

TITLE 135
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION
SERIES 55
HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

§135-55-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This joint rule establishes policy in a number of areas regarding human resources administration for the employees of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Council) and the public higher education institutions in West Virginia under the jurisdiction of the Council. It also provides guidelines for governing boards relative to decisions pertaining to public higher education employees.

The primary responsibility for implementation rests with the Council, in consultation with the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission), who shall provide leadership and assistance to the human resources professionals, presidents and boards of governors of each organization to bring about the changes successfully and to support the human resources function of each organization.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §18B-1B-6, §18B-4-2a, §18B-7, §18B-8, §18B-9A and §18B-9B.

1.3. Filing Date. -- March 20, 2023.

1.4. Effective Date. -- April 20, 2023.

1.5. Sunset Date. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect on April 20, 2028.

§135-55-2. Purpose.

2.1. The intent of this rule is to establish human resources policies applicable to public higher education capable of, but not limited to, meeting or assisting the governing boards in the following objectives.

2.1.1. Implementing contemporary programs and practices to reward and incentivize performance and enhance employee engagement;

2.1.2. Providing benefits to the citizens of the State of West Virginia by supporting the public policy agenda as articulated by state policymakers;

2.1.3. Addressing fiscal responsibility by making the best use of scarce resources and promoting fairness, accountability, credibility and transparency (FACT) in personnel decision-making;

2.1.4. Providing for job requirements and performance standards for classified staff positions, with annual job performance evaluations for classified staff and provisions for job performance counseling when appropriate;

2.1.5. Building upon human resources best practices to prevent, reduce, or, wherever possible, eliminate arbitrary and capricious decisions affecting employees of higher education organizations;

2.1.6. Creating stable, self-regulating human resources policies capable of evolving to meet changing needs;

2.1.7. Providing for institutional flexibility with meaningful accountability;

2.1.8. Adhering to federal and state laws, promulgated and adopted rules;

2.1.9. Enhancing the sharing of human resources best practices throughout the state higher education system;

2.1.10. Encouraging organizations to pursue a human resources strategy which provides monetary and non-monetary returns to employees in exchange for their time, talents, and efforts to meet articulated goals, objectives and priorities of the State, the Council and the organization;

2.1.11. Maximizing the recruitment, motivation and retention of highly qualified employees, promoting satisfaction and engagement of employees with their jobs, promoting job performance and achieving desired results;

2.1.12. Requiring each higher education organization under the jurisdiction of the Council to achieve full funding of the salary schedule minimum salary levels for classified employees, providing funding is available;

2.1.13. Implementing contemporary programs and practices to reward and incentivize performance and enhance employee engagement;

2.1.14. Developing and implementing a classification and compensation system that is fair, transparent, understandable, easy to administer, self-regulating, and adaptable to meet future goals and priorities; and

2.1.15. Providing current, reliable data to governing boards, the Council, the Commission, the Governor and the Legislature to inform the decision-making process of these policymakers.

§135-55-3. Definitions.

3.1. The definitions related to higher education human resources administration are outlined in the attached document, Appendix A.

§135-55-4. Types of Employment and Benefit Eligibility.

4.1. Casual Employee. A casual employee position is a position created to meet business needs for no more than 450 hours in a twelve-month period. Individuals in a casual employee position are not eligible for benefits.

4.2. Full-Time Regular Employee. Any employee in a position created to last a minimum of nine months of a twelve-month period and in which such employee is expected to work no less than 1,040 hours during said period. The full-time equivalent (FTE) of such a position must be reported at no less than .53 FTE. Such an employee is eligible for all applicable benefits of a full-time regular employee, subject to the qualifying conditions of each benefit. Such benefits shall be prorated in relation to a 1.00 FTE.

4.3. Part-Time Regular Employee. An employee in a position created to last less than 1,040 hours during a twelve-month period. Part-time regular positions typically continue from one fiscal year to another. An employee in a part-time regular position is not eligible for benefits.

4.4. Temporary Employee. An employee hired into a position expected to last fewer than nine months of a twelve-month period. Temporary employees may be part-time temporary or full-time temporary. A temporary employee is not eligible for benefits.

4.5. Although part-time, casual, temporary and student employees are not eligible for higher education benefit programs, institutions are cautioned to monitor average hours worked per week to identify situations where eligibility for health insurance is triggered and compliance with the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) is required. No number of ACA eligible periods of part-time, temporary, casual or student employment shall create any presumption of a right to appointment as a full-time or part time regular employee.

4.6. Any employee may elect to enroll and contribute wages to a 403(b) tax deferred retirement savings account. Enrollment is voluntary and 403(b) deferrals are not matched by the employer. Election to defer wages to a retirement savings account shall not create any presumption of a right to appointment as a full-time or part-time regular employee.

§135-55-5. Employee Categories.

5.1. Higher education employees are segmented into one of the following categories or classes. Employees in each category may be full-time or part-time or regular or temporary.

5.1.1. Classified Employee. Any regular full-time or regular part-time employee of an organization who does not meet the duties test for exempt status under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and is not otherwise a nonclassified employee.

5.1.2. Faculty Employee. Faculty employees are appointed at the discretion of the institutional president or designee to support the academic mission of the institution, via teaching, research, public service, and or academic administration. A full time faculty member is an employee appointed to render full time academic service for a full academic year under a nine-month minimum appointment for at least six (6) semester credit hours teaching per semester or the equivalent in teaching, research, public service, and/or administrative responsibilities.

