

**Shepherd College Assembly
Minutes of September 29, 2003 Meeting
4:10 p.m., Reynolds Hall
Dr. Laura Renninger, Moderator**

- I. Dr. Renninger called the Assembly to order at 4:10 p.m. Minutes of the Spring 2003 Assembly meeting were m/s/a to approve as distributed.
- II. Dr. Renninger asked Alan Perdue, College Counsel, to address the Assembly regarding the previously-distributed proposed Constitutional amendments. The proposed amendments are technical in nature, bringing the Constitution into line with recent administrative and legislative changes. There were no questions.
 - a. Dr. Renninger asked Tracy Seffers, Secretary to the Assembly, to speak to the ballot process for the proposed amendments. The Constitution provides for a 10-class-day cycle for voting: ballots distributed on the 5th class day from the Assembly meeting (Monday, October 6); and returned and counted on the 5th class day from the day of distribution (Monday, October 13).
 - i. **Update: Ballots were counted at 4:00pm on Monday, October 13, 2003 (Renninger, DeVito, Seffers). Ninety-one ballots were returned. Of those ballots, eighty-six were in favor of the proposed amendments; five against. The amendments are approved.**
- III. Dr. Mark Stern introduced the new faculty to the Assembly, which extended a warm welcome to those present.
- IV. Ms. Anna Mary Walsh introduced the new employees to the Assembly, which extended a warm welcome to those present
- V. Dr. Renninger asked representatives of the Council of Classified Employees and the Advisory Council of Faculty to offer their reports.

- a. Advisory Council of Classified Employees Report (Mr. Ken Harbaugh): The Council is focusing on the legislative battles in Charleston related to budget and pay; working toward a voting seat on the local staff councils for all Classified Employees Representatives to the Institutions' Boards of Governors; and pursuing matching state funds for employees' payroll deduction donations to scholarship funds.
 - b. Advisory Council of Faculty (Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt): The Council is similarly focusing on issues related to budget and pay: establishing incremental pay increases for faculty, increasing the state match on TIAA-CREF contributions, reaffirming the 10% pay increase at promotion and tenure, and looking at issues related to the hiring and support of adjuncts.
- VI. Dr. Renninger invited Dr. Dunlop to the podium for the President's Report. Three topics dominated:
- a. U. S. News and World Report rankings, which are favorable to Shepherd College in a very public forum.
 - b. Shepherd College/Shepherd University name change, including the distribution of his "Talking Points" to the Assembly. Constituencies have been generally supportive, given the political and financial realities. There were some questions and points of discussion, including other possible names. Discussions will continue throughout the community.
 - c. Budget update. The state has called for an additional 9% cut, beyond that cut last fiscal year. WV presidents of higher education have created a "Unity Agenda" that calls for last year's cut to be restored, and for institutions to be able to set tuition levels as necessary to offset state shortfalls. The Shepherd Board of Governors has resolved to support the Unity Agenda.
- VII. With no other items for the Assembly to consider, it was m/s/a to adjourn at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Seffers, Registrar
Secretary to the College Assembly