

Faculty Senate Minutes

Monday, March 1, 2021, 3:10 p.m., online via Zoom

Senate Roster for 2020-2022:

Kurtis Adams (MUSC), Robert Anthony (SCCJ), James Broomall (HIST), Larry Daily (PSYC), Rhonda Donaldson (LIB), Karen Green (SOWK), Jeff Groff (DEPS), Michael Groves (MG₁, NURS), Max Guirguis (MG₂, PSCI), Osman Guzide (CME), Heidi Hanrahan (ENGL/LANG), Desmond Lawless (RSES), Mengyang Li (CHEM), Belinda Mitchell (EDUC), David Modler (ART), George Ray (BADM), Kathleen Reid (ECON), John Steffen (BIOL), Cindy Vance (ACCT), Kevin Williams (COMM), Max Guirguis (ACF).

Officers: Heidi Hanrahan (President), John Steffen (Secretary), Jeff Groff (Parliamentarian)

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Kurtis Adams	MUSC	Present
Robert Anthony	SOCI/GEOG	Present
James Broomall	HIST	Present
Larry Daily	PSYC	Present
Rhonda Donaldson	LIB	Present
Karen Green	SOWK	Present
Jeff Groff	DEPS	Present
Michael Groves	NURS	Present
Max Guirguis	PSCI	Present
Osman Guzide	CME	Present
Heidi Hanrahan	ENGL/LANG	Present
Desmond Lawless	RSES	Present
Mengyang Li	CHEM	Present
Belinda Mitchell	EDUC	Present
David Modler	ART	Present
Tim Nixon	CORE	x
George Ray	BADM	x
Kathleen Reid	ECON	Present
John Steffen	BIOL	Present
Cindy Vance	ACCT	Present
Kevin Williams	COMM	Present

Guests: Robert Warburton, Christine Reich, Scott beard, Pam Stevens

Meeting called to order in the presence of quorum at 3:10p.m.

Meeting Schedule (2020-2021): 9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 12/7, 2/1, 2/15, **3/1**, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19

I. Approval of February 15, 2021 Minutes. Typo on page 1: aims Ask Barb K to put on website.

II. Committee reports

Assembly Committees and Representatives

A. Admissions & Credits (Senator Reid). Late drop proceeding.

B. Curriculum & Instruction (Senator Groves). NR.

C. Core Curriculum (Tim Nixon): from email attachment: The Core Curriculum Committee met last on Wednesday, February 17th. Proposals were presented by Education, Appalachian Studies, and Political Science. For the first time, the Committee was asked to consider whether graduate-level classes could

meet students' Core requirements as part of newly implemented 4 + 1 graduate programs. The Committee agreed with the logic and reasoning behind the proposal, but instead of adding classes at the 500+ level to the Core Curriculum Worksheet, which Committee members feared would be confusing for students, a motion was made and seconded to handle these specific circumstances regarding Education courses as a standing substitution. The motion passed overwhelmingly. The Committee's next meeting will be on March 24th.

D. Advisory Council of Faculty (Senator Guirguis): NR.

Faculty Senate Committees and Representatives

E. Library Liaison (Senator Donaldson): NR.

F. Professional Development, Faculty Salary, and Welfare (Senator Reid): meeting to review stipend apps, mini-grants due next week, evaluated the week after.

G. Scholarship & Awards (Senators Vance and Adams) meeting next week

H. Senate Bylaws (Senators Anthony and Groves). NR.

I. Washington Gateway (Senator Williams) NR.

External Committee Representatives

J. Calendar Committee (Senator Mitchell) NR.

K. Diversity & Equity Committee (Senator Green) NR.

L. Enrollment Management Committee (Senator Broomall) NR.

M. Graduate Council (Senator Williams). Report from 2/25/21: 1st reading for course analytics, First reading, course addition, Data Analytics Information Systems. Math foundations class for 4+1 modeled after MBA. FACS family consumer science runs without an SU undergraduate degree. Transcript analysis for MAT requires that coordinators look at undergraduate coordinators. The council voted to maintain FACS concentration in MAT. BoG approved graduate tuition for FY21

