

Classified Employee Council minutes for July 8, 2025

Council Members Present: Barb Kandalis, Yildez Friman, Sharon Carpenter, Florencia Gonzalez, Karen James, Kevin Murphy, Chris Silka, Matthew Stitely, Diane Wilson

Guests: Will Bell (Speaker), Tammy Gill, Lori Moy, Holly Hartman, Holly Frye, Jane Angle, Grey Boyce

Will Bell (AVP for Enrollment Management) was the guest speaker. The enrollment numbers for Fall 25 look good. Freshman numbers are up. Continuing numbers are good. Transfer numbers are down, but Blue Ridge CTC numbers are down, and they are where most of our transfers come from. Dual enrollment numbers continue to be strong. We need additional work on Graduate Student enrollment. He has seen improvement with the implementation of the “8 Week Sprint”. More faculty are working to reach out to our students who haven’t registered. With the decline in high school students over the next 15-20 years, this will be a very important tool.

Barb Kandalis welcomed new members to the council. The CEC Webpage has been updated. Please check this page for information on category representatives, staff development fund, children’s scholarship fund, and past minutes.

Committee Reports

ACCE Yulia Freeman – the governor is calling a special meeting in July about PEIA. Stay alert to new reports on this matter.

Government student loan limits may be set in higher education. This could affect students’ ability to attend college. If a student defaults on the loan, a university may be liable for the debt.

There will be an ACCE meeting on July 21st at 2:00-3:00 pm via ZOOM. Hopefully, we will get more information at that time on these issues. Please Zoom in with questions.

BOG Danielle Stephenson is competing in the WV collegiate pageant, so she sent highlights of the June 19 meeting to Barb to include with today’s minutes (see below).

Scott Barton reported on the Capitol projects underway this summer, including building and landscaping, lab upgrades in classrooms, and Tabler Farm improvements. The president’s report has been sent to all employees.

CEC Children Scholarship Fund Chris Silka has received three applications. The review of the applications will start next week.

Staff Development Lori Moy – We had 6 requests in FY25 for a total of \$1,772.00. The breakdown of requests was – 1 textbook, 1 seminar off campus, and the rest were for SU classes. The CEC website has information on how to get reimbursed. The FY26 budget is being loaded at this time.

Safety Committee Sharon Carpenter – No report

Special Events – no budget

TOC (Technology Oversight Committee), We will need to elect at the next meeting.

Other Business

At the next meeting, we will also need to appoint the Vice Chair and Secretary for the upcoming years. Please step up and help with these 3 important positions. Barb and Tammy Gill are reviewing the CEC constitution. A vote will be needed to update.

Barb is working on the Great Colleges to Work for Committee and the Strategic Reinvestment Committee. The Welcome Back luncheon may be held this year. More details to follow.

Provost DeRochi will be sending out a survey to all employees in Academic Affairs. Please participate in this survey. It was suggested that the survey be split into a form pertaining to just staff.

President Hendrix will be the guest speaker at the September 9th CEC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Carpenter

Highlights from the June 19, 2025 Board of Governors Meeting

- **Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness**

- Currently, offices and departments across the University are working to implement identified tactics or initiatives in alignment with Shepherd's Strategic Plan, "Transforming Our Future." These action items are being included in the University's Higher Learning Commission (HLC) submission, which is set for submission in Spring 2026.

- **Enrollment Management Update**

- According to a report by Will Bell, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, as of June 9, 2025, undergraduate student deposits were up 15%. This is driven by a 23% increase in first-year student deposits. Orientation registrations were also up 23%

- **Capital Projects Annual Report**

- Dr. Scott Barton, Vice President for Finance and Administration, provided a report on capital projects across campus to the Finance and Facilities Committee. These projects include building and landscape improvements, as you can see on the East campus currently. These projects extend to classrooms, labs, and Tabler Farm. These projects not only improve our campus from an operational standpoint, but also provide a positive change in the work and learning environment for students and employees.