

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 11, 2006

Capital Projects

- **Center for Contemporary Arts:** We are in the bidding process for a general contractor; we anticipate making the award in June. Construction is likely to begin in July. I had previously reported that we expected construction to begin in late May; however, that target date was missed because we wanted to meet with the town before going out to bid.
- **Infrastructure Work on East and West Campuses:** Blasting is complete and the next phase will involve the relocation and renovation of several utility lines (water and sewer).
- **McMurrin Hall:** Now that winter is behind us, work has resumed on McMurrin Hall.
- **Nursing Building:** Palmer Construction Company has been awarded the contract for the nursing building. We anticipate construction to begin early this summer with classes being taught in the building beginning in August, 2007.
- **Residence Hall Apartments:** The project is on track, and virtually all of the apartments have been assigned to students for next fall.

FY07 Budget Item

- **Wellness Center and Pool:** The State Legislature has added approximately \$1.1 million to our base budget with the understanding that it will be used to pay the debt service on a loan for a new wellness center and pool.
- **HEPC Resolution:** At a special meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission on April 28, 2006, Shepherd's request for an in-state tuition and fee increase of 7.5% plus a \$25 per student athletics equity fee was not approved. There was a lengthy and, in my mind, somewhat difficult discussion by the Commissioners on the topic of tuition and fee increases, with the resulting outcome being that the highest increase allowed for any reviewed institution was 7.5%, including the equity fee. Shepherd University was in that category. As a result of this cut, our projected revenue could be approximately \$115,000 lower. We have discussed various ways that we can deal with this reduction, but we will not make final decisions until the fall when our actual revenue is known.

Community and Technical College

- **Transition Plans:** We are continuing to work with the staff from the CTC to help them prepare for a transition date of January 1, 2007 for all Banner-related administrative functions. Further, because we are migrating from WVNET to Frontier as our service provider, we will no longer be in a position to provide Internet and email service to the CTC after June 30, 2006. The reason for this timing is that Berkeley County (CTC's location) and Jefferson County (Shepherd's location) are served by different phone companies. So when we begin using Frontier in July, we can no longer provide support to the CTC who will be using Verizon as its phone company. I understand that a "work

around” may be possible, but at an extraordinarily high cost that neither the CTC nor Shepherd can afford.

Advancement Office

- **Retreat:** Representatives from this Board, as well as from the Alumni Board, the CATF Board, and the Foundation Board participated in a retreat on April 29, 2006 at which time a lot of territory was covered relating to a comprehensive capital campaign.

Enrollment Management

- **Financial Aid Office:** Libby Sturm, Director of Financial Aid, is planning to retire in the near future. We are very sad to see her leave after eight years of outstanding service to Shepherd University and to our students. We are delighted, however, to announce that we have hired Ms. Sandra Oerly-Bennett, currently the Director of Financial Aid at Fairmont State University, to fill this upcoming vacancy.

Student Affairs

- **Relay for Life:** Shepherd University students raised over \$40,000 for the American Cancer Society through their participation in the Relay for Life program. By comparison, we understand that WVU students raised about \$20,000 and MU students raised about \$10,000. This is the second year in a row that Shepherd University students have raised more money for this cause than any other college or university in West Virginia.

Academic Affairs

- **BS in Computer Engineering:** We have filed an HEPC document requesting permission to move forward with our plans for a BS degree in Computer Engineering. It is possible that this program could be up and running by this fall – certainly by the fall of 2007.
- **Industrial Mathematics:** As a result of this Board’s approval last month of an industrial mathematics program, we are moving forward to implement it for this coming fall.
- **Library Hours:** In support of our graduate and summer programs, we are planning to have the Library open on Sundays. This will be especially helpful to our part-time and adult students who are otherwise occupied Monday through Friday.
- **Graduate Programs:** The Graduate Studies Committee is presently reviewing four proposals for master level degrees. The four proposals under consideration include Nursing, Environmental Studies, Liberal Studies, and Public History.
- **Dean of Education and Professional Studies:** We have hired Dr. Virginia Hicks as our Dean of Education and Professional Studies. Dr. Hicks currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Coaching at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.
- **Compact:** Shepherd University’s Compact was rated “good” by the HEPC. While there was a higher category, no institution achieved that rating.