N. Student Success Committee (Senator Hanrahan). NR.

O. Technology Oversight Committee (Senator Guzide). NR.

Other Committees

P. Assessment Task Force (Senator Donaldson): from email attachment: Four professors received mini grants from the Center for Teaching and Learning for assessment initiatives this year. Dr. Christy Wenger and Christian Benefiel each received \$1,000 grants. Wenger will use her grant as stipends for faculty to review and assess the studio writing courses, and Benefiel will use his to conduct portfolio reviews in spring for sophomore and senior level B.F.A. students. Dr. Jason Allen received \$925, which allowed five students to attend the virtual National Council for the Social Studies conference earlier this month. Dr. Craig Cline received \$500 which is allowing the Department of Social Work to host a series of brief continuing education workshops and seminars for students and faculty. Coming up: On March 22 & 23, over the lunch hour, the Center for Teaching and Learning will host the 14th Annual Celebration of Student Learning. Everyone is welcome. This is a great way to see how the assessment process impacts student learning at Shepherd University.

Q. Budget Advisory Council (Senator Adams, Senator Groff, Senator Williams). NR.

R. Internationalization Advisory Council (Senator Lawless). NR.

S. Threat Assessment Task Force (Senator Daily) NR.

III. Old business

A. Evaluations of BOG and Administrators. HH shared her ideas re: criteria. Modified from Deans & Chairs forms. LD: Are we evaluating the Board as a group, or as individual members? HH: Board as a whole. Other questions & suggestions offered. Use as a starting point, please bring this topic to departments.

B. Policy 19 (Update from Working Group). See email. SB: Several meetings about policy & specificity of courses in eval process. Version sent to gen council. RA proposed rewritten comments with old comments. Simplified language to reflect all evals are going to be used for all classes. All classes will be evaluated by students. MG₂: document that this is a mandate that senate was acting on. HH: senate vote to endorse these revisions? Motions approved.

IV. New business

- A. Class size and enrollment-related cancellation procedures (Senator Steffen). Senate members discussed similar concerns in their departments about concentrations, minors, majors, etc. Provost Beard offered guidelines: determining efficiency of a concentration should be a faculty-driven (& academic affairs) process, consider repackaging concentrations, offering courses on a different rotational basis, a more flexible bucket of content areas. Timeline for concentration's elimination? SB: Program Review process goes through program review board. At a minimum, the Academic Affairs policy is to observe a 5 yr. span of low enrolled or no-enrolled minors, concentrations, etc. The Program Review will be the way that info is brought to BOG. Also, IF the concentration were to be cut, the faculty would not be cut, instead faculty would be re-assigned. If, relevant, adjuncts might be cut. Again, the department's first step should be to think about how to offer course rotations to help the concentration, etc.
- B. Propane tank installation (Senator Li): Senator Mengyang Li (ML) presented his report to the Senate "Concerns about the Byrd Science Center Propane Boiler Project" (in appendices). ML: Big tanks of near 7,000 gallons high-pressure-liquefied propane gas (tens of thousands pounds' propane gas) are planned to be right next to the Byrd Science Center and Snyder Hall. The estimated explosion destruction power is similar to or surpassing the Oklahoma City Bomb, given the very large mass of the propane gas (tens of thousands pounds' propane gas) and its closeness to the buildings. Vice President for Finance Pam Stevens (PS) presents her response about the issues (in appendices, addressed to Dean Warburton). PS: President Hendrix has replied that installment is well-planned and all safety was attended to. President Hendrix apologizes that faculty weren't better informed. Previous facilities director responsible for approval. Senate President Heidi Hanrahan (HH) presents letter from chemistry faculty (J. Cole, R. Warburton, K. Hassler and S. Donner) to Senate expressing that ML's concerns on this issue presented to the STEM College and to the Senate were not supported by the chemistry faculty or chemistry department; ML misrepresented chemistry faculty (letter in appendices). ML: I was not aware of this letter from the chemistry faculty until now. Dean Warburton and Chair Cole brought this issue to my attention in the Feb. 9 department meeting. In that meeting and the Feb. 16 department meeting Dean Warburton and Chair Cole also expressed concerns of the big propane tanks right next to Byrd Science Center. Dean Warburton told Dr. Donner multiple times that "They are right under your window". In email before the Feb. 16 meeting and in the Feb. 16 meeting Dean Warburton suggested and encouraged me to write my concerns in itemized form, to present the itemized concerns in the STEM college meeting and in the Senate meeting and on the college website. In the Feb. 16 department meeting Dean Warburton suggested me to bring this issue to the Senate "from Chemistry". Senator Daily (LD): What is the alternative? We carry propane tanks in cars, never had concerns of explosion. How many explosions do you know? ML: I have not search that information yet. A senator suggested ML to search more information. Senator Groff (JG): The tanks would be closest to my office. I have another concern - the pressurized gas. There are 600 propane tank explosions each year. ML presents that STEM college faculty voted about two thirds supporting to request to put this project on hold and to have STEM faculty participating in security reviews. PS: Installation is safe; Thompson gas is the gas provider. 4 tanks near student center, RAMS den. 1,000 gal tanks. Tanks are monitored from Thompson gas constantly from their office. Potomac place has 3, dining hall has 3. Can't bury tanks. Only install because these 1000 gallons tanks meet code: 25 feet from occupied structure. SU will not put people at risk. Senator Groves (MG₁): suggest ML make a motion to do something or cease debate. ML: Senate make a motion to 1) have a faculty representative to participate in security review & have access to security information, 2) move to ask security review to consider terrorism as potential security risk, and 3) motion to ask Question 'has administration considered how science faculty & students feel about the possible threat of this

