



## Shepherd University Assembly Agenda

Monday, April 11, 2022

4:10-5:45 p.m. Erma Ora Byrd 117 and Electronic Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82675830893?pwd=ZElzamgzK2krd2FqRnh4TE1BdHE4UT09>

- I. **Call to Order** Call to Order – Moderator, Parliamentarian Lovelace in lieu of Professor Benefiel
- II. **Approval of Minutes of the Fall Assembly Meeting** – See Minutes at <https://www.shepherd.edu/assembly/assembly-minutes>.
- III. **President's Report** – Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix
- IV. **Elections—Parliamentarian Dr. Lovelace**
  - Assembly Moderator
  - Secretary
  - Parliamentarian
- V. **Strategic Plan Update—Drs. Kendig and Broomall**
- VI. **Brief 5-minutes Summary Reports to the Assembly with Questions** – See written reports below.

- A. **Classified Employees Council** – Cecelia Mason
- B. **Advisory Council of Faculty—Dr. Guirguis**

### ACF Report

Below are highlights of the education-related bills that passed and failed in this year's legislative session.

### PASSED

HB 4008 -- It allows the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) to implement a new funding model based on several performance metrics built around student success.

HB 4355 -- It requires higher education institutions to disclose information related to course adoption materials. These disclosures include the required textbooks or digital courseware, whether the textbooks are OER or other freely available learning resources, and whether students are being automatically charged for the textbooks or digital access to the courseware.

SB 518 -- It updates the requirements to practice nursing and allows nurses licensed in others states to practice in West Virginia.

SB 542 -- It aims to provide West Virginians with more reliable internet service. The bill enhances consumer protection by imposing new disclosure requirements and remedies on broadband companies.

SB 533 -- It eliminates the 1-cent soda tax that has been used to fund WVU's health sciences for about seven decades. The medical, nursing, and dental programs, which received \$14 million annually from the soda tax, will instead be funded through the insurance tax revenue. If signed by the governor, the soda tax elimination bill would take effect on July 1, 2024.

### **FAILED**

The following bills did not make it out of committee: Campus Self-Defense Acts (SB 87, HB 3022, HB 2978), Anti-Stereotyping Act (HB 4011), Hunger-Free Campus Act (HB 3225), Soft Drink tax bills (HB 2140, SB 31)

SB 498 -- Known as the "Anti-Racism Act," this bill would have prohibited K-12 schools from teaching racial and sexual superiority or inferiority. Although the Senate voted to pass the bill as amended by the House, it failed over a technicality in that the vote took place four minutes after the midnight deadline on the last day of the legislative session.

SB 653 -- This bill originally proposed merging Pierpont CTC and Fairmont State University. It passed the House with an amendment striking out the full merger but allowing the transfer of Pierpont's Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program to FSU. The Senate ran out of time to vote on it.

## **C. Faculty Senate –Dr. Heidi Hanrahan**

**The Faculty Senate has continued to address all aspects of the Shepherd experience and has had a busy and productive year.**

### **Student Evaluations:**

- After a long process, the Senate is on the verge of approving a new tool for student evaluations.
- This instrument can be used across modalities.
- It adds a new section where students reflect on and evaluate their own role in their success.
- We are grateful to the group that worked on this long and important project.

### **Evaluation of Chairs, Directors, and Deans:**

- At our first meeting of the year, the Senate began a discussion of the evaluation of Chairs, Directors, and Deans.
- In recent years, participation in these processes has declined greatly.
- Dr. Richard Stevens, Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs, met with the Senate and a small working group to begin rethinking the process, purpose, and use of these evaluations.
- At our last meeting, the Senate endorsed not doing these evaluations this academic year and taking up the conversation again in Fall 2022.

