

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 21-22, 2022
FINAL APPROVED MINUTES**

Ms. Connelly called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Martinelli Board Room (#114) of the Rotunda at Longwood University, Farmville, VA.

Council members present: Marge Connelly, Ken Ampy, Henry Light, Katharine Webb, Victoria Harker, Alex Arriaga, Thaddeus Holloman, Alvin J. Schexnider, Jennie O'Holleran, John Broderick.

Council members absent: Mirza Baig, Jason El Koubi, Jeffery Smith.

Staff members present: Tom Allison, Peter Blake, Grace Covello, Joseph DeFilippo Alan Edwards, Jodi Fidler, Wendy Kang, Ashley Lockhart, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Beverly Rebar and Emily Salmon.

Ramona Taylor from the Office of the Attorney General also attended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Light made a motion to approve the January 13, 2022, minutes, which were seconded by Ms. Harker. The minutes meeting were approved unanimously (10-0).

REMARKS FROM TAYLOR REVELEY, PRESIDENT, LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Ms. Connelly thanked Longwood University President Taylor Reveley IV for the warm hospitality shown by the Longwood University staff.

President Reveley delivered remarks about college students and the impact of COVID – what they lost and what they learned. He focused on students who “missed out on defining experiences amidst the inevitable diminishment of extracurricular life some of our restrictions imposed --- from dorm philosophizing over pizza to club sports to student organizations, and countless other aspects of the college experience that we supported as best we could but were inevitably curtailed.”

He reminded those present that “higher education is the great engine that prepares each generation for democracy ... [and] At a time when we are so politically and economically polarized, residential college campuses ... are the last best hope young people have of regularly encountering people with different ideas and backgrounds.”

After several questions from Council members, President Reveley concluded his [remarks](#).

CONVERSATION WITH STUDENTS: CRITICAL ISSUES IMPACTING STUDENT WELL-BEING, PERSISTENCE AND COMPLETION

Ms. Connelly introduced Ms. Allison and Ms. Salmon who introduced the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) members to discuss student issues on campus. Participants included:

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

1. E.J. Miller (Hampton University, Senior, Political Science)
2. Zachary Wilkins (Longwood University, Senior, Political Science - Prelaw/Philosophy minor)
3. Tyler Roebuck (Longwood University, Senior, Liberal Studies)
4. Anne Patterson (Longwood University, Senior, Political Science)
5. Rio Weber (Longwood University, Senior, Political Science)
6. Malik Watson (Norfolk State University)

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

6. Peyton Johnson (University of Virginia's College at Wise, Senior, Political Science)
7. Alexander Rice (Virginia Military Institute, Senior, Electrical and Computer Engineering)
8. Cassie Atkinson (University of Mary Washington, Junior, Political Science)
9. Sherlock Banks (Virginia Tech, Senior, Civil Engineering w/ interest in infrastructure investments)
10. Danny Gaffin (James Madison University, Sophomore, Political Science)
11. Bridget Groble (Old Dominion University, Senior, Political Science/Biology)
12. Veronica Mata (George Mason University, Senior, Government and International Politics and Integrative Studies with a concentration in Social Justice and Human Rights)

SAC members shared their thoughts on what they wanted Council members to know about current student life and identified the following issues: anxiety and depression, including long wait times to see mental health counselors; social anxiety; not being used to in-person learning; and lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Students want the Commonwealth to do more to supply counseling services to students. They noted that the services are inconsistent across the campuses and that community colleges don't offer on-campus services. They suggested that colleges make consistent guidelines that all should follow, as well as provide training for staff and faculty so they can better understand student needs.

Council members agreed that these issues need to be addressed in a meaningful way. They also advocated for students to go out and become part of the campus community and engage more students to participate in student activities.

Council also asked if SCHEV should receive regular updates on where colleges stand on mental health issues, social networks, activities, etc.