installation'? Senate holds vote on Zoom. Motion does not achieve majority rule. Motion denied.
[See attached documentation.]

V. Announcements

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

2/22/2021

Dear Madam Senate Chair and Fellow Senators,

We the undersigned members of the chemistry department of Shepherd University wish to inform you of the following events:

On February 9th, 2021, a brief informal discussion of the propane tank occurred prior to the recording of our official department meeting after a brief announcement by Dr. Robert Warburton about the email received from Ms. Pamela Stevens on February 5th; Dr. Mengyang Li, our elected department senator, became deeply concerned about the matter and spoke of his concerns. The department encouraged him to request additional information from persons higher than us to ease his concerns.

On February 9th, 2021, Dr. Li emailed the administrators, college of STEM, faculty senate, and the Board of Governors a list of concerns about the propane tanks. Specifically, he stated “I, like other faculty and staff members working in the Byrd Science Center and the Snyder Hall, have grave concerns about the safety of our work environment”.

On February 13th, 2021, Mr. Alan Perdue, as the university counsel, responded to Dr. Li’s email on behalf of the administration addressing several of Dr. Li’s concerns in the email. This email went directly to Dr. Li but was copied to several individuals, such as the chemistry chair, the dean, and the provost.

On February 16th, 2021, during our recorded chemistry department meeting, Dr. Li stated a long list of concerns about the propane tank during our comments for the good of the order. He stated he will be bringing this matter to both the Senate and the College of STEM meeting. Dr. Warburton encouraged him to write his thoughts down. Dr. Warburton asked if Dr. Li was representing chemistry during the Senate meeting, to which Dr. Li affirmed he was. No other departmental members expressed any concerns during this meeting.

On February 18th, 2021, Dr. Li emailed Dr. Warburton an itemized list of 14 items of concern about the propane tanks for inclusion in the CSTEM meeting on February 22nd, 2021, which he then forwarded to both the CSTEM senators and the chemistry department. He is wishing to pass a resolution from the college of STEM to take action on these items. Dr. Warburton has included Dr. Li’s agenda item for discussion at the February 22nd College Meeting.

On February 21st, 2021, Mr. Perdue forwarded the February 13th email to Dr. Li to the entire CSTEM since there had been no reply from Dr. Li.

