

Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) Report October 9, 2003 Charleston Meeting

The October 9 meeting of the ACF convened at the Marshall University Graduate College in South Charleston. Senate presidents from institutions across the state joined the Advisory Council faculty. Mid-way through the meeting Chancellor Mullen also joined the group. The following details are highlights of the meeting.

1. **ACF 2004 Legislative Agenda:** Shurbutt brought a draft of the 2004 ACF brochure to the meeting. The brochure will outline the 2004 legislative agenda and be used when making contact with legislators, local BOGs, and the public, in order to explain WV higher education faculty positions on a number of higher education issues (see attached legislative position paper). Shurbutt brought to the discussion an additional item which would bring WV faculty into the higher education "**Unity Agenda**," an historic movement of solidarity between college/university presidents and local BOGs on the budget cuts. The ACF embraced the idea and determined that the item should be placed first among our 2004 legislative concerns.

• Restoration of Higher Education Budget

Rationale: The proposed reallocations of state appropriations away from higher education will work to the detriment of the State and its citizens by undermining opportunities for economic recovery, limiting access to higher education, diminishing services to the State performed by the institutions of higher education, and denying future generations of West Virginians a fair opportunity for obtaining a state-supported higher education at a reasonable cost.

Action: Pass legislation to prohibit further cuts to the Higher Education budget and to restore funding to FY 2003 levels.

After some discussion about omitting the legislative concern calling for the Legislature to sanction and define faculty senates, consensus was to leave the item on the agenda, as some institutional administrations did not, in fact, wish to recognize faculty senates nor accept their input; thus legislative validation, similar to that recently passed in HB2224 defining classified staff councils, appears needed.

The ACF and senate presidents went through the brochure draft carefully for a final revision prior to publication. Shurbutt promised to have the finished product at the December meeting for distribution. Senate presidents were asked to carry the 2004 legislative agenda to their constituency for endorsement. Chair Nemitz thanked ACCE representative **Tim Haines** for his assistance with the brochure.

2. **CTC Subcommittee of ACF:** After some discussion about the revised "Guidelines for Establishing Community and Technical College Faculty Instructional Loads," a CTC subcommittee of the ACF was formed. In response to a request that the ACF offer further suggestions concerning the policy in discussion, we recommend that **Gerry Hough** (New River CTC) and **Mike Davis** (Northern CTC) serve on the committee of administrators that is currently polishing and revising

the policy on community college faculty instructional loads. One of the ACF objections at the August HEPC meeting was that no faculty had been involved in creation of the policy and that it was published over the summer and brought before the HEPC at the August meeting without faculty input.

3. **Report on Revision of Academic Policies: Bruce Flack** went through those higher education policies that the HEPC office will be working on in the coming months. Dr. Flack stressed that the items were constantly evolving at this point in time, all items fluid.

- a. **Undergraduate Admissions Standards (Series 23):**

- Require ACT and SAT-1 **writing assessments** for entering students effective fall 2006;
- Institute **more stringent admissions requirements** for institutions designated at different levels in the State (i.e., "selective colleges and universities, traditional baccalaureate colleges, community and technical colleges");
- Require entering freshmen to meet **high school unit and GPA** requirements, "**as well as**" **minimum ACT/SAT scores** (currently, unit and GPA requirements "**or**" minimum ACT/SAT scores are considered for entering freshmen);
- Structuring **provisions to address transition of CTC students** to baccalaureate status.

- b. **Freshman Placement Standards (Series 21):** Increase in ACT cut-off scores for placement in **entry level general studies courses** (i.e., from ACT of 18 to 19 in English and ACT 19 to 20 in Math). The Mathematics Task Force will recommend policy which will affect both entry-level courses in math and teacher preparation.

- c. **Teacher Preparation:** Coming policies will effect a major change in teacher preparation in the State, specifically they will necessitate a **greater emphasis in content**, the changes driven by the provisions of "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB). In secondary and middle school teacher preparation more responsibility will fall to the content areas for teacher preparation, and in all probability students will end with a **degree in their content areas accompanied by certification**. What this will mean for Shepherd Teacher Education (PEU Council), which already designates responsibility for secondary TE to department disciplines, is that **credit will be given to departments for these majors**. With the exception of Social Studies, department disciplines already handle advisement and answer to accrediting institutions for their secondary TE curricula.

4. **Discussion with Chancellor Mullen:** Dr. Mullen spoke to the group, stressing the uniqueness of these times for higher education. Since WWII higher education has been in an "expansion mode"; however, today, for the first time, we are currently experiencing, according to Mullen, "reduction." Mullen stressed the importance of "retention." One in five fourteen-year-olds do not finish high school in the State. When pressed, the Chancellor said that he would support the college

presidents "**unity agenda**"; however, he also noted that the budget situation was dire and the legislature was serious about cuts. Mullen suggested that faculty and campus administrators need to come to grips with down-sizing issues and redistribution of resources; he also noted that higher productivity was essential. Faculty should also, he encouraged, "press for more open discussion in the budget process" on the institutional level.

5. **WVHEFAC-L List-serve: Jim Hoey** (WVU, Potomac State) asked again that ACF representatives encourage faculty to sign up for the newly created **faculty list-serve**, a mechanism that will allow any person placed on the list to enter into discussions concerning higher education issues. In order to become a member, faculty should email the following message to listserv@listserv.wvnet.edu: "**SUBSCRIBE WVHEFAC-L**"; then type **first name** and **last name**.

Hoey also presented other newly created list-serves and websites: <http://myweb.wvnet.edu/~hepcacf> (the ACF website), hepc-acf@listserv.wvnet.edu (the ACF list-serve), wvhefacsen-1@listserv.wvnet.edu (the senate presidents list-serve), in addition to wvhefac-1@listserv.wvnet.edu (the WV higher education faculty list-serve, see subscription information above).

The next ACF meeting will be December 5.

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