



ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY

2009-2010 REPORT CARD

The Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) was established by the West Virginia Legislature as an advisory board to

- The WV legislature
- The Higher Education Policy commission (HEPC) and the Council for Community and Technical College Education(CCTCE)
- Local Board of Governors
- Faculty constituents

Faculty issues and concerns are discussed among the members of the ACF, with institutional Senates and Assemblies, and with faculty constituents. All major issues are approved by Faculty Senates and Assemblies (visit www.wvacf.org for more) The following is a brief overview or “report card” on ACF activities during the academic year 2009-2010.

July 17 – 18, 2009: ACF held the annual retreat at West Virginia University Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown, WV. Chair Nutter distributed the 2009 Report Card and led discussions on the following ACF issues of concern: Great Teachers Seminar(Mark Goldstein), Faculty Study (Sylvia Shurbutt), sick leave policies for faculty at ten out-of-state institutions(ad hoc committee-Steve Bourne, Dave Brown, Sylvia Shurbutt), Adult Learning Task Force(sylvia Shurbutt). A special report was made by Russ Dean on the Driver’s Training for WV employees. Elected officers for 2009-2010 were Betty Dennison, Chair(MCTC), Eloise Elliott(who had to resign shortly thereafter) replaced by Erik Root, Vice Chair (West Liberty University), Leslie Lovett, Secretary (Pierpont CTC), Mike Ditchen (Bridgemont CTC), Sylvia Shurbutt, Legislative Advisory Committee Chair (Shepherd U.); Jim Hoey, Listserve (Potomac State).

September 17, 2009: Reports were made by Chancellor Nolan and Chancellor Skidmore. A frank and candid discussion was held between the ACF and the chancellors. The chancellors suggested caution with regard to faculty raises due to the current, challenging economic climate. Dr. Flack was also present to offer his assistance for the new academic year and discuss the “New RBA Today” program. A

report on cyber awareness was made by Jim Richards from the WV Information Security Office. Subcommittee reports on sick leave, dependent tuition waivers, and faculty development funding were given. ACF Legislative Coordinator Sylvia Shurbutt led the revision work for the ACF brochure.

October 2009 through September 2010: Sylvia Shurbutt represented the ACF on the Adult Learning Taskforce, chaired by Dr. Syzanne Shipley, President of Shepherd University. The Taskforce explored ways to enhance the RBA degree, creating the revitalized RBA Today, with common system courses, a common website, a superb marketing plan, and increased involvement of adult learners in higher education.

October 23, 2009: The ACF met on the campus of Pierpont CTC/Fairmont State University in Fairmont, WV. Reports were made by Dr. Flack announcing a new format for the ACF presentation to the HEPC, an upcoming Financial Summit to be held in November at WVU in Morgantown. Chuck Bailey reported that Marshall University Senate had voted a two year moratorium on PEIA increases. Other matters discussed were grievance procedures, ACF correspondence on the Praxis issue, sick leave, and faculty development funding. Fairmont/ Pierpont were wonderful hosts.

November 19, 2009: The ACF met on the campus of WVU in the Erickson Alumni Center. Sylvia Shurbutt distributed the 2010 Legislative Brochures. Bruce Walker (HEPC attorney) was on hand to explain that the decision to provide legal counsel to employees or students is essentially an institutional decision. HEPC Counsel cannot be involved in anything that would go against an institution. Much discussion centered around institution autonomy, or lack thereof. HEPC Chairman Hendrickson met with the ACF and was very receptive to comments made by members. WVU was a wonderful host.

November 20, 2010: ACF members were present at the HEPC meeting in Morgantown at WVU and participated in a discussion with the HEPC. This table discussion was a new format for the annual ACF presentation to the HEPC.

December 4, 2009: The ACF met at the HEPC Central office. A full agenda including the following was covered: Dr. Flack presented a letter from Chancellor Nolan addressing salary increases during these challenging economic times. He shared a number of strategies that other states are trying, such as shorter matriculation time, terminating low productivity programs, creating more liberal transfer policies, etc. HEPC Chairman Hendrickson's charge from the last ACF meeting was to generate ideas on college retention and completion. ACF members were present at the CTC Council meeting in Charleston.

December 7, 2010: Chair Dennison made a presentation on behalf of the ACF to LOCEA at the State Capitol.

