**Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

**Date: January 19, 2024**

**Virtual meeting**

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| # | **S T A T U S** | **N A M E** | **I N S T I T U T I O N** |
|  | Present | Zoom |  |  |
| 1 |  | x | Amine Oudghiri-Otmaniamine.oudghiri@marshall.edu | Marshall University |
| 2 |  |  x | Andi Kent Andrea.Kent@mail.wvu.edu  | WVU Institute of Tech. Beckley |
| 3 |  |  x | Barbara Ladner, ***Webmaster***ladnerbe@wvstateu.edu | WV State University |
| 4 |  |   | Todd Clark Todd.Clark@fairmontstate.edu) | Fairmont State University |
| 5 |  |  x | Stephanie MountsStephanie.mounts@southernwv.edu  | Southern WV CTC |
| 6 |  |  | Douglas McCallDouglas.mccall@westliberty.edu  | West Liberty University |
| 7 |  |  x | Eloise Elliott ***Chair***Eloise.elliott@mail.wvu.edu  | West Virginia University |
| 8 |  |  | Heather HussellHussell8@mctc.edu  | Mountwest CTC  |
| 9 |  | x | Kathy Cox kcox@blueridgectc.edu  | Blue Ridge CTC  |
| 10 |  |  x | Joel Farkasjoel.farkas@wvup.edu | WVU at Parkersburg |
| 11 |  | x | Joseph Allen, ***Legislative Coordinator***allenj@concord.edu | Concord University |
| 12 |   | x | Karen Berneburg, ***Vice-Chair***kberneburg@newriver.edu  | New River CTC |
| 13 |  | x | Kathy Herrington, ***Secretary***kherrington@wvncc.edu  | WV Northern Community College |
| 14 |  |  | Matt Williams (mwilliams2@osteo.wvsom.edu ) | WV School of Osteopathic Med. |
| 15 |  | x | Kandas Queen (Kandas.Queen@glenville.edu | Glenville State University |
| 16 |  | x | Max Guirguismguirgui@shepherd.edu | Shepherd University  |
| 17 |  | x | Jack Sheffler (new rep)jsheffler@bluefieldstate.edu | Bluefield State University |
| 18 |  | x | Anthony (Tony) Anobile aanobile1@pierpont.edu) | Pierpont CTC |
| 19 |  |  x | Anthony Prato (new rep)anthony.prato@easternwv.edu | Eastern WV CTC |
| 20 |  | x | Lana Andreanlana.Andrean@bridgevalley.edu | Bridge Valley CTC |
| 21 |  |  x | Mia Martinimia.martini@mail.wvu.edu | Potomac State College of WVU |
| 22 |  |  x | Corley DennisonCorley.Dennison@wvhepc.edu  | HEPC representative |

