

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March 9, 2006

Capital Projects

- **Center for Contemporary Arts:** Construction is expected to begin in May, soon after graduation.
- **Ikenberry Hall:** Construction is complete.
- **Infrastructure work on East and West Campuses:** We are looking to an April completion date of the earth removal on East Campus if the weather cooperates. There have been several planned blasting episodes associated with rock removal on what used to be the "C" (Boteler) parking lot. The temporary road through the front lawn at Popodicon will be returned to its original form sometime in mid to late summer. This road is necessary to move large volumes of dirt from East Campus to the new intramural and practice fields on West Campus.
- **McMurrin Hall:** We experienced routine weather delays during January and February, but we expect the project to be completed in July.
- **Nursing Building:** Construction bids have been opened and an apparent low bidder has been identified. We anticipate construction to begin this summer with classes being taught in the building in August, 2007.
- **Resident Hall Apartments:** The project is essentially on track, even though there were delays resulting from the power company being about six weeks late in providing full service.

FY07 Budget Item

- **Governor's Budget:** The good news is that the Governor's budget does not show a cut for higher education. The bad news is that it does not show any new discretionary funds.

Strategic Planning

- **Strategic Planning Committee:** I met with the Strategic Planning Committee on January 13, 2006 at which time Dr. Mark Stern was elected by the committee to be its chair. My charge to the committee was as follows:
 - Develop a Strategic Plan with the following components:
 - An updated mission statement;
 - A vision statement;
 - A marketing component; and
 - An integration of the Compact with the Strategic Plan.

Board of Governor member Doris Griffin serves on the Strategic Planning Committee. If you would like to receive information in electronic format regarding the activity of the Strategic Planning Committee, please let me know.

Legislative News

- **Contacts with Legislators:** Much of our early legislative energy has been focused on HB 4049. This bill came out of the House just a couple of days after being introduced in the House Education Committee. From our perspective there were several concerns, even with the final version of the bill, including a provision to cap tuition and fees for PROMISE scholars at 2% per year. We understand that many of the concerns have been corrected in the Senate.
- **CTC Name Change:** Legislation has passed the House changing our former CTC's name from the Community and Technical College of Shepherd to the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. No opposition is expected in the Senate.
- **Board Chairs:** Legislation which we initiated is moving forward that would remove the Chair of Shepherd University's Board of Governors from membership on the Blue Ridge CTC's Board of Governors and vice versa.
- **Archaic Language:** Legislation that we initiated has been introduced that would remove archaic language from the Code, thus no longer specifying that the President of Shepherd University and its BOG is responsible for the CTC in Martinsburg.
- **Other Bills:** Several other bills have been introduced that would have a direct or indirect impact on Shepherd University. We will report them to you if they become law.

Community and Technical College

- **Transition Plan:** On January 26, 2006 President Checkovich and I met to discuss the transition plan that indicates a phase-out of all Banner-related services, as indicated on the jointly developed plan, by January 1, 2007. President Checkovich indicated to me that he believes that this timeline is achievable.

Advancement Office

- **Report from GG&A:** We received a final report from GG&A regarding our feasibility study. On February 16, 2006 this report was presented to representatives from the Shepherd University Board of Governors, the Shepherd University Foundation, the Shepherd University Alumni Association, the Contemporary American Theater Festival, and members of the executive staff of the University. Follow-up planning sessions are already in progress.
- **Philanthropy Report:** We had 658 donors in December vs. 311 the same time last year. This is primarily the result of an Annual Fund solicitation that previously occurred in January. As of January 31, \$605,767 raised from 3,366 donors.
- **Phonathon:** The Phonathon was held for six evenings with positive results.

- **Annual Fund Leadership Phase:** The Annual Fund Leadership Phase has met with great success. More than \$10,000 has been raised from 52% of those asked. Follow-up strategies continue. It is important to note that some solicitations occurred later than others. Participation thus far:

▪ Board of Governors	83%
▪ Executive Staff	100%
▪ Foundation Board	30%
▪ Dean's Council	57%
▪ Administrative Council	59%
▪ Alumni Association Board	45%

Enrollment Management

- **Spring Enrollment:** Spring 2006 FTE enrollment is up 3.5% over last spring.

Athletics

- **WVU-Tech:** The West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) has received notification from WVU that the athletic programs at Tech are withdrawing from membership in the WVIAC. Tech's departure from the conference has created some scheduling difficulties for several of the other institutions, including Shepherd.
- **NCAA Proposal:** There is a proposal at the national level that would result in the creation of two tiers within the NCAA Division II structure presently in place. Institutions with 24 or fewer football scholarships would be in one tier, while those with 25 to 36 equivalencies would be in the other tier. Shepherd awards approximately 16-17 football scholarships. As I understand it, the decision will be made at the NCAA's national conference next January.

Academic Affairs

- **Nursing Examinations:** The first-time pass rate for our 2005 graduating class of nurses was 77%, three points below the goal set by the West Virginia Nursing Board. Although below the State goal, this represents an encouraging improvement over the prior year's results and is evidence that the curricular improvement plan developed by our nursing department almost two years ago is producing better results on this examination. When any institution falls below the goal for two of the previous three years, it is categorized as having provisional status by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses. We are confident that the first-time pass rate for the class of 2006 will place us above the goal set by the State Board.
- **New Education Programs:** At its February meeting, the Higher Education Policy Commission approved a Spanish and Spanish Education Certification Program for Shepherd University. The Spanish program can be implemented immediately and the Certification program will be implemented after approval by the State Board of Education.

Risk Management Report

- **Results:** The annual risk management report was conducted in early January, 2006. Twenty-three items were removed from the previous list; however, sixteen new items were added. We will continue to work on the reduction of this list and are discussing the need for a full time safety director given the mounting workload in this area. (We presently have a part-time person trying to do this work.)