**Advisory Council of Faculty
Representative Report to Faculty Senate
October 7, 2016
*(mostly September 2 report with one update)***

**ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE SENATE:** Endorsement (or not) of the “2016-17 West Virginia Higher Education Faculty Issues” that have been recommended by the Advisory Council of Faculty.
They are:

For the Legislature:

1. Create a steady stream of increasing revenue for the higher education of all West Virginia Students;
2. Support the work of the HEPC, CTCC, and Boards of Governors at colleges and universities in administering higher education.

For the HEPC/CTCC and Institutions of Higher Learning:

1. Promote faculty rights and ethical behavior through educating administrators and faculty;
2. Include faculty in decision-making processes that create initiatives and policies

BACKGROUND: The ACF believes that promoting a limited number of issues will strengthen the impact of our advisory role with the legislature, as well as with our administrators. In addition, the issues are broadly worded, so that they can be more easily adapted to the political landscape we will be in after the election, whatever that is. These issues can encompass a number of proposals and different aspects while not diluting the overall message of each goal/issue.

The specific issues were selected because they seemed to offer ‘umbrellas’ for a number of smaller issues, such as budget reductions, flat pay scales, funding of existing and new programs, threats to the role of HEPC and/or the autonomy of institutions, interactions between institutions, issues of due process for faculty and students, and matters of governance.

I am in complete support of these issues and recommend that WSVU endorse them.

**OTHER:** The Council is revising its brochure to highlight these issues and emphasize the role that higher education plays in West Virginia’s economic health and response to the poverty of its citizens, keeping the main focus on ways that we serve students.

The chancellors of both systems (HEPC and CTCC) attended the most recent ACF meeting and talked of ways to assist more students to attend college, using funds for displaced workers, alumni support, etc., as well as possible ‘skill set’ training for administrators and training for possible ‘ombudspersons’ to assist with grievances and similar matters at institutions across the state.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs reported that math and English placement standards will change somewhat with ACT’s discontinuation of the Compass test. HEPC’s goal is that all students needing remediation eventually (by 2020, if possible) be enrolled in ‘co-requisite’ courses that allow them to earn college credit at the same time that they receive remediation. A ‘co-requisite academy’ Sept. 7-9 will build faculty and administrator capacities in this area. He and the ACF Chair Mark Goldstein reported on revisions to policy series on purchasing procedures (making them more uniform and in compliance with OASIS), approval and discontinuation of programs (shortening turn-around time, made possible by electronic communication), and evaluation of college credits (making sure institutions perform appropriate oversight of college credits, especially from proprietary schools, that is, without regional accreditation). Course ‘equivalency’ committees continue to work and may be reporting in some areas (e.g., science) very soon. These will set standards (with a set percentage that must be met) to determine whether transfer courses count for ‘major’ credit, as well as for general education.

Fall legislative interim sessions will primarily address flood issues, but since that involves money, there might be additional budget cuts arising from the sessions. The regular legislative session will begin a month later than usual, as is normal when there is a new governor.

UPDATE/OPPORTUNITY: An opportunity to learn more about the WV Budget is available to us through the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. This organization has a presentation that explains the budget and its deficits. Some higher education institutions have already had this organization present budget information on their campuses. There is no cost to this. Tara Martinez from the WVCBP will travel to your school to make the presentation and answer any questions.