

**West Virginia Advisory Council of Faculty  
Report to the WVSU Faculty Senate  
For Meeting of Sept. 1  
Submitted by Barbara Ladner, Representative**

**Annual Retreat:** The West Virginia Advisory Council of Faculty held its annual retreat at Pipestem Resort July 14-16, 2017. The main business was meeting with invited state legislators, discussing the issues we will emphasize this year, and contents for this year's brochure.

For the first time, the ACF invited state legislators to discuss statewide higher education issues. Two members attended: Senator Kenny Mann, chair of the Senate Education Committee, and Delegate David Pethtel from the northern panhandle. Marshall University's ACF representative, Mary Beth Beller, led a presentation to the legislators about the effects of HB 2815, which ended (as of June 30, 2018) an assessment of all higher education institutions which supported several important activities of the HEPC. Some of these are teacher and curriculum development, international education, training for new boards of government and student government members, collaborative relationships to promote mother and infant health in southern West Virginia, and various grants and programs to support students. ACF representatives supported the presentation with comments about issues on their own campuses. The discussion allowed us to inform the legislators about the impact of this legislation and highlight much of the important work done by WV's higher educators at all levels.

The main other discussion was about our 'focus' issues for this year and how best to present them in the ACF brochure. Last year, the ACF shifted tactics somewhat from previous years, to emphasize fewer issues, rather than a laundry list of concerns. The issues this year are similar to last year's:

For the WV Legislature:

- Create a steady stream of revenue for the higher education of WV students.
- Support the critical work of the HEPC and CTCC to ensure transparency and oversight at colleges and universities in administering higher education.
- Restore funding for student and faculty programs scheduled to be eliminated on July 1, 2018 per HB 2315.
- Secure the solvency of PEIA with adequate funding.

For the WV HEPC, CTCC and Institutions of Higher Learning

- Promote faculty rights and ethical behavior through educating administrators and faculty
- Include faculty in decision-making processes that create initiatives and policies

**August Meeting:** The August 11, 2017, meeting at HEPC offices in Charleston discussed a PowerPoint on higher education issues to be sent to all legislators and recommended that all campuses host a forum for their nearby legislators prior to the 2018 session, preferably in October 2017.

**ACTIONS REQUESTED:**

- Vote to endorse ACF's 2017-18 issues.
- Vote to hold and to select organizers for a forum in October for our local legislative delegation.