 this year. An affiliate of the HEPC, WVNET provides higher educational institutions with a range of telecom-related services which include the electronic degree-auditing system DegreeWorks, the learning management system Blackboard, the web portal WVROCKS (West Virginia Remote Online Collaborative Knowledge System), the student record database Banner, and the mass emailing system ListServ. Dr. Powell noted that institutions save millions of dollars through their use of WVNET.

8. Dr. Juliana Serafin, Senior Director of Science and Research, reported on a science and technology strategic framework known as "Vision 2025." A statewide plan that seeks to advance interest in STEM careers and increase high-tech training, Vision 2025 was later approved at the HEPC meeting.

9. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid, provided an overview of the modifications that have been made to financial aid rules. Of note, a new policy will free state aid recipients from having to enroll in extra courses just to maintain full-time status for financial aid purposes. If students cannot meet the full-time study requirement in a given semester due to the lack of required courses being

offered, they may request an exception from the WV Higher Education Policy Commission rather than take additional courses that are not part of their degree program.

10. The HEPC extended the sunset date of Series 48 (Research Trust Fund Program) and Series 52 (Annual Reauthorization of Degree-Granting Institutions) for another five years. This was done in accordance with a 2016 state law stipulating that any legislative rule which had not been revised in five years would automatically expire unless renewed in a timely manner. The HEPC authorized the continuation of the two procedural rules with no changes.

11. The HEPC approved a proposal for a Master of Business Administration (MBA) to be offered by West Virginia State University. The new degree consists of 36 credit hours and has concentrations in agribusiness and entrepreneurship.

IV – Other Updates and Announcements

1. Bluefield State College, which is located at the bottom of the state, was denied a request to open a branch campus in the Wheeling area, some 300 miles away. The WV Council for Community & Technical College Education (CCTCE) was not persuaded that a workforce demand exists for the proposed associate degree programs. The presidents of local institutions may have been instrumental in the rejection of Bluefield's proposal, having forcefully argued that the educational needs of the region are already adequately met.

2. The ACF decided to hold its annual July retreat in virtual-only format (through Zoom platform) due to pandemic-related constraints. The Chair encouraged everyone to consider volunteering for the positions vacated by the departing members. Elections for the open positions will be held at the retreat.

3. It was agreed to invite to the retreat Dr. Clark Egnor, the HEPC's Coordinator of International Programs, to further discuss the "Globalization Bill" proposal. Working with the HEPC and other interested stakeholders, the ACF plans to petition the state legislature to enact a law that would help WV institutions attract and recruit international students.

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Guirguis, PhD

Professor of Political Science

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

Shepherd University

Shepherdstown, WV