



Staff Council Agenda

April 17th, 2025, at 1:00pm via ZOOM or B&O Auditorium

- I. **Call to Order: 1:00 PM by Chair Regan Blaha**
- II. **Roll Call:** Regan Blaha, Jenna Derrico, Hilary Wilson, Matt Thorne, Christa Nash, Tillie Ossman, Scott Montgomery, Christopher Corbin
- III. **Review of Minutes:** Hilary Wilson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dennis Thorn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.
- IV. **Guests:**
- V. **Chair Report:**
 - a. Welcoming New Staff:
 - i. Stephanie Goodwin-Student Success Coach DHHR/TANF
 - ii. Lauren Bizzarri-Nursing Administrative Assistant
 - b. Monthly Meeting with Dr. Mosser Report
 - i. The Project Best Executive Conference Center Opens up on April 23rd
- VI. **Old Business:**
 - a. Election Results Election Results:
 - b. This term will begin on July 1, 2025, and run through June 30, 2027.
 - i. **Staff Council Chair:** Regan Blaha
 - ii. **BOG Rep:** Hilary Curto Wilson
 - iii. **ACCE Rep:** Jenna Derrico
 - iv. **Professional Non-Faculty Sector Reps:**
 1. Christa Nash
 2. Missy Thornton
 3. Kaitlyn Workman
 - v. **Administrative Support and Paraprofessional Sector Reps:**
 1. Scott Montgomery
 2. Janette Anderson
 3. Danielle Sarcopski
 - vi. **Officials and Administrators Sector Reps:**
 1. Wendy Doolin
 2. Regan Blaha
 - vii. **Service and Maintenance Sector Reps:**
 1. Dan McClure
 2. Thomas Queen

VII: New Business:

- **House Bill 3279**

- has passed and is awaiting approval from the Governor.
- Faculty, staff, and student representatives on the Boards of Governors at all state higher education institutions are reclassified as nonvoting, advisory members.
- House Bill 3279 reduces consecutive term limits for faculty and staff representatives on the Boards of Governors from eight years to four years.
- Jenna Derrico mentioned that she would like to see a Legislative Committee formed at WVNCC due to concerns about recent and potential future legislation that could reduce staff rights (e.g., access to meetings/materials, civil service protections. Regan Blaha and Hilary Wilson will take this to our next monthly meeting with Dr. Mosser to discuss.
- Regan Blaha will follow up with Faculty Assembly to see how they are amending their constitution or updating their bylaws to adhere to this new bill. Jenna Derrico suggested WVNCC staff council leadership take several actions including:
 - 1) together with faculty and student leaders, review and propose revisions to the Board of Governors bylaws as necessary to ensure staff, faculty, and student members of the Board maintain access to all Board meetings, materials, and communications as lay members; and
 - 2) pursue the creation of a legislative committee including staff, faculty, students, and members of administration to conduct legislative outreach and communication throughout the year and to prepare the college to mobilize quickly on issues of importance during the legislative session.

- **ACCE Report:**

- **House Bill 3279:**

- Removed voting rights from staff, faculty, and student members of the Boards of Governors at West Virginia's public colleges and universities.
 - Halved the number of consecutive terms that staff and faculty representatives can serve.
 - Staff and faculty representatives, though elected every two years, can now serve only half as many consecutive years as lay members appointed by the governor.
 - House **Bills 2773 and 3192** (HEPC-sponsored rules bills):
 - Most provisions were unobjectionable, as they eliminated outdated or duplicative sections of state code.
 - **Controversial provision:** One bill repealed the section of state code that established the Compensation Planning and Review Committee, which was responsible for maintaining and updating the staff compensation and classification system.
 - The ACCE has long advocated utilizing this committee as a resource, as HEPC claims a lack of staff and funds to manage the system effectively.

- Despite no meaningful progress on updating the compensation and classification system since 2017 (except for a temporary salary schedule in April 2024 using outdated data), the HEPC chose to request the repeal of this committee rather than convening it for assistance.
- Several House Bills this session (e.g., HB 2008, 2009, and 2013) aimed to reorganize departments under the executive branch.
 - These bills removed civil service protections, including the right to file grievances, from many employees in these departments.
 - While this legislation does not currently apply to higher education employees, it sets a dangerous precedent.
 - It is likely that similar measures will be used in future legislative sessions to strip civil service protections from other state employees.
- Higher education institutions should prepare to defend their employees from potential future actions that could remove these protections.
- **BOG Report:**
 - Raises of 2.5% were approved
 - Early Access Tuition was raised to \$65.00 per credit hour; WLU is currently at \$75.00 per credit hour. The Early Access team has been working on informing all the high schools of the increase.
 - A prestigious leadership development program, offered through the Aspen Institute, is being made available to us at no cost through our participation in Rural Guided Pathways.
 - Each participant will save the college approximately \$14,000 per person, as the training is typically a high-cost opportunity.
 - The program will initially train key staff and cabinet members, with plans to expand to more employees over time.
 - Next Board meeting will take place on April 24th inside the new Project Best Executive Conference Center.
- **Sector Reports:** Nothing to report
- **Committee Reports:** Nothing to report

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 PM was made by Hilary Wilson and seconded by Jenna Derrico. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.