

Staff Council Meeting

Minutes for January 19, 2023

- I. **Call to Order- 2:03pm**
- II. **Roll Call:**
 - a. **Representatives:** Jenna Derrico, Thomas Queen, Dan McClure, Scott Montgomery, Robert Gibb, Regan Blaha, Hilary Wilson, Dennis Thorn, Stephanie Cunningham
 - b. **Absent:** Tricia Marker, Christopher Corbin
- III. **Vice Chair Report:**
 - a. **Align HR Update:**
 - i. Align HR is nearing the end of the first phase. By Spring, focus groups will be formed and completed. A recommendation will be made to the Board of Governors. A summary will be provided to Staff Council.
 - b. **Rule NC-2006 Employee Leave:**
 - i. No comments were made regarding NC-2006 Employee Leave.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Board of Governors Staff Presentation**
 - i. The BOG Staff Presentation will be February 23rd at 5pm in the President's Board Room. The presentation is due to the President's office by February 10th.
 - ii. A meeting is being held on January 31st at 9am to review the PowerPoint via ZOOM. All staff is invited to participate. If you would like items to be added, please email Tricia Marker, Hilary Curto, or Regan Blaha.
- V. **New Business:**
 - a. **Elections:**
 - i. There are two vacancies for Staff Council. Regan Blaha will send out an email to Professional Non-Faculty and Administrative Support and Paraprofessional groups. Each have one vacancy. The email will ask if an employee would be interested in finishing the term and then run for election for a full term in April. If no one responds, we will wait until elections to fill the position.
- VI. **ACCE Report:**

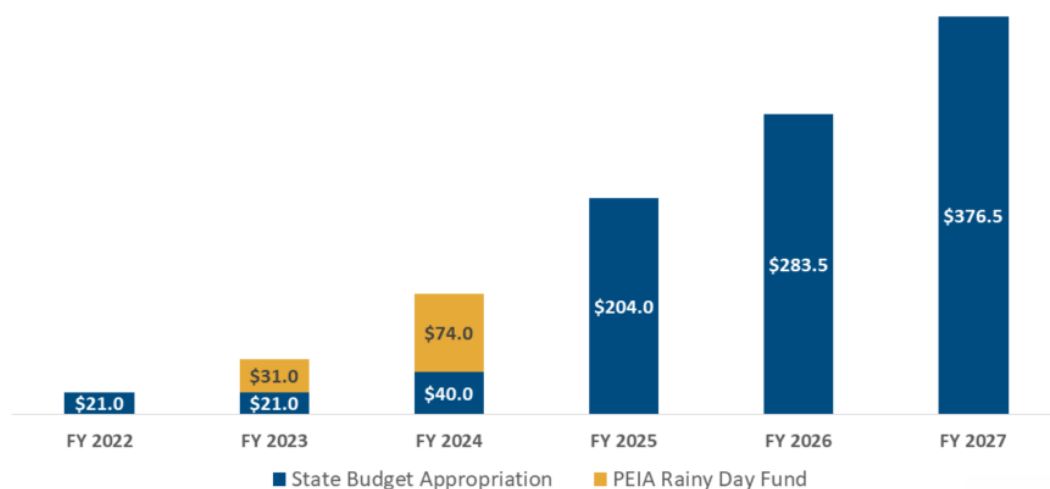
The Advisory Council of Classified Employees meets virtually next week. Discussions recently have centered around the legislative session and PEIA issues. On the first day of the session, the Senate fast-tracked over two dozen bills and passed more than a dozen without following protocol to send bills to committees and then read them three times in the chamber before a vote. This means legislation passed out of at least one house much more rapidly and without public input or committee review, which groups such as the ACLU strongly oppose. Most or all of these bills were holdovers from the prior legislative session so new bills introduced this year will likely not be handled this way.

In the governor's state of the state address, he proposed measures of note for higher education and state employees. These would require the legislature's approval and are subject to change. Some of these measures include:

- A flat budget. This is the 5th flat budget proposed by the governor. By artificially underestimating revenues, revenue collected in excess of projections is misleadingly labeled a surplus, which the governor has used as a justification for proposed tax cuts. These artificially low estimates starve agencies of the budgets they need to address understaffing and avoid serious program cuts. 78% of the "surplus" is also made up of excess severance taxes due to unexpectedly high energy prices, which are prone to volatile booms and busts.
- 5% salary increase for state employees
- \$75 million for higher ed deferred maintenance
- \$100 million to stabilize PEIA Rainy Day Fund. However, the expected shortfalls by 2025 are over \$200 million.

PEIA Needs an Additional \$376.5 Million to Stay Fully Funded

Projected state budget appropriations for PEIA, FY 2023 – FY 2027 (millions)



Source: WVCBP analysis West Virginia Retiree Health Benefit Trust Fund & PEIA Finance Board Meeting
WVPOLICY.ORG



- \$40 million to ease the "strain" on in-state hospitals due to PEIA's low reimbursement rate. A bill greenlit by the Senate increases the reimbursement rate for hospitals who accept government health insurance. The reimbursement rate would go from the 59% to 110% of the Medicare reimbursement rate, starting July 1.
- 50% cut to personal income tax. This proposal passed the House and will be considered by the Senate. The proposed measure would decrease the personal income tax by 30% in year 1 then 10% a year for 2 years.

Another bill with momentum is Senate Bill 10, the Campus Self-Defense Act, which limits the authority of institutional Boards of Governors to regulate firearms on campus. WVU and Marshall have already issued a joint statement opposing SB 10 and any statewide "campus carry" bill. Bills restricting the kinds of lessons that can be taught related to race and other "divisive" topics have also been introduced again this year.

- a. Faculty will be writing a letter to legislation regarding Senate Bill 10- Campus Carry and their feelings toward it. **There was a motion filed by Jenna Derrico to join faculty in opposing the Campus Carry Bill. Seconded By Hilary Wilson.**

Motion carried.

VII. **BOG Report:** No Report

VIII. **Sector Reports:** No Report

IX. **Motioned to adjourn:** 2:33pm motioned by Regan Blaha; seconded by Jenna Derrico