**WV Advisory Council of Faculty**
Report by Barbara Ladner, ACF Representative, to the WVSU Senate Meeting of September 7, 2018

The WV Advisory Council of Faculty held a three-day retreat at Blackwater Falls State Park in July and the first regular meeting for 2018-19 on August 24. At both meetings, we focused on a few very high priority items:

* The big news in WV higher education is the Blue Ribbon Commission appointed by the Governor. It is supposed to report its findings/recommendations by December. The Governor appointed important legislators to it, so its ‘suggestions’ are likely to carry weight with lawmakers and the Governor.
* ACF and many of the members of the commission have pushed for faculty, staff, and CTC representation, but so far the Governor has resisted, citing concerns that the group would become unwieldy
* The fact of the BR Commission has led the HEPC board to suspend the search for a new chancellor, on the grounds that the structure might change radically, depending on the BR Commission’s recommendations.
* I will be working with President Jenkins to coordinate campus involvement in making our views known about the BR Commission’s conclusions, as the need arises.
* HEPC staff have been working on a new ‘student-focused’ funding model for WV state-supported institutions of higher education, mandated by the legislature.
* The model considers enrollment, types/levels of programs, numbers of ‘at-risk’ students served, and success in the areas of providing access, student progress, and degree production.
* The model would be a guide for budgeting, with no binding force on legislator actions.
* It projects that most institutions would get a higher percentage of funding, with WVU the biggest ‘loser,’ but it proposes that funding make up that difference for ‘harmed’ institutions in the first three years.
* It also urges that funding go up to ‘reward’ successful institutions, rather than staying the same and taking funds from some institutions to give to others.
* HEPC has other initiatives:
* To promote educational attainment, with the goal “to have 60 percent of the state’s workforce with a formal education credential beyond high school by the year 2030.”
* To revise admissions and placement rules to emphasize SAT scores, instead of ACT scores, in line with a statewide decision to administer the SAT to all high school juniors.
* To continue promoting transferability between institutions, via articulations and credit transfer agreements.
* To facilitate institutions’ involvement in “Complete College America” with a “Momentum Year” workshop, which was held earlier this week.
* ACF spent some time discussing how to protect due process for faculty in the state, to discourage institutions from interpreting increased freedom in employment practices to mean that all employees can be treated as ‘at will’ employees. See the issues below and/or the ACF minutes that will be forwarded to Deborah Wells for inclusion on the Faculty Senate pages.

**ACF Issues for 2018-19 – *This report is a motion to approve these issues.***

Continue to provide a high quality and affordable education for West Virginians, and to recognize the continuum of state supported learning, from Pre-K through college.

For the WV Legislature:

1. Provide a steady supply of revenue for the higher education of WV students.
2. Fund PEIA to meet the growing needs of WV public employees for affordable and accessible healthcare.
3. Support the critical work of the HEPC and CCTCE to ensure transparency and oversight at colleges and universities in administering higher education.
4. Include faculty in planning and decision making processes that affect the higher education of WV students.
5. Preserve the autonomy of the Boards of Governors to regulate the safety and security of the campus community.
6. Promote ethical behavior and due process for faculty in higher education.