5.1.3. Nonclassified Employee. Nonclassified employees, unless otherwise established by action of the organization or institution where employed, serves at the will and pleasure of the organization, which authority may be delegated by act of the governing board or the Council. To be designated as nonclassified, the employee must meet one or more of the following criteria:

5.1.3.a. Employee holds a direct policy-making position at the department or organization level;

5.1.3.b. Employee reports directly to the president or chief executive officer of the organization;

5.1.3.c. Employee is in a position considered by the chancellor, president or designee to be critical to the organization pursuant to policies or decisions adopted by a governing board;

5.1.3.d. Employee in an information technology-related position which may be defined by policies or decisions adopted by a governing board;

5.1.3.e. Employee hired after July 1, 2017 in a position that meets the duties test for exempt status under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act when hired or anytime thereafter; or

5.1.3.f. An employee in a nonclassified position as of January 1, 2017 who may not meet criteria listed in subsections 5.1.c.1. through 5.1.c.5. of this rule.

5.1.4. Student Employee. An employee enrolled at the institution as a student and whose primary purpose for being at the institution is to obtain an education. The employee category of “student employee”

is for students who work at the institution in jobs or positions that are solely available to students enrolled at the institution, as opposed to the general public. When the student worker is no longer enrolled he/she is no longer eligible to work in the student worker position. A student employee is not eligible for benefits.

§135-55-6. Part-Time and Temporary Employees.

6.1. Institutions are discouraged from hiring part-time employees solely to avoid the payment of benefits or in lieu of full-time employees and shall provide all classified employees with less than twelve month appointments with the opportunity to accept part-time or full-time summer employment before new persons are hired for the part-time or full-time employment, provided the classified employee meets the established position qualifications.

6.2. Change in status. The president or his/her designee will review and make a final determination as to the status or change in status of any employee. Determination of status or change in status means assignment to, or change in the type of employment or the category to which an employee is assigned.

6.3. When the president or his/her designee determines that a part-time regular employee becomes a full-time regular employee, he/she shall credit that employee's previous service toward any calculation of length of service for purposes of this rule and benefit eligibility based upon a prorated comparison against a 1.00 FTE. Previous length of service as temporary, casual, and student employees shall not be credited toward seniority calculations under other sections of this rule or statute.

§135-55-7. Workweek.

7.1. The standard workweek is thirty-seven and one-half hours. The workweek is a regularly recurring period of one hundred sixty-eight (168) hours in the form of seven (7) consecutive twenty-four (24) hour periods. It begins at 12:00 a.m. on Saturday and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Friday.

§135-55-8. Work Schedules.

8.1. Each institution shall establish a policy, with the advice and assistance of staff council and other groups representing classified employees, which shall: address any institution-specific procedures concerning the use of flexible work schedules, job sharing, and four-day work weeks; discourage temporary, non-emergency changes in an employee's work schedule; and provide a mechanism for changes in, and notification of, changes in work schedules. This policy shall also provide that, where possible, the institution shall provide the employee with reasonable notice of such changes.

§135-55-9. Pay Calculations.

9.1. Base salary is calculated on a thirty-seven and one-half (37 1/2) hour workweek.

9.2. When base salary increases are calculated and rounding is involved, the policy is to round up to the nearest even dollar amount.

9.3. Overtime pay for non-exempt employees is calculated at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) times the regular hourly rate, which is the total base salary, plus any incremental pay, divided by 1,950 hours. Overtime does not commence until forty (40) hours have actually been worked within one (1) workweek. Regular hourly pay, also known as "straight time," is paid for work time between thirty-seven and one-half (37 1/2) hours and forty (40) hours in a work week.

9.4. Only actual hours worked are included in calculating overtime. Pay which is received for holidays, annual leave, sick leave, or work release time, as authorized by Series 38, is not counted as working hours for purposes of overtime.

9.5. Annual leave, sick leave and longevity do not accumulate in any part of a month for which an employee is off the payroll on leave without pay or during a terminal leave period. A terminal leave period is that time between the employee's last day of work and his/her last day on the payroll. Longevity continues to accrue for employees absent from work and off the payroll when the absence is due to a work related illness or injury covered by workers compensation, or is due to military service in accordance with applicable federal law.

§135-55-10. Holiday Premium Time Off.

10.1. When a full-time or part-time classified non-exempt employee is required to work on any designated board or institution holiday, that employee at his/her option shall receive regular pay for that holiday plus substitute time off or additional pay at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) times the number of hours actually worked. The time off must be used within a six-month period following the holiday.

10.2. When an exempt employee is required to work on any designated board or institution holiday, that employee shall be given substitute time off on an hour-for-hour worked basis.

§135-55-11. Compensatory and Overtime Provisions.

11.1. Compensatory time off shall be allowed only to the extent authorized by federal and state law.

11.2. Each institution may offer non-exempt employees compensatory time off in lieu of overtime pay. All hours worked beyond thirty-seven and one-half (37½) hours and up to and including 40 hours are calculated at the employee's regular hourly rate. Pay for time worked beyond 40 hours in a work week are to be calculated at a rate of one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate.

11.3. A written agreement between the employee and the institution shall exist when the employee chooses compensatory time off in lieu of overtime pay. The written agreement may be modified at the request of either the employee or employer at any time but under no circumstances shall a change in the agreement deny the employee compensatory time heretofore acquired.

11.4. Each institution shall develop an agreement form for compensatory time accumulation in lieu of overtime payment and shall specify the required approval process which must be completed before a non-exempt employee may work beyond thirty-seven and one-half (37½) hours.

11.5. Employees may accumulate up to two hundred forty (240) hours of compensatory time and shall be paid for all hours worked above the maximum accrual.

11.6. Employees in public safety, seasonal work, and/or emergency response categories may accumulate up to four hundred eighty (480) hours and shall be paid for all hours worked above the maximum accrual.