January 21, 2010: The ACF meeting was held at HEPC headquarters in Charleston. Sylvia Shurbutt reported on the Adult Learning Taskforce updates and the upcoming Higher Education Day at the Legislature. Dr. Flack discussed Series 19, Institutional updates and three new program approvals. Betty Dennison reported on the LOCEA presentation made recently. ACF members were also present at the WVCTC meeting at the Marriott in Charleston.

January 22, 2010: ACF members attended the HEPC meeting at the Clay Center in Charleston.

February 19, 2010: ACF members met at the WV State Capitol for WV Higher Education day. Senator Unger and Delegate Poling met with the ACF. ACF also attended the Senate Floor session and were introduced.

March 18, 2010: ACF met in the HEPC Conference Room. Chancellor Nolan addressed the group on the recent legislative session. He explained that the Governor would not be signing SB480 due to “technical issues.” The Chancellor also explained the recent acquisition of the Dow property in Charleston.

April 12-13: ACF participated in the “SREB College Completion” Conference held in Charleston which was hosted by Governor Manchin.

April 23, 2010: This month the ACF met on the campus of WVU Institute of Technology in Institute, WV. Dr. Flack and Chair Dennison shared information from the “SREB College Completion” Conference held in Charleston April 12-13. College graduation rates need to improve. Southern governors will be meeting in West Virginia this summer to vote on policy to support and improve college completion rates. HEPC and CTC Council reports were also made. The summer retreat will be held next month, May 20-21 at Cacapon State Park in Berkeley Springs, WV. WV Tech was most gracious as our host for the day.

May 20-21, 2010: ACF retreat held at Cacapon State Park to determine Higher Education ACF agenda for 2010-2011. On day one, Chancellor Skidmore addressed the ACF and expressed his concerns regarding FY 2012. He also explained the possibility of a one-time salary enhancement for higher education employees. The Chancellor emphasized the need for consistent financing to fund higher education in West Virginia. On day two, Chancellor Nolan addressed the group. He explained that with new tracking mechanisms we should be able to track our students better. He emphasized a need to consider efficiency in program completion while also maintaining quality. He also mentioned a possible salary enhancement for schools that could afford them. Chancellor Nolan offered suggestions concerning the 2010-11 ACF Issues (see below). ACF officers were elected for 2010-11: Betty Dennison-Chair; Eric Root-Vice Chair; Leslie Lovett (who resigned in Sept. and was replaced by Paul Peck) – Secretary; Mike Ditchen- Web Master; Sylvia Shurbutt – Legislative Coordinator.

Presentations were made during the year to the HEPC, CTC Council, LOCEA, as well as respective institutions and Boards throughout the state. ACF attended all HEPC and CTC scheduled meetings throughout the academic year.

Many thanks to all the ACF members, Chancellor Nolan, Chancellor Skidmore, Dr. Bruce Flack, and the board office. Any group is only as strong as the weakest member, and this group has proven that we are strong, indeed!

West Virginia Advisory Council of Faculty Issues for 2011, "Achieving the Future"

Preamble:

In order to support and encourage faculty involvement in cutting educational costs for students and developing specific efficiency measures that improve retention, graduation rates, faster degree completion for four-year programs, and enhance the academic quality of our programs, including streamlining and re-visioning general studies and other curricula, the ACF supports and endorses the following issues for 2011.

- 1) Provide a systematic funding mechanism for capital projects, sustainable deferred maintenance, and Higher Education initiatives mandated by the Legislature.
- 2) Increase the percentage of Tenured Faculty in order to maintain academic integrity, to recruit high-quality faculty, to encourage a strong faculty voice in governance issues, and to provide consistency and oversight of programs (see *2006 Faculty Personnel Study*).
- 3) Provide relief from rising PEIA premiums.
- 4) Support Higher Education personnel legislation and initiatives that include
 - a) revising the classification and compensation system advocated by classified employees;
 - b) HEPC/CTCC tuition and fee approval above 3% rise;
 - c) standardizing HEPC academic program approvals across the system;
 - d) providing other WV Higher Education institutions with the same flexibility as Marshall and WVU in areas such as purchasing, etc.
- 5) Allow faculty representation on the HEPC and CTC Council.
- 6) Allow Higher Education Employees the right to serve in the Legislature.

"An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't." **Anatole France (1844 - 1924)**