**West Virginia State University Friday, December 7, 2012**

**Academic Affairs R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.**

**Faculty Senate Report Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs**

The **Council of Program Coordinators** met in November and discussed 3 major topics: the academic decision-making process, HEPC Series 22, and Appeal of Final Grades revised procedure. The topics covered in HEPC Series 22 are calculation of grade point average, D/F repeat rule, and discretionary academic forgiveness policy. The revised Appeal of Final Grades procedure reduces the number of people involved, shortens the timeframe, and clarifies the process.

The **Academic Affairs Council** did not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving Break.

**Commencement will be Saturday, December 15, in Ferrell Hall Auditorium.**  Graduates from the College of Professional Studies will graduate in their exercise at 10:00 a.m.; graduates from the Colleges of Arts & Humanities, Business & Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences & Mathematics will graduate in their exercise at 2:00 p.m. Colleges are hosting receptions for their graduates and their guests at various times -- one on Friday and the others on Saturday.

**Proposed change in commencement participation practice** to permit a senior to march during exercises if certified for eligibility by the Office of Registration and Records to be within six hours of satisfying the graduation requirements for their degree program. The passing of attempted hours will not be a requirement for marching, with only the official diploma awarded during exercises to candidates who have successfully completed all prescribed faculty requirements. The previous practice of only certified candidates permitted to march has hurt this University in many ways, particular in student recruitment and fundraising.

**HEPC Academic Affairs Advisory Committee** met November 29 with one of the agenda topics being discussion of HEPC Series 11, Sections 4.6 and 4.7. These sections relate to the requirement that notices of intent to offer existing associate, bachelors or master’s degree programs at new locations must be submitted to the Chancellor for approval. Another topic was the newly released study on outcome-based funding formula for allocation of state appropriations to public institutions.

The CTC academic liaison team visited **Mountwest Community & Technical College** to discuss opportunities for articulation and 2+2 agreements between them and this University. This is the last of the initial visits to CTCs in our geographic region for this purpose. Our fact-finding efforts will now provide active negotiation among and between all CTC Academic Liaison Teams to improve the college-going rate in West Virginia.

**Thank you** for your hard work this semester. Have a refreshing semester break and return in January ready to continue serving our students and advancing our University.