11.7. Compensatory time must be used within one year of accrual. Approval of an employee's request to use accrued compensatory time shall be contingent upon whether it will unduly disrupt the operation of the institutional unit.

11.8. Should an individual's employment be terminated, any unused compensatory time shall be reimbursed as follows:

11.8.1. The average regular rate received by such employee during the first three years of the employee's employment; or,

11.8.2. The final regular rate received by such employee, whichever is higher.

11.9. An employee may not work overtime unless approved in advance per institutional policy.

§135-55-12. Posting of Vacant or New Positions.

12.1. Each institution shall develop a policy for posting of vacant or new positions.

135-55-13. Probationary Period.

13.1. Full-time regular classified employees shall serve a six-month probationary period beginning at the original date of employment.

13.2. At the end the six-month probationary period, the employee shall receive a written evaluation of her/his performance and shall be informed as to whether her/his employment will continue beyond the probationary period. As with all positions, continued employment is based on adequate funding, satisfactory performance and adherence to institution rules and regulations.

§135-55-14. Access to Personnel File.

14.1. An employee may have access to his/her personnel file when the employing institution is normally open for business. An employee may examine his/her own file and the contents therein with the following exception:

14.1.1. Materials which were gathered with the employee's prior agreement to forfeit his/her right of access, such as some references.

14.2. A representative of the custodian of records shall be present with the employee during the review. The date, time and location of each review shall be recorded in the personnel file.

14.3. A copy of any material in the personnel file, except as noted above, shall be provided to an employee upon request. A small copy fee may be charged. Positive identification of the employee must be established prior to providing access to the personnel file. Documents may not be removed from a personnel file by the employee. An employee may petition at any time for either the removal or addition of documents to his/her own personnel file. The employer may require that employees schedule an appointment to see the personnel file.

§135-55-15. Changes in Name, Address, Number of Dependents and Related Matters.

15.1. It is the exclusive responsibility of each employee to notify all appropriate persons, agencies and parties when record changes occur, including emergency information.

§135-55-16. Employee Performance Evaluations and Merit Increases.

16.1. Organizations shall conduct regular performance evaluations of nonclassified, classified and faculty employees. Each employee shall receive an evaluation of his or her job related performance on an annual basis. The organization shall maintain evidence of employee participation in the evaluation process.

16.2. Each organization shall develop a consistent, objective performance evaluation system and evaluation instrument(s).

16.3. Organizations shall train supervisors in the best practices of conducting employee performance evaluations.

16.4. Supervisors who fail to conduct evaluations of those employees who report to them, according to their organization's policies, may be subject to disciplinary action.

16.5. Higher education organizations may grant merit increases or implement pay for performance programs which are in accordance with state law and the West Virginia Higher Education Compensation Management Program Salary Administration Guidelines.

16.6. Institutions choosing to reward and compensate employees on the basis of merit shall have in place an objective performance management/evaluation system and evaluation instrument that is consistently administered by trained supervisors.

§135-55-17. Continuing Education and Professional Development.

17.1. The Vice Chancellor for Human Resources shall, as requested by organizations, assist with:

17.1.1. Analyzing and determining training needs of organization employees and formulating and developing plans, procedures and programs to meet specific training needs and problems.

17.1.2. Developing, constructing, maintaining and revising training manuals and training aids or supervising development of these materials by outside suppliers.

17.1.3. Planning, conducting, and coordinating management inventories, appraisals, placement, counseling and training.

17.1.4. Coordinating participation by all employees in training programs developed internally or provided by outside contractors.

17.1.5. Administering and analyzing an annual training and development needs survey. The survey may coincide with the completion of the annual performance review process.

17.2. The Council shall assist organization human resources professionals in applying fair, accountable, credible, transparent, and systematic principles to all human resources functions and shall provide model training programs to organizations upon request for assistance.

17.3. Funds allocated or made available for employee continuing education and development may be used to compensate and pay expenses for employees pursuing additional academic study or training to better equip themselves for their duties.

17.4. Each higher education organization shall establish and operate an employee continuing education and development program under a rule promulgated by the governing board. Funds allocated or made available for employee continuing education and development may be used to compensate and pay expenses for any employees pursuing additional academic study or training to equip themselves better for their duties.

17.5. The organizational rules shall encourage continuing education and staff development and shall require that employees be selected on a nonpartisan basis using fair and meaningful criteria which afford all employees opportunities to enhance their skills and productivity in the workforce of the organization.

17.6. The organizational rules may include reasonable provisions for the continuation or return of any employee receiving the benefits of the education or training, or for reimbursement by the state for expenditures incurred on behalf of the employee.

17.7. Subject to legislative appropriation therefor, the Council shall promote and facilitate additional, regular, training and professional development for employees engaged in human resources-related activities at all organizations or any appointees to committees based on this rule. The training and professional development:

17.7.1. Shall be developed with emphasis on distance learning, in consideration to limiting travel demands on employees; and

17.7.2. Shall be in addition to and may not supplant the training and professional development regularly provided to any class of employees by each organization.

§135-55-18. Classification and Compensation System Established.

18.1. The Council, in consultation with the Commission, does hereby establish and implement the West Virginia Higher Education Compensation Management Program. The program is designed to provide institutional flexibility to manage classification and compensation for all staff jobs in West Virginia higher education. However, the program is the legislatively required system of classification and compensation for classified employees. The program represents current best practices in classification and compensation management for West Virginia higher education employees regardless of the category to which assigned. Market based classification and compensation management is recognized as the appropriate methodology for classifying higher education jobs.

