**West Virginia Advisory Council of Faculty
Report to the WVSU Faculty Senate
For Meeting of Nov. 3
Submitted by Barbara Ladner, Representative**

Legislative Forums: Strategies for legislative forums were discussed. Fairmont’s will be Dec. 6 or 7. (WVSU’s scheduled for Oct. 26). Institutions are encouraged to share what we’re doing, since most schools are somewhat new at this.

Effects of last year’s legislation: The three main effects on higher education from last year’s legislation were (1) greater autonomy for institutional boards of governors (WVU and MU have almost complete autonomy, while other four-years can do a lot of things with personnel policy, etc., that used to have HEPC approval but now require only notification to HEPC); (2) after this fiscal year, HEPC will no longer be able to assess its institutions for 1.5% of tuition (these monies funded training for BOG and SGA members, many aspects of international education/professional development, collaborative health programs in southern counties, and some student scholarships, among other things—the provision to stop the assessment was added late in the process and many legislators may not have realized what they were approving); (3) in a separate bill, the classified staff salary schedule (never actually implemented/funded) was abandoned, and classified staff ‘bumping rights’ were ended (so that workers whose positions are eliminated can no longer use seniority to ‘bump’ a lower-seniority staff member and take that position, though they may still have priority for open positions).

Discussion of this year’s ACF issues, including the ACF brochure: Most institutions have endorsed this year’s ACF issues (below), but some (esp. WVU) don’t want the HEPC assessment to continue, because they want their institution to keep those funds; they also favor the ‘freedom’/autonomy provisions and are ambivalent about the pro-HEPC language in the ACF issues. The ACF issues don’t specify restoring HEPC’s power over institutions or the assessment itself, just some kind of funding restoration, but WVU chose to table the ACF issues, rather than endorsing or rejecting them. The brochure will just say something about most institutions supporting the issues, or such language.

Civility commission: HEPC is supporting the idea of a ‘civility commission’ to assist institutions in addressing concerns before they become official grievances. The main effect will probably be from educating administrators and faculty about academic bullying and how to avoid it, but we hope there will be ‘ombudspersons’ to help negotiate resolutions of issues that arise. The planning group for the commission hasn't met yet, but Corley Denison has spoken to VPAA's, who have expressed no opposition; educational activities may be streamed online, to make it easier for folks to participate.

News from other campuses: SWVCTC, NWVCTC, and Potomac State have voted no confidence in the president; Potomac got a new president; NWVCTC’s president got a one-year contract with instruction to improve on areas of concern; SWVCTC’s BOG so far has not responded much to the faculty’s vote. Fairmont had a vote of no-confidence in the process by which their new president is being selected. Strategies for getting SWVCTC’s board to address concerns were discussed.

Miscellaneous: Gov. Justice says he's looking to CTCs to prepare workers for road jobs.
Bridge Valley CTC’s lease problems have to do with not having a contract over renovation, fair rate, utilities, etc., rather than with inability to pay rent.

**For the WV Legislature:**

* Create a steady stream of revenue for the higher education of WV students.
* Support the critical work of the HEPC and CTCC to ensure transparency and oversight at colleges and universities in administering higher education.
* Restore funding for student and faculty programs scheduled to be eliminated on July 1, 2018 per HB 2315.
* Secure the solvency of PEIA with adequate funding.

**For the WV HEPC, CTCC and Institutions of Higher Learning**

* Promote faculty rights and ethical behavior through educating administrators and faculty
* Include faculty in decision-making processes that create initiatives and policies