



**Minutes**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**Bluefield State University (and Zoom)**

**MEMBERS Present**

Jane Fouty	BridgeValley Community and Technical College
Amy Pitzer	Concord University
Justine Bohon	Fairmont State University
Jenny Boggs	Glenville State University
Justin Tyler	Marshall University
Erin Trump	New River Community and Technical College
Verne Britton	WVNET
Jenna Derrico	West Virginia Northern Community College
Jodi Vincent	West Virginia University
Michael Casey	West Virginia State University
Yulia Friman	Shepherd University
Sarah Cross	West Virginia University Potomac State College
Marcella Snyder	West Liberty University
Melissa Graham	West Virginia University Parkersburg
Julie Cepec	West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Rebekah Hatch	Bluefield State University
Shelly Stewart	Southern WV Community and Technical College

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

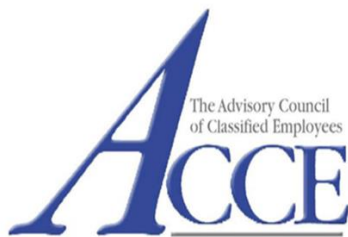
Dee Preston	Mountwest Community and Technical College
Vacant	Community and Technical College System of WV
Vacant	Eastern WV Community and Technical College
Vacant	West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
Vacant	West Virginia University Institute of Technology
Chip Hawkins	Pierpont Community and Technical College

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Unexcused)**

Eric Unger	Blue Ridge Community and Technical College
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**GUESTS**

Ron Hypes	CFO, Bluefield State University
Ken Harbaugh	ACCE Emeritus
Bob Long	ACCE Emeritus



- 1) Welcome from Ronald Hypes, Chief Financial Officer at Bluefield State University  
Ron Hypes, CFO provided the welcome statement. Bluefield State has brought back housing to the campus and currently house 250 students. Began phase 1 of refurbishment of Bluefield Regional Medical Center which they acquired the building providing the housing for the students and with phase 1 which they are reworking much of the space for the Allied Health coursework. They also plan to complete phases 2 & 3. Bluefield has been able to restart the Mining Engineering program with a focus on all aggregates.  
Campus Carry implementation went smoothly. Were able to provide each student with their own locker for a fee – no student took them up on that. Many offices did not ask for signage either. Their sports teams have moved into the CIAA Conference and have proven they are a school to contend with.
- 2) The Chair will determine that a quorum is present  
A quorum was found, and the meeting was called to order at 9:10.
- 3) Review of July 2024 Retreat Minutes  
Justin Tyler motioned to approve minutes as amended. Michael Casey seconded. All agreed.
- 4) Old Business  
We began old business with making sure each ACCE member had at least one committee assignment. Julie Cepec raised her hand stating she did not. Chair Derrico provided a short blurb on what each committee entails. The following ACCE members were added to the respective listed committees:

Julie Cepec – Student Advocacy Committee and Legislative Committee  
Shelly Stewart – Student Advocacy Committee

Chair Derrico requested some commitments today from committees so that they may be placed on our agenda.

**New Committee List:**

**Benefits Committee:** Chair Jenny Boggs, Dee Preston, Melissa Graham, Erin Trump, Jodi Vincent

**Legislative Committee:** Chair Amy Pitzer, Jodi Vincent, Verne Britton, Yulia Friman, Marcella Snyder, Dee Preston, Julie Cepec

**Web and Communications:** Chair Verne Britton, Jane Fouty, Amy Pitzer, Justin Tyler



**Student Advocacy:** Chair Justine Bohon, Michael Casey, Rebekah Hatch, Marcella Snyder, Shelly Stewart, Julie Cepec

**Special Event and Retreat:** Co-Chair Jane Fouty, Co-Chair Melissa Graham, Jenny Boggs, Justine Bohon, Michael Casey, Erin Trump

**By-Laws Review Committee:** (Ad Hoc Committee) Committee suspended and will be reinstated as needed.

5) New Business

**Benefits Committee:** Bob Long will provide new information he finds from his daily readings to the Benefits Committee. Benefits Committee will try to meet at before the October ACCE meeting to come up with a plan of action.

**Legislative Committee:** Working on brochures to share with local legislators and in Charleston. Closer to the sessions, we will begin scheduling meetings with our legislators.

**Web and Communications:** Focus on issue of finding newer pictures on our website. Possibly identify two pictures we wish to be replaced. Focus on members page and cover page. Getting survey updated and taken back to HEPC?

**Student Advocacy:** Outreach to new officers and arrange co-meetings with groups of students. Encouraged to meet to organize goals before next month's ACCE meeting.

**Special Event and Retreat:** This committee will not be active until later in the term.

**Ad Hoc By-Laws Review Committee:** will only be convened when needed

**Executive Committee:** Meet with Matt Turner, HEPC to discuss our updated survey.

Bob Long, ACCE Emeritus, reiterated his availability

Chair Derrico provided an update from Matt Turner of HEPC and new roll out of updated FAFSA.

The US Department of Education is indicating they will not be able to release the 2025-2026 FAFSA in early October, and even a November release may not be possible. Some financial aid reporting deadlines have been extended to January 2025, though institutions were hoping for a more significant extension.



The HEPC will be interested to see the fall 2024 enrollment numbers, as some of the institutions (community colleges in particular) may have done better than expected considering the enormous challenges with the FAFSA. Some of the four-year schools may have been hit harder.

The 2025 legislative session will begin one month later because of the November 2024 election. We will have a new governor and a new Senate president, along with other changes, so there may not be any huge initiatives in higher education. The HEPC will continue to push for the Legislature to fully fund the performance-based funding model, including the yearly inflationary increase, but the HEPC has been asked yet again this year to provide a flat budget. Some legislators are pushing for another tax cut, and many may oppose funding increases that are base-building rather than one-time funding. The HEPC hopes the Legislature will continue to support initiatives such as nursing scholarships, grants, and the expansion of dual credit across the state. Deferred maintenance projects are going well across the state.

Further discussion between ACCE representatives:

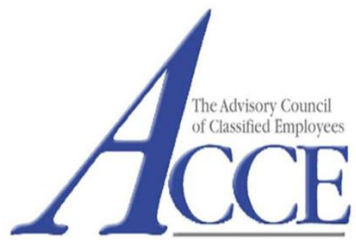
CTCS would like for us to present October 17 or December 5. After discussion, the group decided to provide the requested presentation in December.

There was discussion of Travel and Meal Reimbursement processes. 18B-5-6(f) in State Code is where code states what has to be paid for ACCE staff members.

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine just began a year long program in Biomedical Sciences.

Southern WV Community and Technical College mentioned having trouble with fraud in the financial aid with bots applying in batches. They have changed their system to include state or federal issued ids. Even with this change, they have found some fake ids coming through.

Thank you to Bluefield State University, Rebekah Hatch, and CFO Ronald Hypes for the amazing and courteous venue they provided.



6) Adjourn

Jenny Boggs motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Rebekah Hatch. Unanimous vote.

Minutes submitted by:

Jodi Vincent  
ACCE Secretary