18.2. The Compensation Management Program and supporting component documents to guide in the implementation and administration of the Program were approved by the Council and Commission for implementation effective September 1, 2017. The program documents shall be considered by all institutions under the jurisdiction of the Council and Commission as a model salary administration policy and guidelines. The approved compensation management program includes:

18.2.1. The “West Virginia Higher Education Compensation Philosophy” which outlines the goals, objectives, and strategies of the compensation management system;

18.2.2. The “West Virginia Higher Education Job Classification Guidelines” which assist human resources officers with determining the appropriate classification for jobs;

18.2.3. The “West Virginia Higher Education Employee Salary Schedule” consists of pay grades with pay range spreads and indicates the minimum, midpoint and maximum salary levels for each pay grade; and

18.2.4. The “West Virginia Higher Education Salary Administration Guidelines” which assist human resources officers and institutional administrators in making appropriate pay decisions in a variety of employment situations.

18.3. The West Virginia Higher Education Compensation Management Program is designed to attract, retain, and motivate a highly talented and committed workforce to support the unique missions and goals of public higher education institutions. Competitive pay is a key element in attracting, retaining, motivating and rewarding the type of employees needed to fulfill the missions of West Virginia’s colleges and universities. The goal of Council, Commission and affiliated colleges and universities is to pay competitive salaries by using systems clearly communicated to employees and readily administered by managers.

18.4. In order to fulfill institutional visions, missions and goals, West Virginia higher education institutions must attract and retain highly talented staff. To meet institutional staffing needs and priorities, the compensation system established in support of this goal includes the following objectives:

18.4.1. To provide the flexibility to manage base pay through a simple clear program that is consistent with the Council, Commission, and institutions' individual strategic and organizational objectives and in accordance with organizational missions, visions, values and financial resources;

18.4.2. To establish and maintain a competitive pay structure based on comparisons to appropriate external labor markets while also considering relative internal worth;

18.4.3. Clearly articulate, through a relevant performance management program adopted by each institution, the relationship between institutional strategy and employee performance, recognition, and rewards;

18.4.4. To ensure that the compensation program and pay are administered strategically, consistently, effectively, efficiently, fairly and equitably both within the institution and statewide in compliance with the "FACT" of Higher Education Human Resources established by the West Virginia Legislature;

18.4.5. To provide a framework for career progression and recognition of high performance;

18.4.6. To reward employees on the basis of work performance;

18.4.7. To establish a compensation policy that is fair, accountable, consistent, transparent and designed to ensure sound stewardship of available compensation funding;

18.4.8. To ensure accountability for compliance with relevant federal and state statutes; and

18.4.9. To establish the principles and processes for regular review of market position and effectiveness of policies.

18.5. Colleges and universities have flexibility to manage compensation within the parameters of the compensation program and salary schedule.

18.6. Colleges and universities may initially manage compensation using across the board, market position goals, or any other method that serves to ensure fair, competitive compensation for employees. Over time, all institutions are encouraged to transition compensation management to a rewards model that compensates employees in line with their skill, effort and outcome contributions.

18.7. The Council shall ensure that regular market salary analyses are performed to determine how organization compensation for all classes of employees compares to compensation in relevant external markets.

18.8. The Council, in consultation with the Job Classification Committee (JCC), shall have in place a master classification specification for every classified job title.

18.9. The Council, in consultation with the JCC, shall develop a Position Description Form/Job Description Form (PDF/JDF) to be used by all organizations to gather data necessary for classification of positions.

18.10. Each organization must ensure that a job description shall exist for every classified job. The job description should be reviewed at least every three years for accuracy by the employee and supervisor. Submission of an updated job description does not constitute a request for a classification review. A formal request must be made pursuant to section twenty of this rule.

18.11. Neither the employee nor the supervisor shall place duties in the employee's PDF that the employee is not performing, but may be expected to perform in the future.

18.12. Salary adjustments shall be made in accordance with the Salary Administration Guidelines approved by the Council.

18.13. During the course of its reviews, should the JCC discover the systematic misapplication of the program by an organization, it shall notify the Chancellors, who will take the appropriate action warranted.

18.14. Absent fraud on the behalf of the employee, any overpayment to the employee because of an erroneous classification decision by an organization shall not be collected from the employee. However, any erroneous overpayment to such an employee, once corrected, shall not be deemed as evidence in claims by other employees that the classification and compensation program is not equitable or uniform.

18.15. Recommendations from the Compensation Planning and Review Committee (CPRC) will be considered in agenda items presented to the Council and the Commission and in the legislative reporting process.

18.16. Pursuant to State law, the Council may not delegate to the JCC or the CPRC the following:

18.16.1. Approval of a classification and compensation rule;

18.16.2. Approval of the job classification plan;

18.16.3. Approval of the market salary schedule; and

18.16.4. Approval of the salary schedule minimums.

§135-55-19. Job Classification Committee.

19.1. The Council hereby establishes a Job Classification Committee (JCC). The Vice Chancellor for Human Resources shall serve as the Chair of the Job Classification Committee.

19.2. The JCC shall be comprised of four classified employees and six Human Resources professionals, ensuring representation from the Council institutions and the Commission institutions.

19.3. The Chancellor of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, or designee shall solicit nominations for JCC members from the Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE) and the Chief Human Resources Officers (CHROs).

19.4. JCC members shall be appointed by the Chancellor of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, with concurrence of the Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, subject to approval by the Council and Commission.

19.5. An organization may have no more than two members serving on the Committee at any time and the combined membership representing various groups or divisions within or affiliated with an organization in total may not constitute a majority of the membership.

19.6. Committee members shall serve staggered terms. One third of the initial appointments shall be for two years, one third for three years and one third for four years. Thereafter, the term is four years. A member may not serve more than four years consecutively.

19.7. The Council shall use an appropriate methodology to classify jobs. The Council, in consultation with the Commission, may adjust the job evaluation plan, including the factors used to classify jobs and their relative values, if necessary.

