

Peck reported that he had attended an Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) meeting in Charleston on September 24, 2010. He is now the secretary of the ACF. Chancellor Skidmore of the Community and Technical College System and Chancellor Noland of HEPC made presentations at the meeting.

The following items of interest from the meeting were reported to the Senate:

Chancellor Skidmore was asked if the WVCTCS might move in the direction of Florida's system where many two year colleges are being given authority to offer some baccalaureate degrees. Chancellor Skidmore does not want to move in that direction. He said that West Virginia's community and technical colleges have plenty of work to do now in meeting workforce needs and offering other two year degree programs without adding some four year degree programs to their efforts.

Chancellor Noland was asked about the status of one time salary enhancements. He said that we are in "uncharted territory" with respect to one time salary enhancements. He also observed that some schools are in different situations as far as their ability to offer the one time salary enhancements is concerned. He has had to spend reserves from his budget in order to offer them to his staff. For now he treats them as "one time" with salary levels to return to last year's level after this year. He stressed that West Virginia higher education is still in better shape than higher education in most other states where furloughs, program reductions, and terminations have been common. In response to a question, he said the process has gone too far to be retracted by the Governor this year. The college's need to think carefully about how the one time salary enhancements affect some employees' salaries in order to avoid crossing PEIA thresholds; if that happens, some employees could experience a reduction in take home pay. He was asked if individual schools could continue the one time salary enhancements from their own budgets next year. He could not say at this time. That situation should become clearer sometime during the first quarter of 2011.

Kathy Butler is leading efforts to revise Series 11 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND THE DISCONTINUANCE OF EXISTING PROGRAMS and Series 20 AUTHORIZATION OF DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTIONS. In Series 11, she anticipates that stricter requirements will be placed upon proprietary schools seeking to operate in West Virginia and that the policy will contain a financial aid component. In Series 20, she anticipates that 120 credit hours will be the minimum number of hours for new baccalaureate degree programs and 60 credit hours will be the minimum number of credit hours for new associate degree programs; however, she noted that minimums sometimes become maximums as programs evolve.

Most of the faculty senates have endorsed the ACF issues for 2010-2011 and the ACF brochure will soon be printed. Copies should be available for distribution on the campuses in late October.