

Classified Employee Council minutes for December 9, 2025

Council Members Present: Barb Kandalis, Danielle Stephenson, Yulia Friman, Sharon Carpenter, Karen James, Matthew Stitely, Holly Hartman, Florencia Gonzalez

Guests: Tammy Gill, Lori Moy, Donna Shipley, Emily Samide, Donna Miller, Holly Frye, Sarah Speak, Erin Hildreth

Barb called the meeting to order. Minutes were accepted by acclamation.

Committee Reports

ACCE Yulia – at the last meeting, Matt Turner, Executive Vice Counselor of Administration of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, made two points. Regarding the financial support of PEIA comes from the state, so make your concerns to the state lawmakers. The PEIA financial board can only use the money that is given to PEIA to try to help everyone enrolled in PEIA across the different plans. He has met with the governor, and the governor is pro-higher education.

The Financial Board of WV PEIA has approved a slight premium increase and other fee hikes beginning in July 2026. In the fiscal year 2027 proposal, there is 3% increase in Medicare and non-Medicare retirees; State employees, 14% premium increase for Local government employees, 16% increase, and 12% increase for Retirees whose retirement just went into effect early this year. The spousal insurance will increase by another \$100 to bring it to \$550 per month, plus out-of-pocket money will increase. It would be good to send out another respectful letter voicing our concerns over the new proposal to the state lawmakers. She will add additional information as soon as the ACCE approves it.

The next meeting will be on December 12th.

Board of Governors Danielle – she will link the book from the BOG. The link is on the SU webpage, just scroll to the bottom and click Board of Governors.

The next BOG meeting will be on December 18th at 4:15 pm in the Wellness Center Rooms 213 and 215 or by ZOOM.

Classified Employees Children's Scholarship Fund: Chris Silka has left Shepherd University, so we will need to find someone to head the Classified Employee Children's Scholarship Fund. Please think if you would like to nominate yourself or someone to fill this position. We will be taking nominations in January. Several people normally help review the applications. The money we have been giving out was only the interest from the endowment account. In the

future, we may want to look and see if this needs to be increased. Remember, this scholarship can help students with any expenses related to college.

Staff Development Lori – no requests for the month. New requests should start coming in January. Barb did have a discussion with President Hendrix, and the president would like us to extend these funds to non-classified employees. The classified requests would be filled first, but since the non-classified employees don't have a council, and the university did away with waivers, this could help them with class fees. A motion and vote would have to be taken, with the majority saying yes to adopt this new policy. If anyone has questions or concerns, please reach out to Lori or Barb before the January meeting.

Safety Representative Sharon – No report.

TOC Naz is not with us today. The committee is still working on finding its place in the big picture of technology on campus.

Old Business

Great Colleges to Work for and Reinvestment Committees – Please refer to Dr. DeRochi's Weekly Communication Update (12/8/25). At the last BOG meeting, they voted to reinvest the extra money into staff and faculty salaries. In January, you will receive a letter saying whether you are part of the first phase of adjusting your salary with new contracts. You must be a full-time faculty or staff member earning less than \$100,000 and with a hire date on or before December 31, 2022, and could not be on a PIP (Performance Improvement Plan). The CUPA median was also incorporated. Approximately 60% of staff and faculty will receive a salary increase in the first phase.

We are still doing first Friday lunches. May look into some bus trips. Please let Barb know any suggestions you might have. The window washing was a great idea for the campus before Homecoming.

Shredding on campus. It was pricey, but paper continues to accumulate. They are still looking, maybe getting an industrial-type shredder for the campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Carpenter