

Report to Faculty Senate:

Tuition waivers committee (Chair: Larry R. Baker)

Staff council members Jason Phares and Ann Reed were contacted by phone and indicated they saw no problem with a joint effort to develop a policy for tuition waivers. Ann Reed e-mailed Larry Baker the draft policy (It was the same one faculty senate members were e-mailed on 8/26/09 from Dennis Wemm).

Karen Lay in financial aid was contacted and a GSC informal survey was taken in November 2008 regarding the number of employee/spouse/dependents who were taking classes during fall 2008. Seven employees have children who were either currently enrolled or plan to enroll by fall 2009. Two employees had spouses in college -- one spouse was taking one class, the other spouse was a full time student. Two employees indicated interest in taking classes themselves. Karen had also contacted other colleges and only WV State CTC had a policy to award tuition wavers to employees, dependents and spouses. WV State University, Fairmont State, Shepherd University did not have a policy or were working on a policy (this data was collected at the same time in November 2008).

Paul Peck e-mailed fellow ACF members (9/1/09) asking if their college has already adopted such a policy and if we could have a copy. The following higher education facilities provided copies or summaries of their policy: West Liberty University, New River Community & Technical College, Marshall University, Shepherd University and West Virginia University.

We reviewed GSC current Tuition and Fees Policy 44, Awarding of undergraduate tuition assistance awards. It does not mention employee spouse or children but does state "The College will also provide a reasonable opportunity for their employees to utilize these awards." The draft policy, when completed and adopted, would replace the current policy 44.

We found in HEPC 18B-10-5, Fee waivers—Undergraduate schools section b, (6) "An institution may grant fee waivers to its employees, their spouses and dependents and these wavers are not counted when determining the maximum percentage of waivers permitted by this section." We interpret this to mean the granting of fee waivers for employees, spouses and dependents does not affect our ability to provide the maximum number to other students applying or students currently awarded fee waivers at GSC.

The committee's next step is to review policies or summaries received from other colleges and begin working on the second draft of the policy with the cooperation of the staff council.

Submitted: Tuesday, September 15, 2009