On February 22nd, 2021, Dr. Li responded to Mr. Perdue’s letter, including stating “and after hearing the same concerns from other fellow chemists in the Chemistry Department Meeting”.

We the undersigned members of the chemistry department of Shepherd University would like to state for the record that Dr. Mengyang Li does not speak on behalf of us nor our department pertaining to his propane tank concerns and represents only his own personal opinions on the

matter. He has misrepresented our views throughout this process and has implied that discussions from the chemistry department meetings lead to him pursuing this.

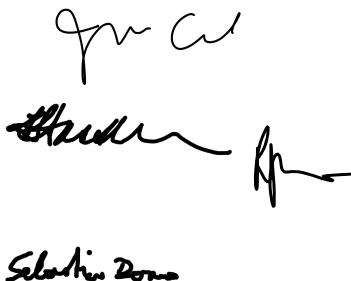
Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Cole, PhD

Robert Warburton, Ph.D.

Kyle D Hassler, PhD

Sebastian Donner, PhD

The block contains four handwritten signatures. The first signature is for Jacquelyn Cole, the second for Robert Warburton, the third for Kyle D Hassler, and the fourth for Sebastian Donner. The signatures are written in black ink and are positioned to the right of their respective names.

To: Bob Warburton regarding the Byrd/Science Project in progress:

Prior to responding to each of these items, as requested, I would like to share a few of our discussion points from T u e s d a y , February 23, 2021:

--There is a grave misconception regarding the "explosive" tendency of liquid propane (lp) gas. I am told and have read that you can shoot a bullet into a propane tank and it will not explode. These tanks will be professionally monitored by equipment and manpower. This will prevent us from ever coming close to the small range of gas mixtures which could theoretically become a foundation for a risk of explosion. Likewise, our safety measures will help preempt tampering or human negligence; potential problems will be discovered and addressed. These tanks will be fenced to prevent visibility into the area and locked to prevent any unauthorized access.

--I trust that most of the readers of this will agree that using the "Oklahoma City Bomber" and references to the threat of "terrorism" is invalid and inappropriate as a comparison to the risk of propane tanks installed, filled and monitored by a reputable, local company. Let's be reasonable about the potential risk.

--In addition to the work of the engineers on this project, BRIM, our liability insurer, regularly inspects all areas of campus for noncompliance. They require timely response and correction to all items. They will also seek evidence that this meets the regulations of the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association).

--There are numerous propane tanks across campus: the Student Center has 4 tanks of which 2 are large and 2 are somewhat smaller and upright, Potomac Place has 3 large tanks, the Dining Hall has 2 large tanks, Ikenberry has 1 large tank, Popodicon has 1 large tank (fenced), there are 3 tanks at the Frank Center, 1 large tank at CCA1, 1 small tank near the electric car chargers that supplies propane to the Byrd/Science labs, 2 tanks at the Facilities building and 1 tank at the Kuckler (Trades) building. I am unaware of any issues with any of these tanks and most are in the open without fencing or being secured by a locked shelter.

--The tanks contain liquid propane. Combustion does not occur within the tank nor at the tank site, and the tanks will not have a gas mixture that can scientifically support combustion. The liquid is vaporized at the tank into propane gas. This gas is distributed through the piping system for use at the terminal devices such as the laboratory classroom Bunsen burners and the water-tube boilers. Combustion occurs at the boiler. All systems were designed and specified to be installed in accordance with local, state, and federal law and regulations.

--See Responses Below--

Responses noted below each item in "purple":

I have been requested to respond to the 14 Items from Dr. Li:

Concerns about the Byrd Science Center Propane Boiler Project

I can think of the following. Your inputs and editing are welcome and appreciated. Hope we can pass a resolution from the college.

1. Based on the observed large size of the concrete pad for the seven big propane tanks and on the heating needs of the large building, the estimated total propane mass is large.

Each tank holds 1,000 gallons. There may be one tank that is smaller, which replaces the existing tank supplying propane to the labs. By comparison, had this been an underground installation, the smallest tank would have been 10,000 gallons.

