

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 10, 2006

The Advisory Council of Faculty met at Twin Falls State Park for the second day of its Retreat on Monday, July 10, 2006. Chair Leslie Lovett called the meeting to order at 8:47 a.m. Those ACF members present were:

Blue Ridge CTC
Pierpont CTC
Glennville State College
Marshall University
Marshall University CTC
Shepherd University
WV State CTC
WV State University
WV University
WVU-Parkersburg
WVU-Potomac State
WVU-Institute of Technology
WVU-Institute of Technology CTC

Billie Unger
Leslie Lovett, Vice Chair
Joe Evans
Ben Miller
Betty Dennison
Sylvia Shurbutt, Chair
Charles Shafer
Patricia Shafer, Secretary
Roy Nutter
Gary Waggoner
Jim Hoey
John David
P. Michael Ditchen

Guest present from the HEPC was:

Dr. Bruce Flack

Those absent were:

Bluefield State College
Concord University
Fairmont State University
New River CTC
Southern WV CTC
West Liberty State College
WV Northern CTC
WV School of Osteopathic Medicine
WVU-School of Medicine

Bruce Mutter
Darrin Martin
Connie Moore
Gerry Hough
Thad Stupi
Ann Rose
Mike Davis
Dr. G. Boxwell
John Linton

The first item of business for the day was to plan a meeting schedule. Chair Lovell said we try to attend both the HEPC meetings and the CTC meetings. The first ACF meeting will be Thursday, August 24, at 1:00 at the HEPC offices in Charleston. L. Lovett said she will attend the HEPC meeting on August 18 and others as are able are invited to do so as well. Some will attend the CTC Council meeting on the morning of August 24. The ACF will meet September 21 at 1:00. The October meeting will be on the 19th at 1:00 at New River; Gerry Hough will be asked to set up that meeting. The presentation will be in December to both the CTC and the HEPC. The December meeting will be 12/13.

There then followed a discussion of goals for 2006-2007. The group began by developing an ACF theme for the year:

Globalization of the curriculum: What do we mean? Looking at other cultures? The World is Flat, the Tom Friedman book, was one resource suggested. It was noted globalization of the curriculum can take different forms on different campuses: foreign language instruction, international economics, other cultures. The question is, how do we fit this into a legislative action goal? Perhaps “Preparing for a flat world” or “WV Higher Education: Preparing for a flat world.” The sentiment was to perhaps stay with the same theme: Higher Education: the Engine of Economic Development and then fold into the Economic Development the idea of the “flat world.” The HEPC is forming a steering committee with a rep from each campus to shape and design the internationalization of the curriculum. It is hoped the HEPC will allocated \$100,000 available for competitive grants for the campuses to apply to help campuses to implement some things to get them going.

It was decided we will keep the same front page design of the brochure – with a different color scheme – and inside pose the question: How can higher education prepare WV citizens for the global economy? This theme is to be considered over the next few weeks and members were asked to come back in August to finalize this.

Regarding the discussion of ACF issues:

Faculty seat on HEPC – it was noted there is a greater likelihood of achieving this than achieving the right to serve in the Legislature. Since we are all on our Boards of Governors, this may not be as much of a front-burner issue any more. Since the Commission has now become a coordinating board and since they, the HEPC and the CTC Boards consider our input on major issues, we are positioned at a more effective point on our local Boards. The fact that the Chair of the ACF would probably have to attend more meetings if we had a seat on the HEPC may cause us to consider how much that person can handle. It was decided to scrap this issue for 2006-2007.

Faculty right to serve in the Legislature is a hot issue with faculty. It is noted some feel disenfranchised as citizens of the state. It was decided to keep this issue for 2006-2007.

P-20 Issue: It was suggested perhaps we should use language of college readiness and alignment with public schools and avoid the wording of “P-20 Council,” which may bring up another bureaucracy. There was a question about whether this is really a legislative issue. If we keep the wording of P-20, we need parenthesis to say this is Pre-School through graduate school. For the CTC group, though, the P-20 doesn’t connect – what connects for them, it was shared, is coordination with the public schools. It was suggested to focus on college readiness and the implications on higher education: more funding for developmental courses. College readiness, aligning programs, access are the themes we need to consider on this topic. Keep this issue in some form for 2006-2007.

Internationalization means a legislative issue because there needs to be funding to allow us to accomplish the goal. Globalizing the curriculum – keep for 2006-2007 in some fashion

Some questions were posed, such as Should we divide our list into legislative issues and educational issues? Should we have a section: these are our goals and another: how can the Legislature help us attain them. The idea was put forth that if we used “our goals” we need to tie that to our theme – which is economic development

It was shared that Faculty sometimes ask, when are we going to have issues that are for more than ourselves?

Retention of both faculty and students: Legislature has to provide funds in order to do this. Keep for 2006-2007.

B. Dennison distributed a page from the Chronicle from 1/13/06 that shows WV ranks at the very bottom on state appropriations.

