

WV Advisory Council of Faculty

Report by Barbara Ladner, ACF Representative, to the WVSU Senate Meeting of May 3, 2019

Announcements/FYI Items

- With the departure of Dr. Carolyn Long from HEPC back to WVU-Tech, HEPC has named Dr. Sarah Tucker, currently Chancellor of the West Virginia Community & Technical College System (CTCS), as Interim Chancellor of HEPC. She will hold both positions concurrently. HEPC Board Chair Michael Farrell praised Dr. Long's service to and advocacy for HEPC and against the campus-carry bill during her tenure as Chancellor.
- HEPC owes \$32 million in debt service on bonds this year but still has an A+ bond rating. According to a report at the HEPC meeting April 26, institutions are still handling their part of the debt, even with lower enrollments.
- TIAA is 'transitioning' to being the sole record keeper for retirement information, even though some retirement accounts are handled through a different company (Northwestern?). Previously, both companies were keeping the records, so this should result in a small cost reduction, to the benefit of account holders.
- HEPC's Student Affairs unit is holding several conferences for high school kids to get them into college.
- As far as ACF can tell, only the Blue Ribbon Commission subcommittee on institutional collaboration has reported much, and there are issues with the appendices listing schools' collaborations. For example, there is no WVSU page in the appendices, though we are listed as collaborating with some other institutions. Concord has very little, though its president was on this subcommittee. Apparently, the request for information could have been a lot clearer. Nevertheless, there will be a study group this summer to help institutions with more collaborations; cultural, finance, research, etc. ACF is drafting a letter to HEPC Chair Michael Farrell encouraging including more information in lists of collaborations in order to represent institutional activities accurately and to represent the state of WV higher education in a more favorable light.
- The Legislature will form study group on higher education. ACF has few details at this point. Senate President Mitch Carmichael has suggested that there is not enough agreement in the Legislature to justify a special session over the summer, while others suggest that higher education should be part of the charge for such a session.
- ACF chair, Marybeth Beller recapped our efforts with legislators to the HEPC board meeting, Friday, April 26. Some issues emphasized include the continual need to stabilize PEIA and thanks to HEPC for help with defeating the campus-carry bill.
- HEPC recommended changes in six (6) programs:
 - Revisions to the Athletic Training program at Concord University, to comply with accreditation changes
- Terminations, after too little improvement in enrollment/degrees granted during probationary period:
 - BAS - Bachelor of Applied Science - Marshall University (already terminated by MU BOG)
 - AAS Architectural Engineering Technology - Fairmont State University
 - AAS Electronics Engineering Technology - Fairmont State University
 - BA Chemistry - Glenville State College
 - BA Public Service Administration - WVU Institute of Technology Gazette had long article on SB Friday (4/26).

Passed Legislation Relevant to Higher Education in WV (*There is a Legislature link on ACF website.*)

- SB 1 - WV Invests (aka, 'free' CTC tuition) - The new Chancellor briefly addressed the bill. As interim chancellor, she wants to talk about higher education holistically, including both CTCs and 4 years. The SB 1 website, wvinvests.org, lists only programs that are eligible. One problem has been that students often don't even fill out the FAFSA; the WV Invests grant requires them to do so. The hope is that this will increase higher education participation overall, since many are deciding they can't afford college without knowing how much money they can get. Chancellor Tucker wants to analyze who isn't going to college and why. Any 2-year degrees at 4-year institutions that are eligible must be offered at the average CTC tuition (-half what most 4-years charge). WV Invests will conduct a social media 'blitz.' The bill provides "last" dollars in, requires drug testing every semester (costs paid by student), a promissory note to stay in WV for two years after 'finishing,' enrollment in at least 6 hours each semester, and determines eligibility of programs through WV Workforce Development. The list is broader than expected
- SB 150 tells the appropriation for many state agencies, including HEPC, CCTC, and each institution, but how much itemized information is given with appropriation varies.
- SB 673 for public higher education efficiency in planning and accountability, eliminates state master plans, compacts, and HR report card, and modifies reporting methods for certain institutional reports, but it maintains public higher education accountability system.
- SB 636 covers authorization of legislative rules for higher education/HEPC for acceptance of advanced placement credit, HR admin, guidelines for BOGs hiring and evaluating presidents, & Promise; CTC tuition and fees, initial authorization of workforce development 'earn and learn.' The current list of eligible programs is broader than some expected, but transfer programs are not eligible (e.g., liberal arts, general studies). The online website went 'live' on Friday, April 19, without any publicity, and the first application was submitted 5 minutes later. There have been more than 8,500 'hits,' and more than 200 have applied at this point.