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**
	1. **Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.**
	2. **17 members present – constitutes a Quorum (1/2 or more).**
	3. **Minutes from Nov 3-4 , 2023 retreat read and approved with minimal corrections. Motion: A. Prato, 2nd L. Andrean.**
	4. **Did introductions and welcomed our new representative for Bluefield State and Eastern CTC**
2. **Discussion items:**
	1. **Chairs report**
* Eloise thanked Stephanie Mounts for designing the new logo and infographic with information about ACF. ACF representatives should distribute this to faculty at their institutions. We will not be doing or distributing hard copies. Mike Ditchen, former webmaster, did the original logo
* She did a presentation on 12/7 to the CTC regarding tenure & other concerns and issues we discussed at the retreat. Did another on 12/15 for HEPC, so both groups are aware of our concerns. If our CTCs won’t support resurrecting tenure, could we lobby for multi-year contracts (we think that Code limits it to no more than 3 years). Discussed whether folks know that tenure doesn’t mean you can’t be fired or let go if downsized or programs are d/c. It doesn’t look like it will come up in legislation for 4 year colleges; hasn’t been introduced and we will not address it unless it does.
* At the meeting, CTC reported approving 2 grants and discussing the 5% salary increase to offset 10% increases to PEIA (see more discussion about this below)
* Nov minutes recommended Eloise also talk with Sarah Tucker, about tenure and see if she would support reinstating tenure at CTCs and communicate that to the CTC college Presidents. We continue to believe tenure is important to retention of qualified faculty, who often leave for positions at other institutions that have tenure, for continuity for students and graduates (program quality, letters of rec, etc.), and for grants & research. B. Ladner reported that California CC have it; K. Herrington did some preliminary research and it appears that Washington, Illinois, Colorado, NY, and MD may also still have it
* Perhaps set up a meeting with Delegate Ellington, Chair of the Educ Committee to discuss some of our concerns (Melissa White would likely have to set it up). Vice Chair Joe Statler might also be good to talk to about this issue.
	1. **Legislative updates**
* Eloise sent us 2 attachments re: legislation. She will forward us things HEPC sends out. Travis Mollohan, Dir of Gov’t Relations, who spoke at our Nov meeting, may be a good contact for us.
* Legislation regarding banning or limiting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts (HB 4387 from last year which may be re-introduced in a more comprehensive version this year), programs, offices, or staff may be coming out. We may want to put together something about what courses, majors, programs, accreditation, research, professional licensure, or grants that require a commitment to that would be affected. Apparently FL has an exemption for accredited programs. The last bill limited what administrators could do but did not try to limit what faculty could do, interpretation is that it could affect college-wide diversity efforts but not academic freedom at this point. Also, if not funded by the state, individual colleges could still choose to do it. However, DEI offices & staff positions could be in jeopardy. Question about whether it could still be distributed throughout the curriculum but not in a course that all students are required to take?
* Several links were provided for those who want to read further about this topic:
* **DEI Spending Banned, Sociology Scrapped in Florida**
* Florida’s State Board of Education imposed new prohibitions on DEI spending at state colleges, following a similar decision for state universities. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/trustees-regents/2024/01/18/dei-spending-banned-sociology-scrapped-florida>
* **DEI Legislation Tracker, Chronicle of Higher Education**

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/here-are-the-states-where-lawmakers-are-seeking-to-ban-colleges-dei-efforts>