M. Ditchen said we need to emphasize restoring funding that has been cut over the recent years – now that we have excess coal moneys, if the restoration of funding is done, we can do so many things on our campuses with that. Perhaps restore the funding to the pre-___ levels. We need to then tell the Legislature what we will do with that money to help higher education. With the restoration, this is what it will enable us to do for economic development. We also need to tie this back to our students: state funding has declined while tuition has increased – how does this impact the students and the college going rate in the state. Perhaps a graph of E&G appropriations versus student tuition increases.

The question was asked are we trying to make the Legislature feel guilty? Or would we do better telling them this is what we can do with the increased money. We should also include some information about headcount or student FTE in the charts.

We will retain funding new full-time/tenure track faculty positions but will include it under this is what we can do with the restoration of the funds. The question was posed whether we should have a goal that reduces the number of adjunct faculty. It was decided we will first collect data from what is the national average for adjuncts and the data from the faculty study about how many we are actually using.

State retirement contribution: Perhaps we need to have the fiscal data on this – who all would be included? How much money would it cost? Perhaps if we open the door of parity with K-12, we may get things pushed on us that we don't want. Increasing retirement contribution to 7.5% and lowering employee contribution to 4.5% -- we may wish to collect comparative data with others states and regions.

For now, we wish to abandon the Parity with Public School Teachers and go with parity with our peers. Decision to discuss "our peers" may have to be abandoned because "our peers" are different for every institution. We may wish rather to discuss state to state.

Full tuition for faculty dependents: we are competing in attracting faculty on this with other states that do provide this. Should this include both faculty and staff? Should we see if surrounding states also provide this for both faculty and staff? Should this be tuition and fees – and this puts this on parity with Promise and other states. We may suggest that the Promise & faculty dependents tuition & fees be mutually exclusive – and make this a parity issue with global economy. If we go with the "dependents," this would also include spouses and that would make it different from Promise. We may also put the provision on this that the tuition be for state-supported institutions within WV. We need also to know in other states what has been the percentage of participation in those states and try to develop some fiscal note for this. It is inevitable we will be asked for it.

B. Dennison will look in the Chronicle for data. We also need to ask Jim Barton for data, especially on the change for state appropriations vs tuition increases. In the Chronicle we will look for retirement contributions as well as tuition for faculty.

Returning 10% increase upon promotion in rank to Code. We will keep this for 2006-2007.

Because sometimes individual campuses have different legislative agendas, how important is it that individual Faculty Senates endorse the ACF agendas? was a question asked.

The question was posed would it be a good idea to have a joint meeting with Senate Presidents prior to the finalization of the legislative agenda? Discussion of which meeting to which they would be invited ensued. The October meeting was discussed as a good time to invite the Senate Chairs and to also invite the Chancellors to speak at the meeting to which they are invited. Since the ACF chair sends out much communication also to Senate Chairs, they are informed of our issues, it was noted.

Regarding Legislative Strategy the question was asked where do we go from here? It was noted that Interim meetings should be attended but we don't yet have a schedule of them. But it was emphasized it is important that we make a showing at these and that we make our presence and names known. The membership will be informed once we receive the schedule of the Interim Meetings. Anyone in the area where the Interim Meetings are held should consider attending.

Suggestions were received for membership on the Legislative Sub-committee: B. Dennison, B. Miller, L. Lovett, S. Shurbutt (Chair), Roy Nutter, Darrin Martin, Connie Moore.

Some ideas were suggested for a title for the brochure? "Working to bridge the gaps: the road to a competitive economy" or "Higher education, the road to a competitive economy"

Under old business, the question was asked what are we going to do about ACF Representatives who never attend meetings: how should the campuses be informed? It was decided the institution Senate president should be notified with a letter from the ACF chair.

Meet & Consult – we had talked about inviting some other representative groups to come to talk with us. AAUP was suggested to be invited as an alternative to AFT or, it was asked, should we just stay out of this? Apparently every institution will have to make a decision of a group to speak for the faculty on issues. We want to be aware of what is happening with this issue. Perhaps C. Moore can give us a report of what is happening on this issue at Fairmont, since they were to be a pilot institution on this.

Under new business: B. Miller noted we have discussed at length our concerns about tenure in both the CTC and college systems. Do we need to be concerned about tenure protecting bad faculty? Sometimes institutions retain ineffective tenured faculty because they choose not to pursue the issue. If we are concerned about other issues of faculty welfare, should we not be sure our own houses are in order with regard to ineffective

faculty? J. Hoey said he believes the problem is an individual campus management problem. He feels there are enough procedures for evaluation that we can terminate an ineffective faculty member if they have the will to do so.

Regarding the matter of Conference Room & Materials Fee for our room rent on our bills as "Restaurant" charge: L. Lovell or S. Shurbutt will write an explanation on our bills if we need documentation for this for reimbursement.

L. Lovett thanked everyone who attended the Retreat and thanked S. Shurbutt for the work she has done on behalf of ACF for the two year term she has served. She received applause from the group for her service.

The Retreat adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Shafer, Secretary