### **Sponsorship of Faculty:**

- At an early Fall 2021 meeting, in an effort to understand current policy and help departments looking to hire and retain quality faculty, the Senate endorsed this motion: "The Faculty Senate asks the University to explain its policy related to faculty and staff who require institutional support to remain in the USA."
- The Interim Provost and University Counsel continue to work on a possible model for sponsorship of faculty, though that model has not yet been brought to the Senate.

### **"Principles for Community and Non-Discrimination":**

- The Senate endorsed a "Principles for Community and Non-Discrimination" statement at our last meeting.
- Thank you to the senators who worked on this on and off for the better part of this academic year.

### **Faculty Morale/Responses to the "Great Colleges to Work For" Survey:**

- In October, President Hendrix visited the Senate to discuss faculty morale and the "Great Colleges to Work For" survey.
- In response, she formed two working groups of senators who volunteered: Faculty Experience and Instructional Infrastructure.
- These two groups, along with wider conversations and initiatives on campus, have already led to action and change.
  - Faculty Experience: PEIA Survey, one-time salary boost.

- Instructional Infrastructure: An emphasis on classroom technology, with an infusion of cash and several classrooms already being upgraded and several more scheduled for upgrades. A revitalized Technology Oversight Committee with a potential new mission and purpose.

#### **Adjunct Morale and Visibility:**

- At the suggestion of President Hendrix, the Senate began a discussion of adjunct morale and visibility.
- Senators were tasked with talking with their schools and departments (including adjuncts) about issues and challenges.
- Already, these conversations have borne fruit, including:
  - Clearer campus-wide communication about adjuncts being welcome at workshops, etc.
  - Greater adjunct visibility on school/department websites.
  - An increase in the mileage reimbursement rate for all employees, including adjuncts who travel as part of their teaching responsibilities.

#### **Promotion and Tenure Processes:**

- Dr. Stevens attended the April 4 meeting to discuss an initial round of revisions to the Faculty Handbook sections about promotion and tenure.
- This conversation—including more in-depth topics for possible revision—will continue into the next academic year.

#### **Other Senate guests included:**

- Dr. Jason Best, Assistant Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Strategic Partnerships, to prepare for our HLC visit,
- Dr. Kelly Hart, VP of Enrollment Management, to talk about recruitment,
- Dr. Marie DeWalt and Tammy Gill, to talk about PEIA and the new Employee Assistance Program,
- Christina Reich, Director of Advising and Julia Franks and Hannah Williams-McNamee, Student Success Center, to talk about meaningful midterm grades and other ways to help retain students,
- Christine Meyers, Annual Giving, to talk about Giving Day,
- Elana Gutmann, SGA President, to give an overall sense of issues and topics of concern to students as expressed to the SGA,
- Heidi Schlag, Director of Marketing and Digital Strategies, to talk about Shepherd's proposed new Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Core Values.

**As always,** please consult the Senate Highlights emails and regularly communicate with your senator if you have questions or concerns. In this time of great challenges in higher education, a vibrant, engaged, and active Faculty Senate—fully representing their constituencies—is vital.

Thank you to the 2020-2022 Senate, whose term ends at the April 18 meeting.

### **D. Student Life Council 2021-22 Updates – Rachael Meads**

The fall semester began with a review of campus COVID policies and registered student organization guidelines for the fall (continuation of the COVID safety policies from spring 2021 with relaxations on restrictions on physical distancing). In March 2022 the COVID guidelines changed once again to reflect the updated CDC and University guidelines with masking no longer required indoors. Student handbook and group policy changes reviewed and approved during the year included updated outdoor space usage policies and social media policies for student groups. Currently, SLC is reviewing residence life student handbook policies and changes should be approved by the end of the month. This year the Student Life Council approved the following new student clubs as registered student groups: Delight Campus Ministries, IEEE computer science and engineering group (returning to campus), Campus Community Combatting COVID (CCCC), and the Muslim Student Organization. In Focus Photography Club is on the agenda for review this week

**E. Advisory Council of Classified Employees**

**VII. Adjournment –**