REPORT OF THE AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Blake highlighted the following items from his written report:

2022 General Assembly session: The 2022 General Assembly session began January 12 and ended without a budget on March 12. Staff provided additional

information, including disposition of legislation and new SCHEV responsibilities. The House and the Senate approved identical resolutions endorsing Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education. Ms. Rebar provided a bill update. Mr. Blake noted that it was a largely light session in that there were no controversial higher ed bills.

Jason El Koubi: Mr. El Koubi was named permanent director of VDEP. He was not able to be here today.

Outstanding Faculty Awards: The annual event took place March 1 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond. Chair Marge Connelly brought greetings from the Council. Council members Thaddeus Holloman and Katharine Webb read the names of the 12 recipients. Member Alvin Schexnider also attended. SCHEV also recognized 2021 recipients, who were unable to have an in-person ceremony last year because of COVID restrictions. Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera brought greetings from the Governor.

FAFSA Pop Up: On February 19, SCHEV helped organize and participated in a FAFSA Opportunities Fair. The event brought together 300 people to learn more about higher education opportunities and to get help with completing the Free Application for Student Aid and the new Virginia Alternative Student Aid application. Thirty organizations participated in the Opportunities Fair, including colleges and universities, state agencies and community based organizations. News coverage of the event can be found [here](#).

Access and outreach to pre-K-12 and institutions: SCHEV staff members Melissa Benavidez and Erin McGrath provided a presentation to college administrators on how to serve college students experiencing homelessness at the Project Hope Virginia Conference. SCHEV has supported a pilot program to create a single point of contact at institutions for students. In addition, staff also presented on the new Virginia Alternate State Aid (VASA) application, SCHEV's 1-2-3 Go! activities and the new statewide college access campaign school counselors across Virginia at their annual Virginia School Counselor Association State Conference.

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JLARC: The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission adopted a resolution to study financial aid practices at Virginia's public college and universities. The resolution also asks JLARC to study dual enrollment programs and how students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities are affected by rising costs and higher debt. SCHEV staff has met twice with JLARC staff. We will continue to meet with JLARC staff over the next several months. To ensure complementarity with the dual enrollment part of the JLARC study, we will await the completion of the JLARC work plan later this spring, and then develop a detailed plan to address barriers to dual enrollment opportunity in Virginia.

Virginia Military Institute: In December, the VMI board of visitors approved a quarterly report on the Commonwealth's equity audit. The report details actions taken by the VMI during the period of July 1 to December 15, 2021, in response to the final report of the state-contracted equity audit and investigation issued June 1.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEES

Report from Academic Affairs Committee

Mr. Light summarized the following items addressed by the Committee:

ACTION ON PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

- *BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Business Analytics (CIP code: 30.7102), effective fall 2022.*

After a brief introduction by Mr. Light and the committee's recommendation, the above resolution was seconded by Ms. Harker and passed unanimously (10-0).

- *BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia provisionally certifies Trine University to operate a non-profit postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective immediately and for a period of one (1) year, in accordance with the conditions enumerated below:*
 1. *That, during the period of provisional certification, Trine University shall be allowed to advertise and receive student applications, but not actually enroll or instruct students;*
 2. *That, during the period of provisional certification, Trine University shall be allowed to recruit and hire faculty and staff;*
 3. *That, during the period of provisional certification, Trine University may not collect tuition from prospective students, though it may collect initial non-refundable fees of no more than \$100, as per 8 VAC 40-31-130(E) of the Virginia Administrative Code;*
 4. *That, during the period of provisional certification, all publicity, advertisement, and promotional material must include a statement that the school is provisionally certified to operate in Virginia by SCHEV;*
 5. *That, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, SCHEV staff shall conduct a final review of faculty and administrator credentials hired during the provisional certification period;*
 6. *That, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, SCHEV staff (or an assigned expert) shall conduct a review of Trine University's online platform and content as a condition to authorizing the school to offer distance education;*
 7. *That, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, Trine University shall satisfy a site review conducted by SCHEV staff demonstrating that the facility conforms to all federal, state and local building codes and that it is equipped with classrooms, instructional and resource facilities, and laboratories adequate for the size of the faculty and student body and adequate to support the educational programs to be offered by the school;*
 8. *That, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, Trine University shall submit a surety instrument in an amount adequate to provide refunds to students in the event of school closure during the first year of operation;*
and

