I. Call to Order — Dr. Mark Cantrell

II. Approval of Minutes of the Fall 2013 Assembly Meeting — Dr. Mark Cantrell

Dr. Cantrell proposed a fix to an error in which “Fall 2012” should read “Spring 2013” under “Approval of Minutes…”

After discussion, with the proposed changes, minutes of the Fall Assembly were unanimously approved as distributed.

III. President’s Report – Dr. Christopher Ames

A handout of the President’s Report was given out.

• President sends her regrets for not being able to be here.
• Thanks all or how hard all have worked to make this a successful year for our students, despite numerous disruptions and challenges.
• We are at an 8-year low in funding from the State.
  o State budget cuts are illustrated on the report.
• Decline in enrollment
• Results include:
  o Significant cuts to all operational budgets
  o Freezing of many vacant positions.
• Accomplishments:
  o Are delivering a first rate education in light of those challenges.
• Strategies:
  o Moving forward with recommended budget
  o Tuition increase of 4.96%
• In June 1, will have a sense if will meet projected enrollment.
  o Anticipated 1.5% increase July 1st, and about 3% upon finalization of enrollment.
• President is working with other higher education institutions to urge Legislature to understand needs of higher education.
• Working to increase enrollment in traditional markets, including:
  o Working with Royal and Company and hosting new events for accepted students
  o Managing new administration needs.
• Seeking to strengthen new markets:
• Adult education
• International students

Retention
• Early Alert System
• Streamlining services to avoid the “Shepherd shuffle”
• Reducing number of courses taught by adjuncts.

IV. Approval of Candidates for Graduation – Ms. Tracy Seffers
*With no amendments, candidates for graduation were unanimously approved as distributed.*

V. Elections - Dr. Mark Cantrell
A. Moderator – (Dr. Mark Cantrell is incumbent)
   M/S/P to elect Christian Benefiel as moderator by acclamation.
B. Secretary – (Dr. Matthew Kushin is incumbent)
   M/S/P to elect Matthew Kushin as secretary by acclamation.
C. Parliamentarian – (Dr. Anders Henriksson is incumbent)
   M/S/P to elect Dr. Anders Henriksson as parliamentarian by acclamation.
D. Student Life Council – (one position open)
   M/S/P to elect Dr. Nicolas Pologeorgis as student life council by acclamation.

VI. Reports to the Assembly
A. Advisory Council of Faculty – Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt
   • HEPC has a new website
   • Re-authorization for each institution is underway.
   • West Virginia Student Texting project
   • Research grants are up about $30 million of funding brought into the state
   • State seeing large growth in adult education
   • West Virginia tuition rate is by and large lowest in the region
   • Faculty salaries continue to stagnate, ranking 14th among the 16 SREB states.
   • Program review process from HEPC will be streamlined.
   • The legislative process and related bills:
     o SB409 – Did not pass - Alternative teacher certification; degree compatibility requirements
     o HB4513 – Did not pass - Mandating credit hours for students to hold 15 hours, rather than the current 12; Standardization of degrees which could impact accreditation; blanket transfer and degree mandates which could impact accreditation.
     o Legislature picked up Advisory Council of Faculty’s slogan, “creating a continuum of learning.”
     o Seeking to ensure higher education is protected from budget cuts when public school is as well.
     o Providing interim reports from ACF to HEPC and community college council.
     o The report from a handout titled “ACF Interim Report to HEPC; April 25, 2014,” which was given to the assembly members, was read.
B. President of Faculty Senate – Dr. J. B. Tuttle
- Departments are electing senators, which will be seated at the April 21 meeting.
- Key and ongoing issues were discussed:
  - In regard to budget, Senate has represented funding faculty raises and the accelerated content management system roll out to help manage university communication.
  - Great Colleges to Work For survey – stressed via Senate to encourage faculty to be as precise in filling out the survey.
  - Hiring – involved in a number of new positions, much of which will be done over the summer.
- Participated in 2 task forces put together by the VPAA
  - Administration Evaluation task force
  - Salary Compression task force
- Working with multiple units on campus, in regard to faculty advising and retention.
- Thanked the Budget Advisory Committee and Sylvia Shurbutt
- The proposed C&I flow chart will be voted upon.

C. Advisory Council of Classified Employees – Mr. Ken Harbaugh
- Working to develop higher quality Staff Councils and better leaders in the staff rankings.
- SB 3300 legislative procedural rules
  - Common Grounds committee – working with the VCHR and others at the Policy Commission to write the required rules for the legislation – Faculty, classified, CHROs.
  - Compensation Planning and Review Committee – adding details to the rules on compensation
  - Employee leave
  - Classified Employee pay structure
  - Reduction-in-Force
  - Personnel Administration – upgrade, downgrade, promotions, and demotions.
- Market Studies
  - $130,000 was spent on Fox Lawson but their request for proposal was not accepted.
  - New request for proposals are being written.
- HEPC HR division has to mend relationships with Chief Human Resource officers within the system.
- System-wide training is needed in compensation and classification.

D. Chair of Classified Employees Council – Mr. Brian Hammond
- Praised facilities for their hard work in cleaning up campus during this terribly snowy winter.
- Provided feedback and input for:
- Budget Advisory Committee work
- Strategic Planning committee
- Search committees

E. Student Life Council – Mr. Christian Benefiel
  - Took on new faculty and graduate students to ensure accurate representation
  - Approved interfaith club
  - Approved active gaming club
  - Approved B.A.S.S. club
  - Approved an online gaming club
  - Subcommittee has been formed for policies and risks associated with hazing and related issues.

VII. Proposed Amendment to Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution of Shepherd University – Mr. Alan Perdue
  - Proposed Amendment was distributed and read
  - Discussion

VIII. Proposed Amendment to Article IV, Section 7 of the Constitution of Shepherd University – Dr. Larry Daily
  - Proposed Amendment was distributed and read
  - Discussion

IX. Adjournment – Dr. Mark Cantrell

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Matthew J. Kushin  
*Secretary to the Shepherd Assembly*