

Highlights/Challenges

Highlights ACF - *Advisory Council of Faculty*

The Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) met on Friday, March 23, 2018 in Charleston, WV, following the HEPC meeting, which took place earlier the same day. Below are the highlights of the meeting.

1) Report of HEPC meeting.

i. Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, announced his retirement after serving the state for six years since 2012. He said he would stay on until a successor is chosen. He also expressed his willingness to be part of the transition team. A closed session was scheduled after the HEPC meeting to form a search committee to find the next chancellor. A new chancellor could be named as early as July 1st.

ii. Chancellor Hill reported that no education budget cuts are planned for the coming fiscal year. No givebacks are anticipated either.

iii. Dr. Corley Dennison, the HEPC's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, reported that a replacement for the \$5.4 million a year "HERA funds" has been approved. This has been the ACF's main goal since July of 2017. As previously reported, the HEPC is funded in part by HERA (Higher Education Resource Assessment), which is set to expire by the end of the current fiscal year. The replacement funds will come from the governor's own office budget. This is good news for Glenville State College.

iv. HB 4187, commonly known as "Parking Lot Protection" bill, has passed. It allows licensed adults to store their firearms in their vehicles in the parking areas. The bill also makes it illegal for public and private institutions to engage in harassment or retribution against individuals who are known or suspected of keeping weapons in their vehicles. On the other hand, the "Campus Carry" bill, HB 4298, did not pass. It would have allowed licensed adults to carry handguns on the campuses of state institutions of higher education.

v. Governor Jim Justice has requested that the HEPC come up with an education "attainment goal," that is, to establish targets for increasing the educational levels of the state's working-age adult population. At present, West Virginia is one of ten states that do not have an attainment goal. Having a well-educated workforce, the governor said, is essential to promoting economic growth. The examples he provided included Oregon, which has an ambitious "40-40-20" attainment goal by 2025 (40% four-year degrees, 40% two-year degrees, 20% high school diplomas). Another example is Tennessee's "Drive to 55" program, which sets an attainment goal of having 55% of Tennesseans with post-secondary degrees by 2025.

vi. Two bills affecting higher education have passed during the 2018 session. The first one is SB 319, which eliminates the requirement that home-schooled students earn a GED to be eligible for the Promise Scholarship. In lieu of the GED score, the HEPC will establish new criteria to determine whether a home-schooled student qualifies for the Promise Scholarship. The other bill is HB 4015. This is a "fleet management" bill that requires higher learning institutions to comply with additional vehicle tracking requirements. In essence, the bill enhances the reporting requirements on the state vehicle fleet.

ACF- HEPC Report to the Faculty Senate March 27, 2018

Submitted by: *Larry R. Baker – ACF representative for Glenville State College*

vii. Faculty, Administrators and Board of Governors members are encouraged to download the West Virginia Higher Education Report Card for 2017 to see how state institutions fare relative to one another, and how they compare to national data in terms of enrollment, retention, graduation, and financial aid. The report is available online at: <http://www.wvhepc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Report-Card-Final-Draft.pdf>

ix. A new higher education funding model was unveiled at the HEPC meeting. Last year the state legislature charged the HEPC to explore new ways to allocate general revenue funds to higher education. A committee was created to investigate how other states are spending their education dollars and make policy recommendations. The product of this investigation was a report that provided a detailed overview of a new funding model for higher education.

This policy framework, which still requires the approval of the state legislature, will be gradually phased in to minimize the disruptions associated with the transition process. Institutions that stand to gain more funding will receive the additional funds immediately, but those that stand to lose funding, this includes Glenville State College with a projected loss of just under \$1,000,000 based on last years data, will be given a three-year grace period with no budget cuts to develop responsive approaches and adjust their planning to the new funding criteria. While the safety net will expire after three years, institutions on the negative side of the ledger may still be able to apply for “innovation grants” to continue striving toward their strategic goals. President Pellett has informed faculty and staff of this funding model via e-mail. A 30-day public comment period began on March 23, 2018 following the HEPC meeting. The document can be viewed at:

<http://www.wvhepc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/FundingModelPresentation.pdf>

2) Dr. Corley Dennison (HEPC) joined the ACF meeting later and reported the following:

i. The free community college bill (SB 284) did not pass. It was probably a casualty of the teachers’ strike that slowed everything down, especially that a consequential amendment was proposed to the bill that required more committee discussion. The purpose of amendment was to make the first two years of college tuition-free at any public higher learning institution in the state. There was no time left in the 60-day legislative session to debate the bill, but in all likelihood, it will be reintroduced next year. This could benefit Glenville State College two year programs.

ii. In a follow-up email after the ACF meeting, Dr. Dennison said that no updates were available on the status of the U.S. Department of Education penalty, which was imposed on West Virginia in 2017 for noncompliance with federal reporting requirements. He added that the state submitted the financial audit two weeks early this year in hopes of getting the sanctions lifted.

3) The next ACF meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in Fairmont at the North Central Advanced Technology Center (ATC).

Challenges ACF – continued pressure to leave firearm control to the local Board of Governors level. Ensuring rights for faculty including tenure. Ensuring ACF members can freely communicate with their respected Administration, Faculty and BOG without fearing repercussions – NOTE: I would like to note this is NOT an issue at Glenville State College.