



Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 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.

Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2020

I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- A. The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM
- B. October minutes to be approved at January meeting

II. Old Business

- A. ACF Meeting Dates
 - October 8, 2020
 - November 20, 2020
 - January 21, 2021
 - April 30, 2021
 - June 11, 2021

III. New Business/Discussion

- A. Updates from the HEPC's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Dr. Corley Dennison, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), reported that he had recently attended a number of workshops with the College Board and the Higher Learning Commission. The primary focus of the workshops was the post-election transition and what might take place in the first few months after inauguration.

1. U.S. Department of Education Shakeup

Although the details are not finalized or fully known at this time, education policy watchers have an expectation that Joe Biden will revamp the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). There is a transition team already in place that will probably replace most of the top officials in the DOE. A group of 25 people serving on this transition team will make recommendations and provide guidance to the incoming administration. The new president will directly appoint 16 DOE officials, who will in turn appoint 250 new staffers and replace 400 more. This shakeup will have a potentially significant impact on established educational standards and policies.

Major changes are anticipated in policies affecting international students and DACA students. For clarification, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, was a program established by the

Obama administration in 2012 to allow young people who were brought to the United States before their 16th birthday by undocumented parents to legally work and study in the country. The transition team has intimated that rescinding the existing restrictive policies will be the Biden administration's first order of business.

2. Potential Winners and Losers

According to education analysts, the likely big winners under the Biden administration will be Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), international students, and students in debt. Current student loan rules are probably going to be revised in an attempt to help borrowers.

The likely losers will be for-profit higher learning institutions, Competency-Based Education (CBE), and new accreditors. Whereas the Trump administration supported a national accreditation model that made it easier for new accreditors to emerge, the Biden administration is expected to undo this initiative in favor of the traditional regional accreditation model.

3. Enrollment Numbers Down

Enrollment is down 4.4 percent in four-year institutions for the fall semester. The numbers for the community colleges, which will be released in December, are expected to be at a similar level as those for the four-year colleges and universities.

This drop could be partially attributed to a steep decline of 17 to 20 percent in international student enrollment across the state. Should new measures be implemented in early 2021, the numbers of international students coming to the United States could rebound by 2022.

While most state institutions of higher learning seem to have kept student enrollment reasonably stable so far, there are some real concerns about the spring and fall of 2021. One indicator that enrollment could be lower next year is that applications for the Promise Scholarship are down by 81 percent. A second indicator is that the number of completed FAFSA applications is down by 1,700 to 1,800. Dr. Dennison called these numbers "disturbing." Facing this challenge effectively means that institutions need to enhance their recruitment efforts in order to meet their strategic plan and enrollment goals.

B. Report on HEPC Meeting

The ACF chair, Dr. Joseph Allen, presented a report on the HEPC meeting that took place earlier the same day.

1. Michael Farrell, HEPC Chairman, commended institutional presidents on their adaptive leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also thanked the Governor's Office for providing much-needed funds and resources to higher education.
2. Sarah Tucker, HEPC Chancellor, gratefully acknowledged that Governor Jim Justice had set aside \$2.5 million in July for testing students and employees as they return to campus. She reported that, apart from WVU, less than one percent of students have tested positive since classes began this fall. She encouraged institutions to assess the adequacy of the services and supports they have in place to cater to the mental health needs of students.
3. Jenna Derrico, Chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE), reported on the ways in which the pandemic has affected employees. She also expressed concern over the continued dilution of job protections and engagement levels of classified staff at various institutions.
4. Anna Williams, Chair of the Advisory Council of Students, reported that poor or unreliable internet access continues to be a matter of concern for many students, especially those living in the southern part of the state. She also noted that isolation and limited social interaction with peers appear to be adding to student challenges and affecting their psychological well-being. The third concern she expressed was that self-supporting students and their families could be experiencing food insecurity due to loss of employment or reduction in work hours.
5. The HEPC approved the following budgetary items:
 - The Fiscal Year 2021 Division Operating Budgets and Higher Education Resource Assessment projects.
 - The Fiscal Year 2021 institutional capital budgets.

- The Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing.
- The Fiscal Year 2020 Research Challenge Fund Annual Report and recommends submission to the Governor and the Legislature.

C. ACF's Legislative Agenda Items

After an extended discussion, the ACF adopted the following legislative agenda items:

- 1) Broadband Needs: To expand and improve broadband capabilities statewide to ensure that students, higher education institutions, and industries have access to the technology they need to develop, innovate, and grow.
- 2) COVID Challenges and Adaptation Strategies: To continue adapting to the challenges brought forth by the pandemic through working to sustain, improve, and protect the health and education of our students.
- 3) IT Needs: To address IT needs at the institutional level through funding and trainings for faculty and staff.
- 4) Mental Health Needs: To study and improve access to mental health resources for our students.
- 5) Globalization Bill: To encourage and support recruitment for postsecondary education globalization initiatives in West Virginia.
- 6) Campus Governance: To provide transparency in campus governance and initiate faculty and staff evaluations of Boards of Governors as well as administrators at the dean level and above.

V. Adjournment