9. *That Trine University's provisional certification shall lapse if conditions 5-8 are not fulfilled prior to March 22, 2023.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council delegates to the SCHEV Director authority to confer full certification on Trine University upon his determination, at a point in time prior to March 22, 2023, that Trine University has satisfied all Virginia Administrative Code requirements, including, but not limited to, conditions specifically enumerated above.

After a brief introduction by Mr. Light and the committee's recommendation, the above resolution was seconded by Ms. Harker and passed unanimously (10-0).

DISCUSSION OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Mr. Ampy explained SCHEV staff's overview of the Private Postsecondary Education operations and activities, including its statutory authority, investigative duties and certification process.

ACTION ON PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY FEE CHANGES REGULATION

Mr. Ampy reviewed SCHEV's proposal to raise the fees for the PPE unit, and explained SCHEV's statutory duties for establishing said fees. He described the current fee structure and the three-step process for adoption.

- *BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the Proposed Fee Changes Regulation (8VAC40-31-260 Fees). Council further authorizes staff to make any necessary technical or formatting changes that may be necessary to put the regulations into final form.*

Mr. Light provided an introduction. After some Council questions, the resolution was seconded by Dr. Schexnider and was passed unanimously (10-0).

Report from the Resources & Planning Committee

Ms. Harker reviewed the following discussion items from the Resources & Planning Committee meeting:

DISCUSSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING FROM THE 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The introduced budget would add a total of \$924 million, the highest amount the state has invested in higher education in a biennium. (The total includes funding for classified salary increases, which normally are considered outside of SCHEV's recommendations.) The Governor's biennial additional funding would increase funding for higher education and general (E&G) programs – the core activities of institutions – by approximately 33% over FY 2022 levels, and would increase student financial program funding by 74%.

The budget conference was slated to report on March 11, and the legislature was to take action on the report and adjourn on March 12. The legislature adjourned without a budget. The General Assembly will reconvene on April 4, 2022, to address final bills and budget.

DISCUSSION OF 2021 DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Virginia's public and private nonprofit colleges and universities awarded 58,587 bachelor's degrees in 2020-21, once again the largest number ever. Virginia public four-year universities conferred 40,339 bachelor's degrees, which was 549 more than the previous year. Private nonprofit institutions conferred 18,248 bachelor's degrees, 272 more than the previous year. Virginia's community colleges and Richard Bland College conferred 18,731 associate degrees in 2020-21, which compares to 17,667 in the previous year. Together, the two-year institutions also produced 13,378 sub-baccalaureate certificates.

In total, Virginia's public and private nonprofit colleges and universities awarded 127,048 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates in 2020-21, a significant increase from last year's record of 122,869 awards.

The top four bachelor's degree programs at public institutions are psychology, biology, liberal arts and sciences, and business administration.

The Commonwealth does not appear to be on-track to meet the Top Jobs Act 21's degree-award goals. Staff analysis indicates that, unless significant gains are made in degree completion over the remaining four years, Virginia will fall short by nearly 8,000 degrees at public institutions (assuming no growth and no further losses). This projected shortfall is predominantly the result of decreases in associate degrees.

