

Minutes
May 19, 2025
West Virginia Network (WVNET) (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
Heather Smith	Marshall University
Chip Hawkins	Pierpont Community and Technical College
Yulia Friman	Shepherd University
Verne Britton	WVNET
Jenna Derrico	West Virginia Northern Community College
Michael Casey	West Virginia State University

MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Rebekah Hatch	Bluefield State University; Proxy not available
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
Vacant	West Virginia University Potomac State College
Vacant	Blue Ridge Community and Technical College
Vacant	West Liberty University
Vacant	West Virginia University Parkersburg

MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-Excused)

Jill Farrington	New River Community and Technical College
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GUESTS

Chris Gray	Southern WV Community and Technical College; Proxy for Elijah Hooker
Angela Henderson	West Virginia University; Proxy for Jodi Vincent
Scott Maxwell	West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine; Proxy for Julie Cepec



Call to Order

Chair Derrico called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was established.

Welcome Remarks

Anita Davis, HR Director with WVNET, welcomed the group and mentioned that this year is WVNET's 50th anniversary. She also discussed her earlier years with ACCE and explained while WVNET continues to serve our core clientele of the 21 WV public higher ed institutions, the Department of Education (K-12), county courthouses and other WV government agencies including the state capitol complex in Charleston also receive services and internet connectivity from WVNET.

Verne added that WVNET does not have students or faculty but since WVNET has classified staff, they are happy to be defined in state code as participants on ACCE. The WVNET helpdesk is staffed by classified staff working 12 hour shifts where they are on 3 and off 4 days so someone is available 24 hours a day to assist clients across the state and monitor servers and internet connections. WVNET last hosted ACCE in 2005, so it has been exactly 20 years, but they hope to host again in the future.

Review of April 11, 2025 Minutes

April minutes were reviewed and amended.

Jane motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Heather seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

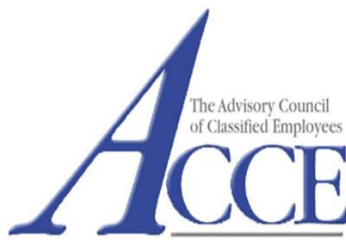
Chris, representing SWVCTC, discussed their current Board and presidential issues.

Bill Alderman is the new faculty BOG representative for SWVCTC, and the staff council chair is Kimberly Maynard (re-elected), and Chris Gray will be the staff BOG rep.

Verne mentioned WVNET's 50th year anniversary will be celebrated at their upcoming conference on October 15-16, 2025 at Oglebay Resort near Wheeling. You can visit wvstc.com for more information.

Due to the recent state-wide internet issues, WVNET has created a new web page hosted in the cloud to keep institutions up to date during connectivity issues at status.wvnet.edu.

LISTSERV email discussion list participants were discussed, with a suggestion to add newly elected members for the month of June and remove old members prior to July 1. Confirmation of newly elected members and their contact information should be emailed to Verne for the update.



Old Business

Updates on Staff Council Elections include:

Glenville State University has elected a new ACCE rep, Leslie Ward, while the staff BOG rep remains the same – Leslie Mason.

WVNCC reelected Jenna as ACCE rep.

Fairmont's election ends this upcoming Friday (5/23/25). They should have a new BOG rep as well.

BridgeValley hasn't completed their election yet.

Discussion

Jenna requested all ACCE reps to check the ACCE website for accuracy. Enter "Update to ACCE Members Page" in the subject line of the email to the LISTSERV so the Web & Communications Committee can find the info easily to update the page.

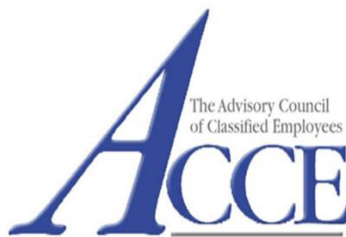
Legislative Discussion – Members should review the language in their Staff Council bylaws to make sure it comports with the BOG rep term limit changes from HB3279. While HB3279 prohibits a BOG representative from voting in a BOG meeting, it does not prohibit voting privileges in a Staff Council meeting. Schools should also review their BOG bylaws to protect constituency reps' ability to fully participate except for voting. For example, Jenna proposed to her school that they use in their BOG bylaws the following language based on Senator Oliverio's failed HB3279 amendment:

"All members, including non-voting members, shall be included in all discussions, Board meetings, and committee meetings, including both public and executive sessions; shall have access to all Board materials and communication; and shall be appointed to serve on Board committees."

Justine reminded the group that Fairmont's President sent out a campus-wide email with his response to the bill, but there is no talk of adding any language into their current bylaws.

Amy shared that Concord also requested updated language for their bylaws, and has been assured that BOG reps will be treated as before except for being allowed to vote.

Some discussion ensued on Roberts Rules of Orders (RRO). RRO does mention that certain non-voting members can be present, but bylaws must include verbiage stating the group follows those guidelines. Executive sessions are not covered by RRO. If you go against RRO, the action must be mentioned in the minutes. Codifying rights and



privileges in the BOG bylaws are necessary protections against uncertainty of future Board Members/Presidents as they may act/think differently.

