



Minutes  
December 15, 2023  
Marshall University South Charleston campus (MUGC)

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deirdre Guyton	Bluefield State University
Jane Fouty	BridgeValley Community and Technical College
Amy Pitzer	Concord University
Justine Bohon	Fairmont State University
Jenny Boggs	Glenville State University
Teresa Meddings	Marshall University
Dee Preston	Mountwest Community and Technical College
Erin Trump	New River Community and Technical College
Chip Hawkins	Pierpont Community and Technical College
Yulia Friman	Shepherd University
Chris Gray (proxy)	Southern WV Community and Technical College
Marcella Snyder	West Liberty University
Verne Britton	WVNET
Jenna Derrico	West Virginia Northern Community College
Michael Casey	West Virginia State University
Jodi Vincent	West Virginia University
Dara Massey	West Virginia University Institute of Technology
Melissa Graham	West Virginia University Parkersburg

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

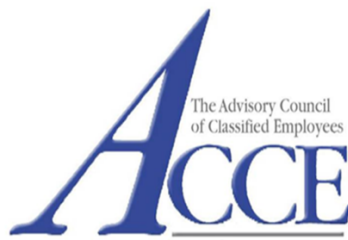
Shelden Mullens	West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Vacant	Community and Technical College System of WV
Vacant	Eastern WV Community and Technical College
Vacant	West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Unexcused)**

Eric Unger	Blue Ridge Community and Technical College
Aaron Smith	West Virginia University Potomac State College

**GUESTS**

Ken Harbaugh	ACCE Emeritus
Bob Long	ACCE Emeritus



Chair Derrico called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and determined that a quorum was present; note the late start time caused by the 9am Commission meeting the same day.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION**

No HEPC visitors

### **MINUTES**

October 2023 minutes reviewed and amended.

Jane Fouty motioned to approve minutes as amended, Dara Massey seconded. October 2023 Minutes approved as amended.

November 2023 minutes reviewed and amended.

Jane Fouty motioned to approve minutes as amended, Dara Massey seconded. November 2023 Minutes approved as amended.

### **ACCE Presentation to the Commission and Council**

Chair Derrico virtually attended a Council meeting on December 7, 2023, and gave the annual ACCE presentation. She also attended, in person, the Commission meeting prior to attending the scheduled ACCE meeting today, December 15, 2023, to give the annual ACCE presentation.

Chair Derrico updated the Commission and Council on raises not being funded by institutions, even with funds provided by the Legislature.

She also shared information with them on the following items discussed in last month's preparation of the presentation:

PEIA

Campus Carry

DEI

Student, faculty, and staff mental health importance

Staff involvement with the coming changes to the FAFSA process

Chair Derrico spoke regarding the faculty presentation to the Commission and Council and noted the following:

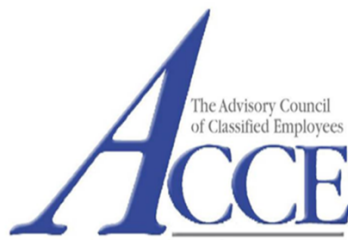
#### **Faculty presentation to the Commission:**

The faculty meeting schedule is much less than the ACCE schedule. They attend a November retreat and then conduct virtual meetings.

Noted faculty concerns:

Recruitment and retention, this leads to hiring faculty with limited experience, providing inadequate compensation, the campus carry law, financial concerns/lack of support for libraries, shared library services, declining student populations, dual enrollment, they view Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an enhancement, not a threat, and they would like to see tenure reinstated at two-year colleges.

Their noted legislative concerns are PEIA increases, DEI concerns, funding to implement the campus carry initiatives, future of tenure at four-year institutions regarding accreditation and research and development.



**Student presentation to the Commission:**

Students have been working with Melanie Baker at HEPC to survey undergraduate students, and they would like to present the results to the legislature.

Chancellor Tucker responded that she has very strong opinions that legislators are making assumptions about what will keep students in the state, so they should hear the student voices directly. She encourages all institutions to participate in the proposed survey.

During last week's virtual Council meeting, these items were on both agendas as noted by Chair Derrico:

FAFSA changes, how EFC changes are going to affect the students, prompting Chancellor Tucker to voice her surprise that the EFC tables (student financials) have not been updated since 2020. There was a comment at last week's meeting that Campus Carry and PEIA need to be the areas of focus.

There were no questions from anyone for any of the presentations.

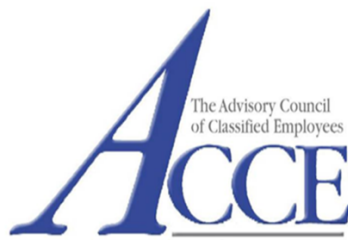
The ACS (Advisory Council of Students) representative attended an ACF (Advisory Council of Faculty) meeting recently and was pleased at how well the two councils work together. The ACS representative would like to invite the ACF to the January 2024 ACS virtual meeting.

