

**Advisory Council of Faculty  
Representative Report to Faculty Senate  
February 1, 2019**

*from ACF meeting, of December 13, 2018, and Higher Education Day, January 28, 2019*

**Legislature:** ACF has been working to educate legislators about various issues of concern to higher education faculty members and their institutions, especially on gun legislation, funding, salary raises, and PEIA.

- Though we spoke forcefully that institutions should have autonomy about campus security, legislation to allow concealed weapons on state college and university campuses (empowered by conceal-carry permits) seems unstoppable.
- ACF discussed 'soft taxes,' such as the 'soda tax' as a possible source for higher education funds, but this legislature has no interest in any tax increases.
- Raises for higher education personnel are uncertain, but ACF wanted legislators to know that funding last year was not adequate to provide the 5% raises reported in the media.
- ACF emphasized that 'finding' funds for PEIA in the form of 'returned' funds from state agencies would hurt higher education institutions very badly. Some state agencies do have large reserves, and it is possible that these funds are really the issue, but the legislation, as of Monday, did not distinguish.
- ACF met with three key legislators on Higher Education Day at the Legislature (Monday, January 28, 2019), and we hope to have further meetings next Friday morning (February 8, 2019).
- The Blue Ribbon Commission has not yet finalized its recommendations, but Delegate Espinoza seems to support some version of the HEPC funding formula, which takes some account of the costs of educating at-risk students.

**Increased Educational Resources:**

- Hunter Barclay, Marshall University's Student Body President, gave a presentation at ACF's December meeting on open resource education products and encouraged faculty to try to adopt these materials in order to save students money.
- WV native David Wiley of the Lumina Foundation is working to bring trainers to West Virginia for a conference on Open Education Resources so that each campus could have someone formally trained in getting the most out of these materials, and that person, in turn, could help to train others on their home campuses.
- Efforts are underway to provide a statewide library system that will make resources more widely available while also saving costs to individual institutions by making our libraries a larger 'bargaining unit' with publishers of online resources.
- 14 courses have been recommended for the Course Equivalency List and sent to provosts. Each institution must approve the courses before they count in the system.