

Classified Employee Council minutes for September 9, 2025

Council Members Present: Barb Kandalis, Danielle Stephenson, Yulia Friman, Chris Silka, Nazahne Veach-Ross, Sharon Carpenter, Florencia Gonzalez, Karen James, Dee Wilson, Matthew Stitley, and Cade Miller

Guests: Donna Miller, Donna Shipley, Tammy Gill, Lori Moy, Jane Angle, Grey Boyce, Diana Patterson, Tori Orr, Missy Welch, Ken Harbaugh, Sarah Speck, Cindy Powers, Carmen Bratton, Elizabeth Krinock, Paul Teter, Mary Valentine, and guest speaker President Hendrix

Barb called the meeting to order. Minutes were accepted as written. Barb turned the meeting over to President Hendrix. President Hendrix thanked everyone who came to the fall assembly.

The new Shepherd theme is One Shepherd, One Mission, One Vision, One Voice. Everyone loves it. We are all “one” moving forward.

You will see the slides from yesterday’s fall assembly. They will be put on the website.
Highlights from the Fall Assembly

Good financial news. We are in the black. The Salary Equity Review and Adjustment Committee has been working hard and will propose at the Thursday Board of Governors meeting that every year we take a portion of net assets and work on adjusting salaries to meet the CUPTA median. We hope this will start this academic year.

New business intelligence tools. Banner, People Admin are all talking to each other, so we can secure financial information in a more timely manner. We can see the finances in a financial dashboard at the end of each month instead of having to wait for quarterly reports.

The Dining Hall and Multipurpose Building are on a little bit of a delay in opening. There is a delay in getting steel for the structure. The transition/opening date has been moved to Fall ’26.

Good news with enrollment management. They have brought in the largest freshman class since 2018.

Provost DeRochi has a new initiative, Shepherd Online. We will be moving forward on that in the future.

Kelly Hart, VP of Annual Giving, shared her aspirational goals.

The Agri business building has gone up over the last year at Tabler Farm. We hope Senator Capito will be able to join us for a fall ribbon-cutting ceremony. A plaque will be placed inside the building for all of the faculty/staff that has worked so hard on this project.

The grant portfolio has grown from \$5 million in 2016 to \$36 million to date.

The West Virginia First Foundation is distributing \$1 billion in opioid settlement funds over the next few years. Shepherd has the opportunity to audition for some support with the photobiomodulation center of excellence and what it has done for individuals with opioid use disorder. Plus a Wellness plan for these individuals.

The Great Colleges to Work for Committee is trying to focus on improving the work environment. A welcome luncheon for faculty and staff was held on August 21st. We want to increase our campus communications. Academic Affairs is sending out weekly updates for the entire campus. President Hendrix will give out monthly updates on what the executive leadership team is doing. The focus is on improving instructional spaces (for example, tables in the Jefferson Room of White Hall). We have added family days at athletic events (additional free tickets), free birthday meal in the Rams Den, First Friday lunches to connect with faculty and staff, \$7 lunches each Friday for faculty and staff, Family Movie night at the Opera House (RSVP required through Ram Pulse), and wear Blue and Gold Fridays to show your Ram spirit. Homecoming decorations throughout downtown with punch cards. More information coming soon. Additional suggestions are welcome.

Could the windows be washed outside the buildings? Attention to the front entrances of the buildings. The first impression a person gets when walking into the building.

There will be a rededication of the Stubblefield Institute, the Bonnie and Bill Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications, in October. Their offices have moved to the library.

Committee Reports

ACCE Yulia – the PEIA special meeting wasn't held in August. It has been moved to the end of September. Send concerns to the representatives from our districts. A list will be distributed. Maybe we can invite a representative to our ZOOM meeting and let the campus know, so anyone can tune in.

Board of Governors Danielle – the next meeting will be Thursday at 4:15 in the Storer Ballroom. You can attend in person or by ZOOM. Remember, we don't have a vote anymore, but we can voice our concerns.

Classified Employees Children's Scholarship Fund Chris – Every award that was applied for has been funded and is in the student's accounts.

Staff Development Lori – We had two requests that have been funded.

Safety Representative Sharon – No report. We haven't met this semester.

TOC Naz – No meeting yet.

The technology grant helped replace equipment and upgrade classrooms. They want to standardize equipment on campus. This will help IT have the correct supplies needed for all rooms on campus.

New Business

HLC Accreditation will be coming in March. Jason Best will come to our next meeting to discuss. If you work on the websites, please read through them and make sure they have current, transparent information. Dr Best said that at the last HLC Accreditation, the staff rocked it. We were transparent and asked questions. Shepherd couldn't run without the staff. Bring any questions or concerns to this meeting.

The next meeting will be on October 14, 2025, at 1:00 pm via ZOOM.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Carpenter

Faculty/Staff Family Days:

- Saturday, September 6: Women's Soccer vs. Lock Haven @ 4:30 (no tickets required)
- Saturday, September 20: Men's Soccer vs. Seton Hill @ 1:00 (no tickets required)
- Saturday, October 11: Football vs. West Chester @ 12:00 (faculty and staff will receive up to four tickets; more information to come)
- Friday, November 7: Volleyball vs. Bloomsburg @ 7:00 (faculty and staff will receive up to four tickets; more information to come)

Remember, your Rambler gets you two free tickets to any ticketed regular season game (volleyball, football, men's and women's basketball). Admission is free for other sports. We hope you can attend one or all of these. Bring your family and friends and support our wonderful student athletes!