2. The seven big propane tanks would be put right next to the classrooms, offices, and labs of the Byrd Science Center and the Snyder Hall.

The pad is located at the intended site to meet the regulation that each tank will be at least 25' from an occupied structure.

3. Because of

- the grave explosive energy of the large propane mass, and
- the closeness of the large propane mass to our students, faculty and staff in the classrooms, labs and offices (just a few feet or yards away),

this site would become an obvious, easy and tempting target of domestic tourists [sic], who naturally seek easy targets and the opportunity to maximize the explosion impact by the very large enhancement of explosion energy from the large mass of propane, in addition to the explosive power of the device of the terrorists.

There is no reason to consider a "grave explosive energy of the large propane mass". This statement is simply incorrect. As previously stated, the tanks will be a safe distance from occupied structures, as noted in #2 above and site conditions will be monitored both mechanically and by personnel, consistent with the safety regulations, to

ensure that the tanks' gas mixtures are never permitted to even approximate the outer boundaries of the ranges which could support an explosive capacity.

The statement (#3) is written without regard to scientific fact and research. There are many articles related to propane tanks online.

4. Consider the large propane mass and its closeness to our students, faculty and staff in the classrooms, labs and offices, if it explodes, that could be similar to or surpassing the explosive power of the Oklahoma City Truck Bomb which was farther away from the building than in our situation here.

There is no question in #4. However, how does a proper installation of propane tanks by a licensed, insured, experienced propane company remotely compare to the Oklahoma City Truck Bomb? There is not a sound comparison.

As a contrast, consider this: We commonly unlock the Science Building around 7:15 am and lock it near 10pm on instructional days. Under current conditions, a small group of terrorists could readily perform an endless number of terrorist acts against faculty and students, theoretically. Should we convert the building into a controlled fortress due to that theoretical fear? No, we manage to the threats by evaluating the threat level and working to mitigate and manage the risks, applying a reasonableness standard. Working with LP Gas under conditions in which we adhere fully to established safety standards is the same application of reasonableness in risk management.

Consideration of the location was given with regard to all codes and regulations for safe installation and operation.

5. We would seek from the administration the detailed design information, especially the total propane mass, security reviews and all related federal and state codes and regulations.

This has been requested from the engineering firm managing this project. It will be provided upon receipt.

6. With detailed design information, we can have more accurate calculations of the explosion energy.

Detailed design information will be useful to someone with engineering skills related to this kind of commercial project. As noted, the design

package will be shared with the Dean by separate message. I am advised that construction engineers do not engage in “explosion energy” analysis (whatever that term is intended to mean) in their normal work. We do not have such information. I could only refer you to professional research conducted by such entities as the National Fire Protection Association.

7. Has the project security review considered the danger of attracting terrorists who usually seek to maximize the casualties of lives and to maximize the explosion impact, and a less guarded public building target?

As stated in 3b. above, this response will not address the "danger of attracting terrorists", since there is no basis for this fear or risk.

As a general observation and not with reference to this specific building renovation, the University maintains a close and effective ongoing relationship with Jefferson County Homeland Security and related agencies. As is the case with other agencies, security measures and planning are not publicly disseminated, as the distribution of such information would impede the effectiveness of the security planning.

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8. "This project has been in the planning stages for over one year"; "This project has been designed by professional engineers to provide the most **cost-effective**, safe and efficient result for the benefit of all stakeholders." (VP Pamela Stevens' February 5, 2021 announcement).

There doesn't seem to be a question here. I have no response to this item.

9. The students, faculty and staff (who naturally would have great concerns for this project) **did not have any knowledge of this project** until on February 5, 2021 VP for Finance Pamela Stevens announced that the project has already started with the very large concrete pad for the seven propane tanks were already poured, and project is expected to be completed in the next 6-8 months.

Again, this item does not present a question for me to respond to. This project is listed in the updated "Campus Development Plan - Update 2020". It is also included in the "Capital Projects" report in the President's Report for each Board of Governors meeting, all of which is published on the web site. This project was discussed frequently at

Executive Leadership Team meetings over a lengthy period.