Also discussed were the BOG rep term limits and whether or not the bill would negate a term limit for a recently reelected member prior to the bill passage? This may be a question directed to the HEPC legal counsel for clarification. How many reps would this effect? An exception can't be made to state code.

On a side note, a special legislative session has been called just to discuss PEIA, but no information has been provided to date. Make your staff councils aware that quick communication may go out regarding this upcoming session.

Committee Reports

Benefits Committee – none

ByLaws Review Committee – none

Legislative Committee – see Legislative discussion

Web & Communications Committee – none

Student Advocacy Committee – none

Special Events & Retreat Committee:

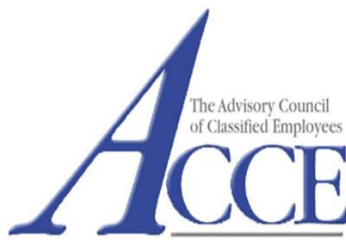
Jane confirmed all details are still the same in regards to the location and times for the upcoming retreat – Blackwater Falls State Park on July 21-22. She will send out an email with the details on the LISTSERV providing deadlines and reservation info. Everyone is reminded to bring money, at least \$10, for the meeting room rental fee that is shared among the members. Jane will provide a receipt to submit with your travel reimbursements for the meeting room rental fee. Each member can also opt-in to bring snacks or goodies for the swag bags, but it is not required. Meals are on your own but are reimbursable.

Blackwater Falls will provide a projector screen in the Shay Room and will rent a projector to us for \$50 a day. WVNET will commit to providing the projector, camera and speakers free of charge to avoid this extra fee.

Jenna mentioned she will bring a couple cases of water, and Justine said she will bring snacks.

The retreat will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday July 21. Members should plan to arrive Sunday night and check out before the meeting begins Tuesday, or during the morning break.

Bylaws will be reviewed on Tuesday and will serve as a refresher prior to the election of officers.



Member committee assignments will be updated as well as creating the following year schedule of meetings.

List of Potential Guests:

Jenna has already emailed Trish, Matt and Taryn at HEPC and sent the zoom link for the Monday meeting. She will also send the invite to Chancellor Tucker.

Could the Senate and House Chairs meet with us?

List of Potential Topics or Sessions:

Justine requested if the staff council chairs and BOG reps could join a session to help with transitioning and awareness issues. This session will be created for Monday – for anyone who is interested in ACCE and staff roles. This will provide a general overview, how to contact us and how to find info on our site.

One session should include creating sample one-page BOG reports that staff could share annually.

One session could discuss how their institutions have changed their bylaws to comply with the HB3279 changes. Does your staff council have a legislative committee? What are they doing and can we share it with others?

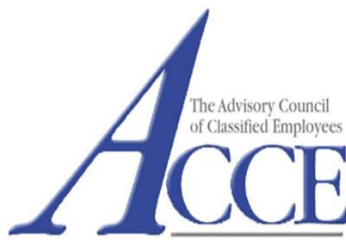
Are there any projects staff council completed on campus that have been a success – can we include it in a presentation of what schools are doing? What are you doing to make people want to be a part of staff council?

Justine mentioned scholarships they've created at Fairmont for staff and initiatives to fund those scholarships (like selling swag). Staff awards are provided at the end of the semester and they have a staff picnic with recognition.

One session could be on an HEPC update on the salary schedule and market study, and HR updates in general, if any.

One session may include a sample of how their institution implemented a work from home/hybrid or alternate work schedule program. WV State's CHRO may be available to discuss their program; Michael will verify.

Would someone from HEPC be available to give the state's perspective on working remotely as a whole?



Possibly Open Meetings laws for the new members – now that we’ve lost our BOG vote, what would happen if non-voting board members were excluded from an executive session?

Perhaps a session on *Care Team* on triaging and addressing mental health concerns. Jane said they do something with mental health *First Aid Connect*. Justine said Fairmont uses *Nabita* for mental health training.

What are other schools doing for interventions or for a Care Team?

Fairmont will ask their social worker to discuss the topic – she’s a certified mental health first aid trainer.

ACCE could get someone to provide special mental health training on a specific day and time apart from the retreat. The student advocacy committee may want to take this on as a project.

Ken and Bob may want to provide their presentations on being an ACCE member – how to foster positive working relationships, etc.

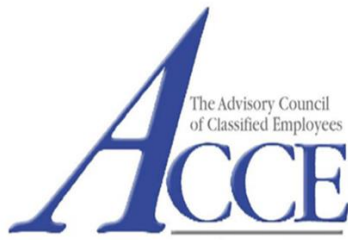
Bob, Amy and Ken could provide a legislative overview and what we need to be aware of. This may be provided at a future meeting instead of at the retreat.

A “Train the Trainer” email could be sent out to allow new members a time to email in what they want to know about; for example, the grievances procedure, how to pay an employee at the time of termination according to state law and required deadlines, etc.

Announcements/Reminders

ACCE would like to thank WVNET for hosting the May meeting, and for providing a tour of the facility.

The next meeting will be held virtually at 9:00 a.m. on June 16, 2025. The June Zoom link was included in the May meeting agenda/Zoom email.



Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Heather and seconded by Justine.

Motion carried Unanimously.

Minutes submitted by:

Jenny Boggs
Acting Secretary