

The Advisory Council of Faculty

To

The West Virginia Legislature

The Higher Education Policy Commission

The Community and Technical College Council

West Virginia Institutions of Higher Education

Boards of Governors

Higher Education: The Engine of Economic Development



The Advisory Council of Faculty was established to

- serve as a resource to the legislature on the essential role of faculty in the economic growth and well-being of the State;
- provide advice to the Legislature in the development of State code which pertains to Higher Education;



- provide advice to the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Community and Technical College Council in the development of policies pertaining to Higher Education;
- report to and advise local boards of governors and faculty constituents on issues pertaining to Higher Education;
- provide a voice for 6,408 part-time and full-time Higher Education faculty, educating 82,845 students in the State (2004 HEPC data).



Higher Education Faculty are committed to serve

- our students through the development of quality academic programs and delivery of excellent instruction;
- our institutions through instruction, research and scholarship, and service;
- our local communities through instruction and programs that bring economic growth, cultural and artistic events, business and educational partnerships, and research grants.

WV Faculty Research Grants and Contracts, 2000-2004



At a recent national conference attended by West Virginia Legislators, Bill Gates told lawmakers that the single most important factor in drawing economic investment to any state is “the literacy level of the citizens.”



What is thus essential to bring economic diversity and investment to the State of West Virginia?

- *A literate citizenry, capable of critical thinking; a flexible work force able to retool and adapt as the economic landscape changes.*

What is the best investment West Virginians can make for the economic future and well-being of the State and its citizens?

- *An investment in Higher Education is an investment in the economic future of the State.*
- *For every \$1 the State invests in Higher Education, the return can be as much as \$10 (a 1000% return on the investment)!*

How does the State measure up in terms of its support of Higher Education?

- Among the fifty states, West Virginia had the largest decrease in appropriated funding for Higher Education (-3.9%), as reported by the *Chronicle of Higher Education 2005 Almanac*.
- Faculty salaries at State universities are as much as \$13,651 behind National Yearly Averages (2005 HEPC Data).
- Institutions have lost as much as 20% of their faculty in the past two years because of low salaries.
- WV's institutions are woefully understaffed and thus rely too heavily on the services of adjunct (part-time) faculty. According to 2003 HEPC data, adjunct faculty compose over 50% of WV higher education teaching staff. At some institutions, in crucial areas of General Studies education, more than 95% of the courses are taught by poorly paid graduate students or adjunct faculty, many of whom teach "full-time" but receive below poverty wages and no fringe benefits.



**What are the 2006
Higher-Education Faculty
Issues?**

Parity with Peer Institutions

- *Provide legislative funding for WV Higher Education at or above the National Average;*
- *Provide legislative funding for new faculty positions in order to assure quality Higher Education programs;*
- *Reinstate into Code 18B-8-3, Item (C), the Minimum 10 Percent Salary increase upon Faculty promotion in Rank.*

Parity with Public School Teachers

- *Extend “K-12” funding priorities to include “P-20,” in recognition of the critical position of Higher Education in today’s global economy;*
- *Close the 1.5% gap between K-12 and Higher Education employees in the State’s retirement contributions;*
- *Allow Higher Education employees the right to serve in the Legislature, as do K-12 employees.*

Parity with All Other State Employees

*Put into code and provide funding for the
Annual Experience Increment (AEI) for
Higher Education Faculty.*



ACWF

WEST VIRGINIA ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY

"The voice of higher education faculty"