

## **Advisory Council of Faculty 2005-06 Report Card**

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

- 1) the Legislature,
- 2) the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and Community and Technical College (CTC) councils,
- 3) local boards of governors, and
- 4) 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/or assemblies (see *Higher Education: The Engine of Economic Development, 2005-06*, or visit [www.wvacf.org](http://www.wvacf.org)). The following is a brief overview or "report card" on ACF activities during the academic 2005-2006 years.

- 1) **July 17-18, 2005: ACF Blackwater Retreat.** Preliminary issues and concerns were adopted, focusing on "**parity**" theme; 2006 legislative theme adopted (***Higher Education: The Engine of Economic Development***). ACF members took issues and concerns to their senates/assemblies for approval. **New logo and website** were adopted. **Election of ACF Officers** included Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, chair (Shepherd U), Leslie Lovett, vice-chair (Fairmont CTC), Patricia Shaffer, secretary (WV State U), Ann Rose, webmaster (West Liberty State).
- 2) **September 14, 2005:** Higher Education Faculty requested that HEPC Chair Eros include faculty at some stage in **Chancellor Search**. ACF asked HEPC to assure that all institutions offer fair and well-articulated **merit plans**, consistent with institutional missions and that plans be periodically reviewed.
- 3) **October 14, 2005:** ACF members were appointed to legislatively mandated **Faculty Study Commission**: (Leslie Lovett (Fairmont CTC), Ben Miller (Marshall U), Betty Dennison (Marshall CTC), Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt (Shepherd U). Co-chairs include C. B. Wilson (WVU) and Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt (ACF Chair).

### **ACF Formally Adopted of 2005-2006 Faculty Issues:**

#### **⚡ Parity with Peer Institutions:**

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

#### **⚡ Parity with Public School Teachers:**

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

♣ **Parity with All Other State Employees:**

- 1) *Put into code and provide funding for the Annual Incremental Pay (AEI) for Higher Education Faculty.*
- 4) **December 8, 2005: ACF Faculty Presentations to HEPC and CTC councils** (see ACF website at [www.wvacf.org](http://www.wvacf.org)).
- 6) **December 13, 2005: ACF Faculty Presentation to Joint Education Committees.** Faculty issues were laid out for legislators, and *Higher Education Faculty Resource Directory* was presented. (The directory was requested by legislators in 2004—see [www.wvacf.org](http://www.wvacf.org).)
- 7) **December 15, 2005: ACF Legislative Mailing.** The ACF brochure was sent to each WV state legislator, detailing the 2006 higher education faculty issues and concerns, along with a letter from the Advisory Council of Faculty informing legislators about the *Higher Education Resource Directory* and ACF website.
- 8) **January and February 2006: ACF Position Papers on PROMISE** were sent to House and Senate Education Committee members, requesting full-funding for PROMISE without tuition increase limits and detailing the positive data and economic benefits accrued from PROMISE. **Outcome: Promise was fully funded at \$40 million and the tuition cap extended to 7.5 %.**
- 9) **February 1, 2006: ACF Position on HB4049, Faculty representation on HEPC,** was sent to House and Senate Education Committee members (February 1, 2006). **Outcome: The issue was not approved by the legislature.**
- 10) **January-March, 2006: ACF Position Papers on AEI** (Annual Experience Increment) were sent to House and Senate Education Committee members, detailing rationale for including faculty in incremental pay, for considering 9-month contract faculty as full-time, and for requesting full-funding for AEI. **Outcome: SB587 was approved for all full-time faculty (9-month faculty included); the measure was fully funded by the legislature.**
- 11) **January-March, 2006: Members of the ACF Legislative Advisory Committee** (Mike Lastinger (WVU), Ben Miller (Marshall U), Betty Dennison (Marshall CTC), Leslie Lovett (Fairmont CTC), Connie Moore (Fairmont U), Sylvia Shurbutt (Shepherd U), Mike Ditchen (WVU Tech CTC) and John David (WVU Institute of Technology) attended House and Senate Education Committee meetings in order to support faculty issues.
- 12) **March 2006: ACF developed a position on “Meet and Confer”** (now “Meet and Consult”), noting that ACF issues and concerns are vetted and approved at each institution and that faculty themselves best understand higher education issues.

- 13) March 2006: ACF Position Paper issued to legislators in support of Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE) Legislative Issues.**
- 14) March 3, 2006: Higher Education Faculty Day at Legislature.** ACF members and representatives from higher education institutions across the state met with key legislators in House and Senate Education Committees and in Finance Committees, as well as with Governor Joe Manchin to discuss faculty issues. A Higher Education Faculty display was erected at the entrance to House Chamber, and faculty were introduced in the Senate by Senator Plymale. Follow-up letters were sent to all key players in the legislature concerning the AEI issue. ACF members across the state encouraged their constituents to contact their legislators.
- 15) March 27, 2006: ACF Position on Selection of Peer Institution** sent to Chancellor Flack.
- 16) March 2006:** ACF met with Dr. Brian Noland, finalist applicant for position of **Chancellor**. Dr. Patricia Shaffer, ACF secretary, represented the ACF in the process. **Outcome: Dr. Noland, a native of Virginia and Associate Executive Director for Policy, Planning and Research for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission was selected Chancellor for West Virginia Higher Education.**
- 17) April 2006:** Letters thanking House and Senate Education Committee members for their support of faculty issues were sent on behalf of higher education faculty.
- 18) April 24-25, 2006: Conference on Internationalizing the Curriculum.** The ACF members and university representatives across the state attended the conference in Charleston, for the purpose of exploring ways to internationalize higher education and the higher education curriculum, thus making WV students more competitive in the global economic environment.
- 19) July 9-10, 2006: ACF Retreat planned at Twins Falls to determine 2007 higher education faculty agenda.**