**Advisory Council of Faculty
Representative Report to Faculty Senate
November 4, 2016***from ACF meeting, October 20, 2016*

**ACF Issues in Advising Legislature and Institutions:**
Nearly all institutions have endorsed ACF issues for this year. (Some institutions have not indicated anything one way or the other; none have rejected the issues.)

ACF is continuing to discuss possible sources of ‘dedicated’/stable revenue for higher ed, such as a pop tax, but not much will happen till after election.

HEPC is considering offering a workshop for any faculty who became administrators, (or possibly a conference with possibly a national figure in ethics), and training 'bank' of ombudsmen for helping resolve issues that is fair and based on system HR policy. Chancellors will work on this with us. ACF will try to publicize existing training events more.

There was discussion of what rights faculty, such as ones parallel to student protections from bullying.

ACF and HEPC may be continue to be under fire because of “right sizing” efforts by some legislators. ACF supports, wants to assist HEPC resist efforts to cut its budget or abolish it.

The ACF brochure (out soon?) and talking points can assist faculty/institutions in talking to legislators about resisting/mitigating budget cuts to higher ed.

Mary Beth Beller (political science professor at MU) is not expecting too much drastic change in legislature.

MU invited legislators to speak with members of the business community (such as chambers of commerce) that hire MU grads, to talk about the economic impact of the University on area businesses. This was to drive home the point that higher education is really about economic development (since either party will be faced with hard choices, due to decreasing revenues).

MCTC had a town hall meeting for candidates. Rob Johnson (WSAZ) moderated. Three areas were addressed: higher ed, economic development, community safety. Students were runners for questions from audience to moderator. It was a lot of work, but it offered conversations between community members and potential office holders. It was suggested that new legislators, especially, would probably appreciate the opportunity for such conversations.

**Institutions:**
There are some questions on the economic viability of New River CTC, which has (mostly donated) holdings that are hard to maintain, such as a 50-acre farm. There are questions about whether, if assets are sold and funds put in general revenue, legislature could 'sweep' it, though they haven't done that sort of thing before.

The fact that the new governor will have the role of appointing board members, to fill vacancies as they occur, was discussed. It’s a good idea for institutions to make suggestions, since governors don't always know who might be appropriate.

**Vice-Chancellor’s Report:**Dr. Dennison reported that HEPC would soon send to the provosts seven math and science courses outlines with learning objectives and course content for ‘vetting’ as a guidelines for transfer courses that all institutions would accept for major credit. Institutions will give feedback on whether the courses described by the objectives and content are adequate to fulfill major requirements (or serve as entry courses for major courses). If consensus or overwhelming majority accepts, then HEPC will start accepting syllabi for possible inclusion on an equivalency agreement list (similar to CCTA, but for major, not just GE). Committee vetting syllabi would be making decisions about how close individual syllabi need to be to the 'standard.' Dr. Ford is on the committee that developed the course 'templates,' but I don't know who is on the 'vetting' committee. I believe that the idea will be that if a course meets the standard set by the vetting committee, it will be eligible to be on the list of courses that transfer for major credit and that institutions will 'have' to accept the credit for courses on the list for that purpose. Some process/logistical matters are still to be worked out (how indicated on transcript, etc.).  Outcomes seem to be divided into essential and optional, where all syllabi have to have all essential outcomes. Institutions have option of changing their courses to align or not submitting their courses for the list.

The next area for equivalency standards might be psychology.

Because of problems with some for-profit institutions (ITT closure & issues with ACICS, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools), the Department of Ed is expecting some changes in two legislative series (35 & 52) relating to 'vocational' and 'correspondence' schools, the legislation needs to be amended to clear up conflicts in language and prevent schools that are coming in under purely vocational schools (e.g., barber college) from offering associates degrees without further approval. The Department will work with the attorney general in dealing with schools that ignore cease-and-desist letters.

October revenues were a little better than they had been. Revenue was $80 million short on revenue at end of September. There are hopes for the gap to close some, but not completely. Governor Tomblin might make cuts after election, to save new governor from having to do it. Dr. Dennison reminded the Council that the state will have new gov, minority leader, and majority leader, no matter who wins. There is the possibility of a 17-17 split in the Senate, but it is unlikely that the House will 'flip.' (Democrats would have to hold all seats and win four vacancies (retirements).

PEIA: Increased co-pays and deductibles, higher Rx costs, are expected, but minimal increase in employee 'contributions,' though there is some discussion of sliding scale based on total household income. Sylvia Senften will make copies from last year's public hearings. ACF will try publicize public hearings, in the hope that many faculty will attend. The Council will also seek advice from statewide unions.

Dr. Dennison discussed the plans that are in the process of being implemented to create ‘co-requisite’ courses that allow students whose scores do not make them eligible for general education English and math courses (e.g., English 101, Math 111, 120) to earn college credit while receiving appropriate support, such as additional/longer meeting times, required tutoring, etc., so that they can succeed in these courses.

**Great Teachers Seminar:**
See flyer. It was suggested that it would be good to have great teachers make presentations each fall on their experience. It was also suggested that 'we' need to confirm that our institution is still willing to fund attendance fully.