There has certainly been a great deal of discussion and excitement about the potential savings moving to a more cost effective heating system and one with stability, not with aged systems on the verge of failure.

It has not been customary historically to seek approval or review from building occupants, in advance, regarding HVAC system renovations/replacements. Projects are ranked in order of urgency and best use of capital funds, and the projects are usually very technical in nature of little interest to typical occupants. In this instance, the former Director of Facilities did under-appreciate the desirability of broadening the discussion of prospective LPG tank installations last year when the project was being designed. As the University President previously noted, we regret that aspect of this situation and will attempt to avoid a repetition.

This project will be completed during times with little or no impact on students.

- 10. When students, faculty and staff constantly worry about the constantly hanging threat from the gravely large explosive power near their classrooms, labs and offices, and have added worries of becoming a tempting easy target attracting terrorists, it is incomprehensible for the students, faculty and staff to want to study or work at Shepherd University.**

As there is no question in this item and the unfounded rhetoric has been previously addressed, I have nothing further to add.

- 11. For the past several years, Shepherd University has been experiencing large decreasing student enrollment (down about one third), with accelerated decreasing enrollment most recently and currently.**

It is true that Shepherd has experienced an enrollment decline over several years, as has been prevalent across West Virginia and nationally. There is a COVID element to the decline this year, but this has been an ongoing trend for several years. In my own view, irrational rhetoric of fear regarding modern technology applications is counterproductive to our student recruitment efforts.

12. We request the administration to immediately stop this project.

The project activity is in a relatively dormant stage, by design, due to delivery timelines for materials. No immediate activity as to tank installations will occur.

13. The current heating system in the Byrd Science building is an electric-based boiler system. VP for Finance Pamela Stevens' February 5, 2021 statement "Electric-fueled boilers are inefficient" is NOT true. Facts are: Electric-fueled boilers are the safest and the most efficient (near 100%). With growing renewable/cleaner energy industries (wind, solar, nuclear and natural gas) to generate electricity, electric heating is expanding, becoming even cheaper year by year, and is the future.

I misstated "Electric-fueled boilers are inefficient". I should have stated that "electric-fueled boilers are not as *cost-effective* as propane boilers."

14. The concerns for the **real safety** of our students, faculty and the staff, and relieving their natural and legitimate worries of the constantly hanging threats from the **grave explosive power of the large propane mass** next to their classrooms, offices and labs, and relieving their natural and legitimate worries [sic] of **becoming a tempting easy target attracting terrorists**, must outweigh the perceived meager benefit of the planned project: "Replacing these boilers with propane-fueled units will provide savings in an amount equal to or greater than the annual debt repayment."

These statements are, as previously stated, intended to instill an irrational fear that is both unfounded and unnecessary. This rhetoric attempts to compare a highly emotional and factually unfounded statement regarding this project to the value of safety and peace of mind of our students, faculty and staff.

Concerns about the Byrd Science Center Propane Boiler Project

Senator Mengyang Li

March 1, 2021

The following is Senator Mengyang Li's first report to the Faculty Senate on the concerns about the Byrd Science Center Propane Boiler Project, first announced to faculty and the community by Vice President for Finance Pamela Stevens's February 5, 2021 letter (see attached).

1. Total near 7,000 gallons of high pressure liquefied propane in seven big propane tanks would be put right next to the classrooms, offices, and labs of the Byrd Science Center and the Snyder Hall.
2. Because of
 - a. the grave explosive energy of the large propane mass, and
 - b. the closeness of the large propane mass to our students, faculty and staff in the classrooms, labs and offices (just a few feet or yards away),

this site would become an obvious, easy and tempting target of domestic tourists, who naturally seek easy targets and the opportunity to maximize the explosion impact by the very large enhancement of explosion energy from the large mass of propane, in addition to the explosive power of the device of the terrorists.