19.8. Powers and duties of the Job Classification Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

19.8.1. Providing a system of audit for all master classification specifications to make sure the core responsibilities of positions assigned the titles are accurately reflected;

19.8.2. Recommending a procedure for performing job family reviews;

19.8.3. Modifying and deleting job titles and creating new job titles;

19.8.4. Reviewing and revising job titles to make them consistent among organizations, including adopting consistent title abbreviations;

19.8.5. Determining appropriate career ladders or job levels in each job family and establishing criteria for career progression;

19.8.6. Conducting job family reviews to ensure master classification specifications appropriately reflects duties, responsibilities, minimum requirements and contains appropriate distinguishing characteristics that clearly delineate differences in job titles and support assigned pay grades.

19.8.7. Classifying jobs and placing jobs in pay grades consistent with the classification and compensation program;

19.8.8. Determining when new master classification specifications with assigned pay grades are needed, and;

19.8.9. Hearing job classification appeals prior to commencement of the formal grievance process.

19.8.10. The JCC shall meet monthly if there is business to conduct and also may meet more frequently at the call of the chair, given adequate lead time. A majority of the voting members serving on the Committee at a given time constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

§135-55-20. Classification Review Request of Existing Position.

20.1. An incumbent employee or the employee's supervisor may request a classification review when significant changes occur in the principal duties and responsibilities of a position.

20.2. Classification review requests are not to be submitted based on a desire for a salary increase, to reward for job performance, seniority, equity, future tasks, additional duties of the same nature and level of the job held or because an employee's pay is at or near the pay range maximum.

20.3. To initiate the classification review request, the employee and supervisor must complete the position description form (PDF) and a formal request for classification review form. Both must be submitted to the institutional Human Resources Office. The request for review form must include the date and detailed reasons for such request.

20.4. The responsibility for assigning tasks and duties to a position belongs to the supervisor.

20.5. Requests for position reviews also may be initiated by an employee with Human Resources after discussion with the immediate supervisor.

20.6. Classification reviews also may be initiated by the institution's Chief Human Resources Officer or his/her designee after discussion with the immediate supervisor.

20.7. Within forty-five (45) working days from the date of the formal request for review of a job, the institution's Chief Human Resources Officer or his/her designee shall report to the requestor in writing the result of the classification review.

20.8. An organization that fails to complete a review within the specified time shall provide the employee back pay from the date the request for review was received if the review, when completed, produces a reclassification of the position into a job in a higher pay grade.

§135-55-21. Classification Appeals Process.

21.1. In the event that a classified employee disagrees with a classification decision made at the organizational level, he/she may appeal that decision in writing to the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources for review by the JCC. Filing a classification appeal, however, shall not abridge the rights of a classified employee to file a formal grievance, using the statutory grievance process as set forth in West Virginia Code §6C-2-1 *et seq.*; provided, however, upon the simultaneous filing of a statutory grievance and a classification appeal to the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources by a classified employee, a request may be made, in writing, by the classified employee to hold the grievance in abeyance until the review by the JCC is completed and a classification decision is rendered by the JCC.

21.2. The Classification Appeal Process and timelines are outlined in the West Virginia Higher Education Compensation Management Program "Job Classification Guidelines" approved by the Council.

21.3. Time limits.

21.3.1. The classified employee shall submit a completed "Classification Appeals Form" to the organization's Human Resources office within ten (10) working days from the date of receipt of the notice of the organization's classification decision.

21.3.2. The organization's human resources staff shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) working days whether the original decision shall be upheld.

21.3.3. The classified employee shall have five (5) working days from the date of receipt of the notice upholding the original decision of the organization to appeal the action to the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources for submission to the JCC.

21.4. Upon receipt of the classified employee's appeal of the organization's decision, the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources shall forward the appeal to the JCC.

21.4.1. The JCC shall review the Classification Appeals Form, the original PDF, and all supporting documentation, submitted by a classified employee to the Human Resources Office.

21.4.2. The JCC may review comparable positions within the organizations.

21.4.3. The JCC shall notify the classified employee, and the organization's Human Resources Office, of its decision in writing, within twenty (20) working days from the date of receipt of the appeal to the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources. The notification shall specify the effective date should there be any change in status.

22.1. An appeal shall not be considered if based on any of the following reasons:

22.1.1. As a method to obtain a salary increase. The new Compensation Management Program should substantially limit the number of classification review requests. Compensation is not tied to a step on the salary schedule or to years of WV government service of the incumbent employee. Considerations for an increase in compensation are not to be made using the classification review process.

22.1.2. Seniority. An appeal shall not be considered if it is based on the employee's length of service with the organization or with the state of West Virginia.

22.1.3. Qualifications of the individual incumbent. An appeal shall not be considered if it is based upon the individual classified employee's qualifications. A classification determination is based upon the duties and responsibilities of the job as well as the minimum requirements necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.

22.1.4. Anticipated future job responsibilities. An appeal shall not be considered if it is based upon responsibilities that may be included in the job assignment in the future.

22.1.5. Job Performance. An appeal shall not be considered if it is based upon the performance of the incumbent or certain personality traits (e.g., loyalty, dedication, commitment to organization, hardworking, etc.). A classification determination is based upon the level and complexity of the duties and responsibility of the job performed, not the characteristics of the individual holding the position.

22.1.6. Salary within a salary range. An appeal shall not be considered if it is based upon the fact that an employee's salary is close to the maximum of a salary range or the relative position of the salary within the assigned salary range.

22.1.7. Increase in the volume of work. An appeal shall not be considered if it is based on the volume of work rather than the level of responsibilities and complexity of the work.