* Eloise said that our subcommittee on DEI (Eloise, Todd Clark, Douglas McCall, will meet and discuss how to approach, and asked if anyone else wants to be on this subcommittee. Katherine Cox volunteered to join this subcommittee as well. Matt Turner (HEPC) feels we can’t prepare a response until we see the bill and know how to best approach, tentative meeting Feb 16. Perhaps we can do some research, and/or take the issue back to our home institutions and ask Provosts or Presidents what we can do to prepare for this.
* **Hunger-free campus bill** – students presented at Nov meeting and asked for our support of this bill, which did not pass last session, perhaps due to the cost. We can ask the students how we can help if a bill doesn’t pass
* **Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, HEPC,** additionally reported the following which may affect education:
	+ Lots of bills have already been introduced (about 1,200)
	+ **HB 4011** on “Obscene materials” sponsored by Shiarelli- affects discussions or lessons on biological/reproductive issues, affects mostly K-12, not higher ed. Includes language that “schools will be exempted from criminal liability if they use an “approved state curriculum”
	+ “Under the Dome” comes out every week, has new bills and bills rolled over from last year, which may include bills affecting LGBTQ+?
	+ Will any of these bills adversely affect libraries?
	+ House of Delegates has established a committee on AI that meet to “receive testimony, consider legislation, and recommend action to the Speaker of the House regarding all issues relating to AI in WV”. Looking for “experts”. Eloise sent us an article on what NC is doing that she recommends for reading (attached below). Can any of us send a rep from one of our schools to be part of those “experts” who can advise. ACF believes this is an academic issue and sentiment was that “no action” should be taken on this issue by the legislature. Members commented that AI is hard to detect (GPT zero can maybe do it) faculty may be able to change assignments to make students put in their own opinions or experiences, tough to detect AI. Some folks have included statements in their syllabi about AI and using it appropriately or inappropriately (which could result in penalties for academic dishonesty), and the recommendation was that we all should consider doing that.
	+ **Campus carry bill** – Each institution has to have plans in place by July of 2024 when the bill goes into effect. We may want to reach out to Texas or other states that already have this for ideas and information about the effects. Question: What have faculty governance bodies done and how? Some schools are already implementing like they do to prohibit food or alcohol being brought into events. Marshall U. requires people coming to sporting or other large events to have a “clear” bag or they have to take backpacks, etc. back to their cars. Might be some kind of online forum in the spring to discuss. Travis Mollohan appreciated all the comments we sent in.
	+ **Governor’s State of the State address –** The governor said all state employees will get a 5% raise but that’s not completely accurate. They will look at salaries and market equity (folks above & below the mean), but institutions can also skim some off to offset PEIA increased costs. The WV Senate may be looking to oppose some of what he said, looking at “flat” budgets for Higher Ed right now
	+ **HB 4819 –** CLT “Classic Learning Test” (an ACT version of it) would be allowed as an admissions test for colleges (historically for homeschooled children), has Biblical information, ancient Greek & Roman philosophers. Audios & videos of committee discussions may be available for review
	+ **SB 334 –** WV State & Bluefield seeking approval to offer Associate degrees without HEPC approval
	+ **Other issues**
		- **Dual enrollment –** there are 6,500 students now in dual enrollment initiatives (they expected only about 4,200). More data will be collected for Fall and Spring
		- **Series 21 & 23 –** Admission & placement standards (figuring out what to do going forward with the ACT and SAT exemptions put in place during Covid). Looking for transcript recognition for microcredentials to get more adult learners and utilize “skill sets”.
		- **PLAs (Prior Learning Assessments)** for credits. Career pathways expanding hours allowed for PLA credit from 30 to 45 for Associate degrees, 72 to 90 for Bachelor degrees to get adult learners back to school and give credit for work or non-college training.
		- **OERs (Open Educational resources) –** Implementation of OER courses have saved WV students $3.7 million so far. Round 7 of the $1,000 mini-grants are out now; convening at Stonewall Resort Apr 3-5
		- **Course sharing –** CTCs have trouble keeping Science faculty, and 4 year schools are having trouble keeping EDUC faculty to teach certain courses. 2024-25 will be a pilot year using “WV Rocks” for specialized courses to see what may work, whereby students can take online courses through WV Rocks for credit at their home institution. Question about whether these courses have to be 8 weeks as many of them currently are. Corley said he’s not sure whether we have to be bound by that.
		- **Funding formula –** Performance based funding not in any of the budgets so far and no apparent discussions in the legislature at this time. We will ask Chris Treadway to come and speak about that at the April 19th meeting
	1. **PEIA**
* Recommendation that each institution should determine what cost is for the suggested 5% salary increase to offset the 10% PEIA increase for employees and the college (e.g., employees funded by the state vs. those funded by grants). If institutional costs are deducted and some has to go for merit or those who aren’t at market equity, we may not get the full 5%

* 1. **ListServe**
* ACF currently has two list serves, one secure, only for members, and one open to a variety of folks. We discussed doing away with 2 and only having one, and removing folks who are not currently on ACF. Motion to do so: J. Allen. 2nd: A. Prato. Motion carried. Eloise or Barbara will notify those who expressed a desire to stay on the list at our previous meetings and let them know we are changing this. We are ok with HEPC rep being on the secure list at this time. If it needs changed in the future we will address it then.
* Next meetings
	+ February 16, 2024, 1:00 p.m.(tentative) virtual? Or in person? in Charleston at HEPC headquarters (9th floor, Kanawha Blvd, or at the Capitol.
	+ April 19, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Virtual

**Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Herrington, Secretary