3. Consider the large propane mass and its closeness to our students, faculty and staff in the classrooms, labs and offices, if it explodes, that could be similar to or surpassing the explosive power of the Oklahoma City Truck Bomb which was farther away from the building than in our situation here.
4. **We would seek from the administration the detailed design information, especially the total propane mass, security reviews and all related federal and state codes and regulations.**
5. With detailed design information, we can have more accurate calculations of the explosion energy.
6. **Has the administration and the project security review considered the danger of attracting terrorists who usually seek to maximize the casualties of lives and to maximize the explosion impact, and a less guarded public building target?**
7. "This project **has been in the planning stages for over one year**"; "This project has been designed by professional engineers to provide the most cost-effective, safe and efficient result for the benefit of all stakeholders." (VP Pamela Stevens' February 5, 2021 announcement).

8. **The students, faculty and staff (who naturally would have great concerns for this project) did not have any knowledge of this project until on February 5, 2021 VP for Finance Pamela Stevens announced that the project has already started with the very large concrete pad for the seven propane tanks were already poured, and project is expected to be completed in the next 6-8 months.**
9. **Has the administration considered that, when students, faculty and staff constantly worry about the constantly hanging threat from the gravely large explosive power near their classrooms, labs and offices, and have added worries of becoming a tempting easy target attracting terrorists, it is incomprehensible for the students, faculty and staff to want to study or work at Shepherd University.**
10. For the past several years, Shepherd University has been experiencing large decreasing student enrollment (down about one third), with accelerated decreasing enrollment most recently and currently.
11. **The College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics voted on 2-22-2021 to request the administration to put this project immediately on hold.**
12. **Many faculty members, especially chemistry faculty members who's field covers explosion reactions, expressed grave concerns in multiple meetings.**
13. VP for Finance Pamela Stevens' February 5, 2021 **statement "Electric-fueled boilers are inefficient" is NOT true.** Facts are: **Electric-fueled boilers are the safest and the most efficient (near 100%).** With growing renewable/cleaner energy industries (wind, solar, nuclear and natural gas) to generate electricity, **electric heating is expanding, becoming even cheaper year by year, and is the future.** Our current heating system in the Byrd Science building is an electric-based boiler system and has been the electric-based system for about 25 years.
14. **The concerns for the real safety of our students, faculty and the staff, and relieving their natural and legitimate warries of the constantly hanging threats from the grave explosive power of the large propane mass next to their classrooms, offices and labs, and relieving their natural and legitimate warries of becoming a tempting easy target attracting terrorists, must outweigh the perceived meager benefit of the planned project: "Replacing these boilers with propane-fueled units will provide savings in an amount equal to or greater than the annual debt repayment" (VP Pamela Stevens' February 5, 2021 announcement).**
15. **President Mary Hendrix on 2-22-2021 wrote to Dean Warburton to convey to the Science Faculty (quotes):**
 - This project was approved March 12, 2019 by the BOG;
 - Shepherd applied for and was granted a \$1.2 million loan for 0% interest from the HEPC to cover the project;

- The project was driven by Jim King, the former Facilities Director (who left Shepherd November 2020);
- There was a remarkable lack of proper communication about this project to the Administration, the Byrd Science Faculty, and others, for which I sincerely apologize;
- At this time, I am asking Shelley Schaffer and Pam Stevens to meet with you – as the Byrd Science Building Manager -- to discuss the timeline for this project and address any questions you and your faculty may have about it.

16. On 2/26/2021 VP for Finance Pamela Stevens wrote to Dean Robert Warburton to convey to the Science Faculty (quotes):

- I am told and have read that you can shoot a bullet into a propane tank and it will not explode. These tanks will be professionally monitored by equipment and manpower. This will prevent us from ever coming close to the small range of gas mixtures which could theoretically become a foundation for a risk of explosion. Likewise, our safety measures will help preempt tampering or human negligence; potential problems will be discovered and addressed. These tanks will be fenced to prevent visibility into the area and locked to prevent any unauthorized access.
- **There is no reason to consider a "grave explosive energy of the large propane mass".** This statement is simply incorrect. As previously stated, the tanks will be a safe distance ["at least 25 feet"] from occupied structures, as noted in #2 above and site conditions will be monitored both mechanically and by personnel, consistent with the safety regulations, to ensure that the tanks' gas mixtures are never permitted to even approximate the outer boundaries of the ranges which could support an explosive capacity.
- I **trust** that most of the readers of this will agree that using the "Oklahoma City Bomber" and references to the threat of "terrorism" is invalid and inappropriate as a comparison to the risk of propane tanks installed, filled and monitored by a reputable, local company. Let's be reasonable about the potential risk.