§135-55-23. Compensation Planning and Review Committee.

23.1. The Council shall hereby establish and maintain a Compensation Planning and Review Committee (CPRC). The Vice Chancellor for Human Resources shall serve as the Chair of the CPRC.

23.2. The composition of the CPRC shall consist of the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, the Vice Chancellor for Finance, two members representing the statewide Advisory Council of Classified Employees, one from institutions under the jurisdiction of the Council and one from institutions under the jurisdiction of the Commission; two nonclassified representatives, one from institutions under the jurisdiction of the Council and one from institutions under the jurisdiction of the Commission; two human resources administrators from institutions under the jurisdiction of the Council, and two human resources administrators from institutions under the jurisdiction of the Commission; and a president from each of the two systems.

23.3. The method for nominating CPRC members shall be representative of all the higher education organizations under the jurisdiction of the Council or Commission and affected constituent groups, including specifically providing for membership selections to be made from nominations from the Advisory Council of Classified Employees, the Chief Human Resources Officers, and the respective bodies representing Council and Commission presidents. The Chancellors, jointly, shall appoint members from nominations made by these affected constituent groups and require approval of the Council and Commission before beginning service.

23.4. An organization may have no more than two members serving on the CPRC at any time and the combined membership representing various groups or divisions within or affiliated with an organization in total may not constitute a majority of the membership.

23.5. The CPRC shall manage all aspects of compensation planning and review that the Council delegates to it, within the provisions of state law.

23.6. CPRC members shall serve staggered terms. One third of the initial appointments shall be for two years, one third for three years and one third for four years. Thereafter, the term is four years. A member may not serve more than four years consecutively.

23.7. The CPRC shall meet at least quarterly and at other times at the call of the Chair. A majority of the voting members serving on the CPRC at a given time constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

23.8. The CPRC has powers and duties which include, but are not limited to, the following:

23.8.1. Making recommendations for revisions in the system compensation plan, based on existing economic, budgetary and fiscal conditions or on market study data;

23.8.2. Overseeing the annual internal market review;

23.8.3. Meeting at least annually with the JCC to discuss benchmark jobs to be included in salary surveys, results of job family reviews, and assessment of current job titles within the classification system for market matches and other issues as the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, in consultation with the Chancellors, determines to be appropriate;

23.8.4. Performing other duties as assigned by the Council or as necessary or expedient to maintain an effective classification and compensation system.

§135-55-24. Salary Structure.

24.1. The Council and Commission shall develop and maintain a market based salary structure and ensure that all organizations under its jurisdiction adhere to state and federal laws and duly promulgated and adopted organization rules.

24.2. The Council and Commission shall jointly use workforce compensation data provided by Workforce West Virginia and other compensation data as is readily available from national recognized sources to establish the appropriate external labor market. The Council and Commission, in consultation with the CPRC, and taking into consideration updated market information, may take any combination of the following actions in regard to the classified market salary structure:

24.2.1. Adjust the salary schedule midpoints and/or number of pay grades;

24.2.2. Adjust the midpoint differentials between pay grades to better reflect market conditions; or

24.2.3. Adjust the range spread for any pay grade.

24.3. The Council, in consultation with the Commission, may perform an annual review of market salary data to determine how salaries have changed in the external labor market. Based on supporting data derived from that review, the Council and Commission, with input from the CPRC, have the option to adjust the market salary structure to maintain competitiveness and currency with the market.

24.4. The approved market salary structure shall include a midpoint representing the median market value of jobs assigned to each pay grade. The schedule will contain a minimum and maximum salary range for each pay grade.

24.4.1. After July 1, 2019, no organization may compensate a classified employee at a salary rate of less than the minimum of the grade. Upon future annual schedule adjustments, the requirement to pay classified employees no less than minimum of the grade, is subject to available funds.

24.5. The salary of a classified employee working fewer than thirty-seven and one-half hours per week shall be prorated. The organization's salary rule may provide for differential pay for certain classified employees who work different shifts, weekends or holidays.

24.6. Merit increases may be granted if they are in accordance with statute and with duly promulgated rules of the Council or institution.

§135-55-25. Organizational Rules.

25.1. Each institution shall amend any of its policies/rules to comply with the Council's rule or rules no later than six months after the effective date of any change in statute or Council rule or rules, unless a different compliance date is specified within the statute or rule containing the requirements or mandate.

25.2. An institution may not adopt a rule, as mandated by this subsection, until it has consulted with the appropriate employee classes affected by the institution's rule or rule's provisions. At a minimum, consultations with the institutional Classified Employees Council (staff council) and/or the institutional Faculty Senate (faculty senate), as appropriate, shall take place.

25.3. If an institution fails to adopt a rule or rules as mandated by this subsection, the Council may prohibit it from exercising any flexibility or implementing any discretionary provision relating to human resources contained in statute or in a Council rule until the organization's rule requirements have been met.

25.4. Unless a governing board exercises the flexibility to create its own classification and compensation program pursuant to Section 26 of this rule, the Chancellor or his or her designee has the authority and the duty to review each institution's comprehensive classification and compensation rule or rules and to recommend changes to the rule or rules to bring them into compliance with Council rule or rules or legislative and Council intent. The Chancellor may reject or disapprove any rule or rules, in whole or in part, if he or she determines that it is not in compliance with any rule/rules or if it is inconsistent with Legislative and Council intent or does not sufficiently address and include measures that foster meaningful accountability of the institution to this rule, its own rules and state law.

§135-55-26. Organizational Flexibility to Adopt Personnel Rules.

26.1. Organizations that provide notice to the Council may, after consultation with staff council, file a rule or rules to implement provisions of West Virginia Code §18B-7 and §18B-8, and upon the adoption, any rules promulgated by the Council under the same sections of state law are inapplicable to the organization.

