

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

West Virginia State University and the West Virginia State Community & Technical College

BOG Policy #10

Title: WVSCTC Role and Balance of Adjunct Faculty

Section 1. General

1.1 Scope: Policy regarding the role and balance of Adjunct Faculty in the West Virginia State Community & Technical College (WVSCTC).

1.2 Purpose: The West Virginia State University Board of Governors recognizes that significant contributions to the mission of West Virginia State Community & Technical College can be made by highly qualified members of the faculty who fill part-time roles while designated as adjunct faculty.

1.3 Authority: West Virginia Codes §18B-2A-4 and 18B-7-6, Higher Education Policy Commission Series 9, and HB 2224.

1.4 Effective Date: May 21, 2003

Section 2. The Role of Adjunct Faculty in West Virginia State Community & Technical College

The duties of adjunct faculty at WVSCTC are clearly defined in the Part-Time Faculty Handbook.

2.1 Adjunct faculty allow WVSCTC to provide a broader coverage and meet the demand for introductory level general education and developmental education courses;

2.2 They supplement full-time faculty by teaching courses for which their professional experience or scholarship especially suites them;

2.3 They provide instructional coverage when full-time faculty are not available;

2.4 They provide specialized instruction in subject matter unavailable from full-time faculty and often their expertise as full-time professionals can expand student knowledge through the application of “real world” experience to the academic courses; and

2.5 They provide flexibility in course offerings for students.

In essence, qualified adjunct faculty members complement the full-time faculty and enrich the overall curricula.

Section 3. Defining an Appropriate Balance Between Full-Time and Adjunct Faculty

Defining an appropriate balance between full-time and adjunct faculty at WVSCTC is predicated on the basic and important assumption the “faculty responsibilities at an institution are best fulfilled when a core of full-time teaching faculty has as its primary commitment the educational programs provided by the institution. This means full-time rather than part-time employment at the institution.” (Quote by the WVSCTC’s North Central Accrediting Association.) The North Central Association also states that, “it is reasonable to expect that an institution would usually have at least one full-time faculty member for as many majors as it offers.”

3.1 WVSCTC will maintain a goal of at least one or more full-time faculty members per program, dependant on the enrollment;

Also in accordance with Senate Bill 653, an essential condition defined for WVSCTC programs is: “A full-time core faculty, complemented by persons engaged through contract or other arrangements, including college and university faculty, to teach courses, and qualified business, industry and labor persons engaged as adjunct faculty in technical areas.”

3.2 WVSCTC will maintain a core faculty, contract with West Virginia State University for general education courses (many of which are taught by full-time instructors), and contract qualified business, industry and labor persons to employ part-time to meet the schedule demand and expertise unavailable among our full-time faculty.

The balance between full-time and adjunct faculty should be based on whether or not there is a viable core of full-time faculty in WVSCTC for the purposes of planning, advising, mentoring and assessing students. WVSCTC will make that determination based upon the number of developmental and introductory courses offered, the need for specialized instruction, specialized accreditation needs, field-based components, and other factors relevant to the complexity of the WVSCTC programs.