Bob Long congratulated Chair Derrico on the clarity and conciseness of the presentation. He suggests that this presentation needs to be presented to LOCEA and she should try to get it on the January 2024 LOCEA meeting schedule.

Ken Harbaugh watched the presentation virtually and felt it was presented very well.

Chair Derrico met with Patricia Humphries and Matt Turner of HEPC prior to the Commission meeting. Ms. Humphries advised that some PEIA changes are coming, i.e., the cap on Autism and Diabetes care is being removed and that everyone should be receiving the PEIA newsletter at home.

Taran Wolford is still covering for the individual who is on leave from the HEPC. Ms. Humphries reports that they are meeting every two weeks with PayScale, HEPC has uploaded CUPA information and Department of Labor statistics. PayScale experts are matching our jobs in the system and Ms. Humphries has requested that all institutional CHROs provide all information for positions they want included in the market study by the end of January. If institutions do not provide necessary information, Ms. Humphries can reference positions from a 2015 list. Matt Turner asked Ms. Humphries for a timeline of when these items will be accomplished, to which she replied by the first of May 2024, but if something needed sooner, possibly by the end of March 2024. Chair Derrico asked why if they had this ability nothing has been completed to date, to which Ms. Humphries replied that they feel pressured by ACCE for results when they do not have the staff to complete these items and committees cannot do this work. Chair Derrico noted that multiple systems have died over the years due to neglect and it is always difficult to create a brand-new system. Mr. Turner made a commitment that they will provide us with *something* sooner than later.



Mr. Long noted that previous legislative code changes promoted by the ACCE provided the staff to HEPC to complete the needed tasks, but the legislature took them away in 2017. Mr. Harbaugh put forth that Ms. Humphries reports to Matt Turner and Chancellor Tucker at the HEPC, so really any blame or responsibility for the lack of completion falls on them, rather than Ms. Humphries. Chair Derrico feels we should request a meeting with Chancellor Tucker to discuss our concerns/issues and Mr. Long notes that it has been two years since our last meeting with the Chancellor.

### **Campus Concerns**

Chair Derrico shared an update on campus carry from Jade Irving. Ms. Irving hopes to send out a newsletter/update on campus carry by Friday December 22, 2023.

Chair Derrico advised that we need to begin educating people on the policies established on our campuses. The Taskforce at West Virginia Northern Community College is discussing where to restrict carrying weapons.

Jodi Vincent, West Virginia University, shares that she feels WVU seems to be going non-classified via attrition, noting that without the classified employee, there are many functions that do not operate in Higher Education on campuses. She mentioned she has interest in ACCE discussing further.

Chair Derrico wonders if returning the cap of non-classified staff could possibly bring this back under control.

### **Committee Reports/Discussion**

Chair Derrico asked that we consider what our committees will be doing and what our next steps will be.

### **Legislative Committee**

Chair Derrico asked that the Legislative Committee request a meeting with LOCEA, offering a Zoom meeting option. She followed with an explanation of what LOCEA is and their function.

She also suggested that the Executive Committee of ACCE meet with the Chancellor prior to meeting with LOCEA.

Amy Pitzer suggested that we request a meeting with LOCEA at the end of January or the beginning of February 2024 and suggested that the Finance Chairs of both Houses be included in these types of conversations as well.

### **Benefits Committee – No updates**



### **Web/Communications Committee**

Chair Derrico emailed information to the ACCE LISTSERV discussion list, asking for the group to review the email and survey questions and we will poll ACCE members regarding the potential of the survey at the next meeting. She suggests revisiting the survey issue after the meeting with the Chancellor and asking the Chancellor why the student survey has her full support and promotion, but the same support was not made available to the ACCE and staff.

**Student Advocacy Committee** – No Updates

**Retreat Committee** – No current updates, will share review in the new year.

### **Bylaws Review Committee**

Chair Derrico noted that the last page of the October 2023 minutes has the information for one last update to the Bylaws, asking the group to review ahead of the next meeting.

### **Old Business**

Old Business was shared and discussed throughout the meeting and is appropriately placed under headings throughout these minutes.

### **New Business**

Deirdre Guyton, Bluefield State ACCE representative, spoke to the group about tensions are easing with the departure of the President of Bluefield State. Ms. Guyton has taken a new position as Vice President, which is non-classified position, and a vote will be held soon electing a new ACCE representative for Bluefield.

Chair Derrico welcomed the new ACCE representative for West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Melissa Graham to the group and members present introduced themselves.

A vote will be held at the beginning of the next scheduled meeting of ACCE to elect a new secretary. The current secretary has left her classified position at Marshall University and is no longer eligible to serve on ACCE. Jodi Vincent from WVU volunteered to be the new secretary before the meeting closed.

### **Adjournment**

Dara Massey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:05pm, Jodi Vincent seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Jodi Vincent  
ACCE Secretary