26.2. Any organization that provides notice to the Council may establish a classification and compensation rule, after consultation with and providing thirty (30) days written notice to the staff council, that incorporates best human resources practices and addresses the areas of organizational accountability, employee classification and compensation, performance evaluation, reductions in force, and development of organizational policies, and upon the adoption the provisions of West Virginia Code §18B-9A and any rule promulgated by the Council thereto, is inapplicable to the extent it conflicts with the rule promulgated by the organization. Provided, that any rule adopted by an organization shall use the definitions of classified

and nonclassified employees established in state law. The rule shall provide for an external review of human resources practices at the organization at least once every five years, relating to compliance with the West Virginia higher education personnel law, including provisions that staff council have an opportunity to speak with the external auditor before the start of the audit and after its completion.

§135-55-27. Organizational Accountability.

27.1. A major deficiency means an organization has failed to comply with applicable personnel rules of the Council. The following guidelines exist for correcting deficiencies should any be found:

27.1.1. When a major deficiency is identified, the Council shall notify the governing board of the institution in writing within forty working days, giving particulars of the deficiency and outlining steps the governing board is required to take to correct the deficiency.

27.1.2. The governing board shall correct the major deficiency within four months and shall notify the Council when the deficiency has been corrected; however, extensions of this time frame may be requested and granted by the Council.

27.2. If the governing board fails to correct the major deficiency or fails to notify the Council that the deficiency has been corrected within a period of four months from the time the governing board receives notification, the Council may apply sanctions as specified:

27.2.1. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, suspending new hiring by the organization and prohibiting compensation increases for key administrators who have authority over the areas of major deficiency until the identified deficiencies are corrected.

27.3. To the extent that major deficiencies are identified relative to the Council central office the sanctions described above shall be applicable.

Appendix A

**TITLE 135
LEGISLATIVE RULE**

WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

**SERIES 55
HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION**

Definitions

General Definitions.

Definitions in this section are applicable to higher education generally and terms and conditions of employment.

Benefits. Programs that an employer uses to supplement the cash compensation of employees, including but not limited to, health and welfare plans, retirement plans, pay for time not worked (i.e. sick leave, annual leave, holiday pay, etc.) and other employee perquisites.

Chancellor. Chancellor refers to the chief executive officer of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education or the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, as appropriate.

Compensatory Time and Compensatory Time Off. Hours during which the employee is not working, which are not counted as hours worked during the applicable work week or other work period for purposes of overtime compensation and for which the employee is compensated at the employee's regular rate of pay.

Exempt Employees. Employees not covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) for overtime purposes.

Full Time Equivalency (FTE). The percentage of time for which a position is established, with a full-time position working 1,950 hours per year being 1.00 FTE.

Health and Welfare Benefit Plan. An arrangement which provides any of the following benefits: medical, dental, visual, psychiatric or long-term health care, life insurance, accidental death or dismemberment benefits, disability benefits, or comparable benefits.

Incumbent. An incumbent is an individual person in a position employed at an institution.

Longevity. The total number of years employed at state institutions of higher education and other agencies of state government in West Virginia.

Major Deficiency. When an organization has failed to comply with applicable personnel rules of the Council.

Meaningful Accountability. Measures that ensure adherence to rules and policies and provides for consequences for non-compliance.

Non-Exempt Employee. An employee who is covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and is entitled to overtime as outlined in federal and state law.

Organization. Organization means the Council, the Commission, an agency or entity under the respective

jurisdiction of the Council or the Commission or a state institution of higher education. Organizations include the following entities individually or collectively -- Blue Ridge Community and Technical College; BridgeValley Community and Technical College; Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College; Mountwest Community and Technical College; New River Community and Technical College; Pierpont Community and Technical College; Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College; West Virginia Northern Community College; West Virginia University at Parkersburg; Bluefield State College; Concord University; Fairmont State University; Glenville State College; Marshall University; Shepherd University; West Liberty University; West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine; West Virginia State University; West Virginia University, including Potomac State College and West Virginia University Institute of Technology; the Office of the Higher Education Policy Commission; the Office of the Council for Community and Technical College Education; and the West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing.

President. A chief executive officer of an institution of higher education in West Virginia who reports to the institution's governing board. This term shall be used in this rule to refer to the Chancellor for the office of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, the Chancellor for the office of the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Director of the West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing.

Rehire. Rehire defines an employee who leaves the service of an institution and later applies for and accepts a position offered by the same institution.

Seniority. The total number of months or years employed with the current West Virginia higher education organization employer.

Job Documentation Classification and Compensation.

Definitions in this section are applicable to job documentation, classification and compensation management.

Base salary. The amount or a rate of compensation for a specified position of employment or activity excluding annual experience increment and any other payments or allowances for work or activity unrelated to that specified position of employment.

Base salary adjustment. The amount that a base salary increases within the pay grade to reward performance, to rectify inequities, or to accommodate competitive market conditions.

Benchmark Job. A job that is commonly found and defined, used to make pay comparisons to comparable jobs outside the organization.

Career Ladder. A structured sequence of related, upwardly progressing positions.

Classification System. An organized structure in which jobs, job descriptions, job titles, and job analyses are utilized to determine a hierarchy of jobs, career ladders and pay grade assignments.

Compa-Ratio. A measure to assess competitiveness of current salary level to the market (midpoint of the salary structure). Compa-ratio is the short form for Comparative ratio. It measures the ratio of an employee's actual salary (the numerator) to the midpoint of the applicable (the denominator) salary range. To calculate an individual's compa-ratio, divide the base salary by the midpoint of the assigned salary range (pay grade range). See also "salary range penetration".