17. It is the responsibility of the administration to share with the Students, Faculty, Staff and the community (essential stakeholders) about the detailed Security Review and Safety Regulation compliance information, WELL BEFORE pouring the concrete, BEFORE the completion of the engineering design for Security Review. **It is imperative to include the Students, Faculty, Staff and the community in the Security Review process, WELL BEFORE pouring the concrete, BEFORE the completion of the engineering design for Security Review.**

- 18. This Security Review and Safety Regulation compliance process should not only rely on the contractors who have an interest different from the interest of the Students, Faculty, Staff and the community.**
- 19. On 2/26/2021 USA Today reported “the acting U.S. Capitol Police Chief Yogananda Pittman warned that militia groups that took part in the deadly Jan. 6 attack are seeking to ‘blow up the Capitol,’ possibly targeting President Joe Biden’s address.”**
- 20. Has the Project Security Review considered the danger of attracting terrorists, who naturally seek easy targets and the opportunity to maximize the explosion impact by the very large enhancement of explosion energy from the large mass of propane, in addition to the explosive power of the device of the terrorists, to maximize the casualties of lives?**
- 21. Has the administration considered the following: When students, faculty and staff constantly worry about the constantly hanging threat from the gravely large explosive power near their classrooms, labs and offices, and have added worries of becoming a tempting easy target attracting terrorists, it is incomprehensible for the students, faculty and staff to want to study or work at Shepherd University.**
- 22. I request Faculty representatives chosen by the faculty to participate in all the Security Review and have full access to all Safety Regulations information.**

Appendix: VP for Finance Pamela Stevens to Campus Colleagues and Community Members
Friday, February 5, 2021

Dear Campus Colleagues and Community Members,

Shepherd University would like to share with our campus and the Shepherdstown community an overview of our current energy saving project located at the Byrd Science building. This project has been in the planning stages for over one year and the first glimpse of progress is evident where the concrete pad was poured to support the installation of liquid propane gas tanks.

The current heating system in the Byrd Science building is an electric-based boiler system that has remained in service far beyond its useful life. Electric-fueled boilers are inefficient and, therefore, an expensive source of energy. This project is funded by a loan from the

Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) at zero-percent interest. Replacing these boilers with propane-fueled units will provide savings in an amount equal to or greater than the annual debt repayment. Removing the annual maintenance expense on this system should provide an additional savings in excess of \$20,000. Here are a few facts that may help you understand the process that will be occurring during the next 6-8 months:

1. The concrete pad has been poured and will house 7 propane tanks. The location, number and size of these tanks is determined by the propane provider to meet all building and safety codes and to maximize boiler efficiency. We have reduced the number of tanks to the absolute minimum required to heat the building.
2. The entire pad will be properly fenced to obscure the propane tanks and concrete pad. Selection of fencing material, color and accessories will be carefully considered to assure that the finished product aligns with the campus and to complement the Yellow House.
3. Be assured that all work has been and will be completed by fully experienced, licensed contractors and all work will be in full compliance with applicable building and trades codes. This project has been designed by professional engineers to provide the most cost-effective, safe and efficient result for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The Shepherd campus has a number of aging buildings and systems that require costly annual maintenance and repairs. It is imperative that we improve the operational efficiency throughout campus which ultimately improves the safety and financial stability of the University. A vital part of these efforts is to inform and include the employees and community in these improvements to both enhance the campus experience for our students and keep you updated as these projects begin.

With sincere appreciation,

Pam Stevens
VP for Finance/CFO