



Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2022

West Virginia Northern Community College and Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lindsay Morgan	WVU Parkersburg
Deirdre Guyton	Bluefield State University
Jane Fouty	BridgeValley Community and Technical College
Amy Pitzer	Concord University
John Devault	Fairmont State University
Michele Lang	Glenville State University
Teresa Meddings	Marshall University
Dee Preston	Mountwest Community and Technical College
Erin Trump	New River Community and Technical College
Elora Clothier	Pierpont Community and Technical College
Jayne Angle	Shepherd University
J. Christopher Gray	Southern WV Community and Technical College
Yodev Ocasio	West Liberty University
Michael Casey	West Virginia State University
Jenna Derrico	West Virginia Northern Community College
Barbara Sanders	West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Shirley Robinson	West Virginia University
Dara Massey	West Virginia University Institute of Technology
Verne Britton	WVNET

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vacant	Blue Ridge Community and Technical College
Vacant	Community and Technical College System of WV
Vacant	Eastern WV Community and Technical College
Jamey Kesner	WVU Potomac State College

GUESTS

Ken Harbaugh, ACCE Emeritus
Robert Long, ACCE Emeritus
Stephanie Cunningham, West Virginia Northern Community College
Carolyn Canini, Director of Behavioral Health Programs, Higher Education Policy Commission
Erikka Storch, WV State Delegate
Shawn Fluharty, WV State Delegate



Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:13 am. The Chair determined that a quorum was present.

MINUTES

Michael Casey motioned to approve the September 2022 minutes as amended. Jane Fouty seconded. Motion passed.

SHARED GOVERNANCE SURVEY

The group discussed who would have access to the full results of the staff survey on shared governance, and how to handle responses with identifying information prior to sharing the results. Once the HEPC has clarified when and how the survey will be distributed, the ACCE Communications Committee will develop talking points that each ACCE Rep can use to discuss the survey with their chief executives prior to survey release.

CAROLYN CANINI - Behavioral Health Needs and Initiatives Presentation

Carolyn Canini, Director of Behavioral Health Programs at the HEPC, presented on behavioral health needs and initiatives at the HEPC and across the state. West Virginia participates in a mental health assessment every two years, and spring 2020 data shows mental health concerns with college students are grave with an increased demand for and utilization of mental health services, high incidence of anxiety and depression, and increased severity or acuity of symptoms. American Council of Education data from 2021 show mental health for students is the most pressing issue facing college presidents, and mental health for faculty and staff is the third most pressing issue.

Schools have responded by hiring more staff for mental health, developing relationships with providers in the community, allocating more resources, and contracting with mental health vendors. The HEPC has responded by:

1. Sharing grant opportunities
2. Convening groups
3. Building the behavioral health workforce
4. Communicating resources
5. Evaluating campus-wide strategic planning
6. Implementing resilience-building programs.
7. Providing mental health training
8. Promoting the inclusion of mental health acknowledgments on syllabi
9. Advocating and raising awareness

Details about these initiatives are included in Ms. Canini's PowerPoint presentation which she will share with the group.

DISCUSSION WITH WV STATE DELEGATES

The group then met with West Virginia State Delegates Erikka Storch (R), who serves on the House Finance Committee, and Shawn Fluharty (D), who serves on the House Judiciary Committee. The delegates encouraged the ACCE to continue engaging with legislators, particularly outside of the legislative session, and to review any new committee assignments and leaders following the 2022 election in November.



Delegate Fluharty said the focus of the next legislative session may well be where the state spends its money, and that he supports using funding to fix the state's problems rather than supporting tax cuts which undermine the ability of the state to find and fund solutions.

Delegate Storch said that direct engagement with schools and groups like ours helps legislators to better understand the context behind enrollment numbers and budget calculations. The ACCE provided some details related to how the governor's funding for pay increases is used at the various institutions, as well as how the higher education budgets are developed before being included in the governor's proposed budget. Bob Long said that funding has been basically flat since 2012-2013, which is actually a huge decrease of about \$100 million after inflation is taken into consideration. The HEPC has not wanted to "stir the pot" by asking for significant increases because they've been trying to avoid disastrous cuts, but the legislature cannot increase funding to higher education beyond the governor's budget.

The group asked about impending PEIA increases and what can be done to avoid it. Delegate Fluharty indicated some legislators may, perversely, want to see the increase happen since he is not seeing any proposals to spend any money on fixing the problems. The state needs to generate new revenue, and this is why he's concerned about Amendment 2. Delegate Storch said that all insurance rates are increasing, and that the Medicaid reimbursement rate may also be under the microscope this legislative session. The legislature may also want to consider not covering state employee's spouses when they have other coverage, though she clarified that this is not a proposal coming from her; she just wants the group to be aware that it may be discussed.

The group shared its concerns regarding increased workloads resulting from unfilled vacancies, and Delegate Storch said the legislature may be interested to know why they are funding schools for positions that are not filled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication Committee will draft survey talking points to send out by email after they hear back from Melanie Baker at the HEPC.

Chair Morgan asked all committees to touch base before November.

NEW BUSINESS

Jayne Angle asked if all ACCE reps have a standing meeting with their presidents and said a combined all-staff council is being discussed at Shepherd even though they still have classified and non-classified staff. The group discussed if a non-classified staff person would be eligible to run for the ACCE, and Amy Pitzer suggested that if an already serving ACCE member becomes non-classified, the group may want to allow that ACCE member to finish their term. However, the By-Laws Committee would need to consider if a non-classified employee is eligible to be on the ACCE ballot at an institution that still has classified staff.

Schools may be tempted to convert all classified to non-classified as it can seem less confusing; however, the negatives should be carefully considered, such as making all staff will and pleasure,



weakening the system of classification and compensation, and putting in jeopardy certain other rights and protections afforded to classified staff. Schools should also avoid misconceptions and misinformation; for instance, non-exempt staff would still need to use timeclocks, even if they are switched to non-classified.

The ACCE appreciates the presentations from the HEPC, but is concerned at the decrease in communication from Matthew Turner and Patricia Humphries, particularly as it relates to the progress of the market study.

The ACCE extended its gratitude to West Virginia Northern Community College for their hospitality.

Ms. Derrico motioned to adjourn. Ms. Massey seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Jenna Derrico, ACCE Secretary