

Advisory Council of Faculty Retreat Report July 9-10, Twin Falls State Park

The purpose of the two-day retreat was to elect officers, interact with the new Chancellor, and determine a Higher Education Faculty agenda for 2006-2007. The following details the two-day retreat:

Sunday, July 9

- **Greetings from Chancellor Noland**

Chancellor Brian Noland, a native Virginian and former Associate Executive Director for Policy, Planning and Research for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, shared briefly his vision for his office and for the HEPC, as facilitators for students and faculty to accomplish their higher education goals. Dr. Noland said that he wished to listen and become familiar with the mission and function of the Advisory Council of Faculty. He also wished to meet with us whenever we gathered at the HEPC office so that he might keep a close contact and association with the faculty and their issues.

- **Review of 2005-06 ACF Accomplishment (“ACF Report Card” attached)**

- **Review of ACF Duties and Responsibilities**

Duties and expectations of ACF representatives were reviewed. Members asked Chair Shurbutt to articulate these responsibilities in the ACF Bylaws, which will be revised as suggested by ACF members. **ACF representative responsibilities are as follows:**

- 1) Attend all ACF meetings or arrange for elected alternate to attend;
- 2) Be sure an alternate is in place and that his/her email is on the ACF roster so that Jim Hoey can add to the listserv;
- 3) Attend all senate meetings and give regular ACF reports;
- 4) Pass on all approved ACF minutes, reports, and communications to constituents;
- 5) Obtain feedback on issues from constituents;
- 6) Seek senate approval of ACF legislative agenda;
- 7) Check email regularly and participate.

- **Review of ACF Webpage**

See www.wvacf.org.

- **Review of use of ACF Listserv”**

See hepc-acf@listserv.wvnet.edu.

- **Review of the Higher Education Faculty Resource Directory**

See link on ACF webpage. The Directory will be updated this academic year.

- **Election of 2006-07 Officers**

ACF Chair: Leslie Lovett (Pierpont)

ACF Vice Chair: Roy Nutter (WVU)

Secretary: Patty Shafer (WVU State U)

Webmaster: Ann Rose (West Liberty)

Legislative Advisory Committee Coordinator: Sylvia Shurbutt (Shepherd U)

The ACF charged Coordinator Shurbutt to select member of the Legislative Advisory Committee. Those members will be **Connie Moore (Fairmont), Roy Nutter (WVU), Ben Miller (Marshall), Betty Denison (Marshall CTC), Darrin Martin (Concord)I, and Leslie Lovett (Pierpont CTC).**

- **Report on Faculty Study Committee Progress**

Committee Co-chair Sylvia Shurbutt reported on the progress of this committee of administrators and faculty, constituted to write the system report mandated by the Legislature.

Thus far the committee has determined a format for writing the Faculty Study Report, has secured a variety of data and information from all system institutions, and has written individual reports which have been approved by academic officers of each institution. Co-chairs Shurbutt and C. B. Wilson (WVU) will collate information and write the major report during August and September. Dennis Taylor (HEPC Vice-Chancellor) will present the document to the HEPC and Wilson and Shurbutt will present to the Legislature in the coming months.

• **Faculty Market Study**

Dennis Taylor explained the purpose of a market study for faculty that will parallel a market study for classified staff. The market studies will be useful in determining benchmarks for salaries for various positions and fields.

• **Overview of 2006 Legislative Session and Higher Education Issues Upcoming for 2007**

Bruce Flack shared hardcopies of summaries of bills that passed in the 2006 legislative session (available). Dr. Flack also shared revisions of Series 23 (available) that will be necessary to make the new, higher admissions standards—i.e. additional high school graduation requirements in math (4 units), modern language (2 units), and 3 science “lab” units; new 2008 admission requirement of minimum 17 ACT score **and** 2.0 GPA—more palatable. The revision included a two-year grace period allowing for “conditional admissions” (see 3.3.1 of Series 23 revision); however, in 2010 there will be a strict 20% limit placed on the “conditional admissions.” Dr. Flack shared data showing the impact on institutions if the “conditional admissions” are not instituted for the two-year grace period. Only 45.3% of the students of WV State University would be admitted under the higher standards. Shepherd University had the highest admissions rate under the new standards, 85.8%.

• **Higher Education Faculty 2007 Issues**

Chair Lovett asked ACF representatives to review the list of higher education faculty issues and prepare for discussion on July 10.

Monday, July 10

• **ACF Meeting schedule for 2006-2007**

August 24, Charleston

September 21, Charleston

October 19, New River Campus

December 13 & 14, TBA (ACF Presentations)

• **Higher Education 2007 Issues and ACF Brochure**

The group agreed to retain our focus on the “economic benefits of higher education” but to include a number of academic issues, such as globalizing the curriculum and “college readiness” (alignment of higher education goals with public education goals, etc). This latter issue will likely be a system preoccupation statewide in the coming years. Specific issues that faculty wish to put forward in the 2006-07 academic year will go under the umbrella of **“Legislative Restoration of Institutional Budgets and Budget Alignments with Peer Institutions,”** which will allow institutions to address these issues:

- 1) Retention of faculty and students;
- 2) Globalizing the Curriculum;
- 3) College Readiness;
- 4) Funding for new full-time, tenure track faculty positions;
- 5) Addressing the adjunct issue;
- 6) Full tuition for higher education employee dependents;
- 7) Reinstating into Code 18B-8-3, Item ©, the minimum ten percent salary increase upon faculty promotion;
- 8) Right to serve in the legislature.

The ACF will refine this list in the coming weeks to produce a definitive list of issues for senate approvals.