Compensation. Earnings provided by an employer to an employee for services rendered.

Compensation Philosophy. The guiding principles that ensure that a compensation program supports an

organization's culture.

Compensation Strategy. The principles that guide the design, implementation and administration of a compensation program at an organization for the purpose of supporting the organization's mission, vision, goals and objectives.

Compression. The situation encountered when a new employee enters into the organization at or above the pay of someone who is currently in the same role in the organization. It can also exist when you have two jobs in the same job family with someone in the "lower" job earning more than the person in the "higher" job. There are some families in which this may make sense such as software development where a senior developer may appropriately earn more in base than a manager of the function.

Increment. Annual payment to employees based on years of West Virginia state government work experience and earned pursuant to West Virginia Code §5-5-2.

Internal Equity Analysis. A comparative analysis of compensation levels within an organization to determine if a level of compensation is equitable when compared to compensation of other employees who hold similarly situation positions in the same job classification or pay grade who have the same or similar levels of knowledge, skill, experience and performance.

Interim Responsibilities. A significant change in duties and responsibilities of an employee on a temporary basis justifying an interim promotion or upgrade for salary purposes. Such a temporary reassignment shall normally be for no less than four (4) consecutive weeks, no more than twelve (12) consecutive months, and shall only occur when the responsibilities being undertaken by the employee are those of another position that is vacant.

JDXperts. Web based job information and description management software system provided as a shared service to institutions of the Council and Commission. JDXperts is the official depository of institutional job information used for job analysis, institution job description development, master classification specification development and identification of benchmark jobs. Benchmark jobs are used to build and maintain the market based salary structure administered by institutions as part of the higher education employee classification and compensation management program.

Job. The total collection of tasks, duties, and responsibilities assigned to one or more individuals whose work is of the same nature and level.

Job Analysis. A systematic process in which information is collected via a position information form relative to the nature of a specific job, providing documentation and knowledge needed for conducting a job evaluation.

Job Class / Pay Grade. The level to which a job is assigned within a salary structure.

Job Classification/Job Evaluation. A formal process used to evaluate jobs, establish proper pay grades, and slot jobs in pay grades.

Job Classification Committee. A Committee of employee and human resources representatives established by West Virginia Code tasked with evaluating classification appeals and other changes to classified jobs.

Job Description. (Used interchangeably with the phrases institution job description, position job description, incumbent job description): A summary of the essential functions of a job at a particular institution, including the general nature and level of the work performed, a characteristic listing of duties and responsibilities, and the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the work. Best practices in human resources management support maintaining a current job description for all jobs in the

organization, regardless of the employee category assigned to the position incumbent.

Job Family. A series of job titles in an occupational area or group.

Job Specification. See Master Classification Specification

Job Title. The label that uniquely identifies and generally describes a job. The same descriptive job title shall be given to a group of jobs, regardless of location in the organization, which are substantially the same in duties and responsibilities, and which require substantially the same knowledge, skills and abilities performed under similar working conditions.

Labor Market. The labor market for compensation is the geographic area, industry, organization size, or organization type from which an organization attracts employees. Market Value refers to how much a particular job would be worth for a specific talent market (industry, size, location, organization type) at a specific or target percentile.

Master Classification Specification/Job Specification. General descriptions of the collective type and kind of work performed by the majority of employees assigned the same job classification. Each master specification will contain a job title, nature of work performed, distinguishing characteristics of the job, and a general description of typical duties and responsibilities performed by positions assigned the title, regardless of the location of the position.

Mid-Point. Midpoint is the middle of a pay range; the midpoint typically aligns to the market value for the job. See “Range Midpoint”

Merit Increases. A discretionary salary increase given to an employee to reward demonstrated achievements in the performance of the duties and responsibilities of a position, as evaluated by criteria established by the organization.

Pay Grade. See Job Class/Pay Grade.

Pay Range Quartile. The four divisions of a pay range. The point between the 2nd and third quartile is the midpoint of the pay range.

Pay Range or Pay Range Spread. Pay range is an expression of the pay for a position assigned to a pay grade in a salary structure that provides the minimum, midpoint and maximum levels of compensation. The range from minimum to maximum, expressed as a percentage, is the pay range spread. The range spread percentage is calculated by subtracting the minimum from the maximum and dividing by the minimum the multiplying by 100.

Pay Structure. See Salary Schedule

Position. A set of duties and responsibilities requiring employment of a single employee at a particular organization.

Position Description Form/Job Description Form (PDF/JDF). A tool used to collect a broad range of job information used in the creation and classification of a new or changed position. A position description form is not required for every employee or job. Formerly referred to as a position information questionnaire.

Promotion. Movement from a position requiring a certain level of skill, effort, and authority into a vacant or newly created classified position assigned to a different job title and a higher pay grade that requires a greater degree of skill, effort, and authority.

Range Midpoint. Midpoint is the middle of a pay range. The midpoint typically aligns to the market value for the job.

Range Penetration/Position in Range. An important compensation metric to consider in conjunction with a compa-ratio. Rather than just being a comparison to one piece of data (the midpoint), range penetration looks at a salary in relation to the whole pay range. Range Penetration is how far an employee has progressed through the pay range. Range penetration = $(\text{Salary} - \text{Range Minimum}) \div (\text{Range Maximum} - \text{Range Minimum})$ See the Salary Administration Guidelines for more information about range penetration.

Rehire. Rehire defines an employee who leaves the service of an institution and later applies for and accepts a position offer at the same institution.

Salary Benchmarking. The process of market pricing a benchmark job.

Salary Structure/Pay Structure/Salary Schedule. A graphical structure consisting of a series of pay grades and range of pay available for each grade.