



**Advisory Council of Faculty
October 12 LOCEA Interim Report, 2008**

The Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability (LOCEA) met at the State Capitol on Sunday, October 12, 4:00 p.m. in the Senate Finance Committee Room. The following details highlights of that meeting. A hardcopy of the report summaries and presentations with the two chancellors' data is available upon request; often these are posted on the HEPC website at <http://wvhepcnew.wvnet.edu/>.

- I. **Medical Student Loan Program (HB 4433), Policy 133-34:** Dennis Taylor presented details about changes to the Medical Student Loan Program, which will provide forgivable student loans, both for in-state and out-of-state students willing to serve in particular areas of need in the state.

- II. **Chancellor Skidmore's Report:**
 - A. **Non-credit Workforce Education:** Chancellor Skidmore presented information from the Community College Research Center, dealing with non-credit workforce education. This will become an important part of the CTC mission, looking at non-credit education as a gateway to credit education. Skidmore noted that **a new faculty position category, Instructional Specialist**, would be utilized for teaching such non-credit courses and delivering other types of learning. This new personnel category would allow for a flexible faculty member better able to serve a variety of needs. Skidmore also noted that the CTC Council has approved a policy for converting noncredit education to credit.
 - B. **Recruiting Adult/Non-Traditional Students:** Skidmore shared a variety of initiatives which have been attempted for recruiting adult students, including a series of workshops, action plans, and the idea of an "Adult Student College Night." He noted that newspaper ads were very expensive but also yielded good results.
 - C. **Update on Implementation of HB 3215 and Series 2 (Finance):** Dennis Taylor spoke to this issue and noted how important this rule was. The rule will go on the **October 16 CTCC agenda** (hardcopies available, web-copy will be up on Friday at <http://www.wvctcs.org/polprod.asp>).

- III. **Chancellor Noland's Report:**
 - A. **International Education Initiatives:** Dr. Flack spoke to this issue, updating legislators on progress in adding an international component to higher education curricula. Progress on this issue include:
 - 1) Establishing the "West Virginia and the World" website at www.studywv.org;
 - 2) Awarding grants to WV institutions to develop various international programs; grant recipients include Concord University, Fairmont State University, Marshall CTC, Shepherd University, WV State University, and WVU. See the website for details on these and other international projects.Senator Unger questioned Dr. Flack about developing specific collaborative opportunities with foreign countries with which WV either has or might develop economic partnerships. He used **China** as an appealing example. Dr. Flack noted that new programs should be innovative, including developing study abroad programs and exchanges that rethink the traditional semester abroad, encompassing a shorter time-frame but connected to a course of study.
 - B. **Veterans' Education Initiatives:** Chancellor Noland spoke to this issue, likely to become extremely important in the State. Noland noted that some 20,000 Vets will be returning to WV after their period of deployment. WV leads the country in its citizens' service to the armed forces,

with 1 in 7 citizens serving as opposed to the national average of 1 in 10. Noland presented a plethora of interesting data that caught the attention of legislators. Some 4,300 students receive VA benefits in the State, from programs including the Montgomery GI Bill, Active Duty and Selected Reserves; the Reserve Education Assistance Program; Dependents Education Assistance; and others. This source of potential new students will become immensely important when the war ends and troops come home. Noland spoke about the **new GI Bill and Education Assistance Act of 2008**. Projections are for a \$52,000,000 overall impact on West Virginia's economy, through higher education benefits from the bill. Noland noted that only 6% of GIs currently take advantage of all benefits available to them; thus this will be a goal statewide among institutions to determine what is available to GIs and market their taking advantage of these benefits. **Skip Gephart** of the **Office Veterans Education and Training Programs** is the point person to show WV Higher Education how to take advantage of this **resource pool of potential students**. See the *Register-Herald* article on Gephart's work at http://www.register-herald.com/local/local_story_210215913.html. Noland was asked by legislators to coordinate among the institutions going after these students.

- C. **Chancellor's Lecture Series and Diversity in Higher Education Conference:** Dr. Calvin Mackie will be a keynote speaker at the October 20-22 conference at WV State University. Other speakers at the conference include educators from across the nation, think-tank and foundation leaders, as well as university educators in the State such as Jason Best, Professor of Astrophysics at Shepherd University.

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