DISCUSSION OF THE NEW ECONOMY WORKFORCE CREDENTIAL GRANT ANNUAL REPORT

The "New Economy Workforce Grant" (WCG) program, a pay-for-performance model grant established in 201 is offered by community colleges and the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center to students to fund noncredit workforce training that leads to an industry-based credential in a high-demand field. In 2021:

- Institutions offered training in nine high-demand occupational fields.
- Collectively, these institutions reported 8,904 enrollments, a 19% increase from FY 2020 and the most since the inception of the program. This increase is notable as for-credit enrollment at the community colleges declined 5%.
- Of the 8,904 enrollments included in this report, 8,591 (96%) completed training. Among program completers, 6,151 (72%) went on to earn the credential.
- The program with the highest enrollments was Commercial Driver's License (class A) with over 18% of enrollments. Highway Construction Programs had the second highest enrollments accounting for 13% of all enrollments in FY 2021.
- While gaps in program completion by race/ethnicity appeared to have closed, gaps in credential completion remain: Black or African American students were nine points less likely to earn their program's credential compared to white students. Hispanic students were four points less likely.
- The average student cost of the program was \$766, an \$89 increase from FY 2020.
- The average state cost per credential attained was \$1,848, a \$221 increase from FY 2020.

Credential earners' annual wages increased a median of \$7,000 or 31%. Students in the bottom quartile (with wages less than \$8,200 before completing their credential) saw the highest median wage increase.

DISCUSSION OF COST AND FUNDING NEED STUDY: PRINCIPLES AND DESIGN CONCEPT

The four project deliverables are:

- Deliverable #1: Review of funding policies
- Deliverable #2: Efficiency and effectiveness review
- Deliverable #3: Trends in costs for higher education
- Deliverable #4: Recommendations for a new funding model

SCHEV is working with the National Center on Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), a national non-profit based in Boulder, Colorado, with expertise and experience in helping states design and implement higher education funding models.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Mr. Blake informed members that the actions taken by staff on behalf of Council as delegated items were included in the agenda book.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Connelly asked council members Arriaga and Light to discuss and nominate new leadership for the Council in FY 2023.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Marge Connelly
Council Chair

Laura Osberger
Interim Director of Board Affairs

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," the following items approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

Academic Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
George Mason University	Graduate Certificate Programs Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computing Foundations (11.0299) • Global Economic Policy and Technology (45.0605) • Information Security Management (52.1206) • Science Policy (44.0599) 	Fall 2022
George Mason University	Program Name Change Approved: Change the name of the Master of Arts degree program from International Commerce and Policy (45.0901) to Global Commerce and Policy (45.0901)	Fall 2022
George Mason University	Program Discontinuances Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science in Education in Health Education (13.1307) [Council Approval Date: August 1972] • Master of Science in Physical Education (13.1314) [Council Approval Date: August 1982] 	Spring 2022
John Tyler Community College	CIP Code Change Approved: Change the CIP code of the Associate of Applied Science degree program in Architecture Engineering Technology from (04.0901) to (15.0101)	Spring 2022
Virginia Commonwealth University	Baccalaureate Certificate Program Not Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Laboratory Sciences (51.1005) 	February 16, 2022
Virginia Commonwealth University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: Health Equity (51.2299)	Fall 2022
All Community Colleges	Certificate Program Name Change Approved: Change the name from the Certificate of General Education (24.0199) to Uniform Certificate of General Studies (24.0199)	Fall 2022
Virginia Polytechnic	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: Disaster Resilience (43.0399)	Summer 2022

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Institute and State University		

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council’s *“Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes,”* the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
Radford University	Reorganize the School of Dance and Theatre to establish two departments: the Department of Dance , and the Department of Theatre and Cinema . The Departments will reside in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The reorganization will allow the University to “accurately reflect the organizational structure and operation of the school as two separate departments.” The establishment of separate departments will also enable the University to address governance recommendations of the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD).	July 1, 2022
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Establish the School of Animal Sciences from the reorganization of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences and the Department of Dairy Science. The departments will be closed. The School will reside in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The reorganization will provide an overarching, common structure needed to support “cohesive” academic programming, efficient use of resources including personnel, and “strategic decision-making” for the animal science disciplines. The establishment of the proposed school will “ensure that one academic unit is responsible for leading and supporting all of the institution’s endeavors and initiatives for the discipline of animal sciences.”	July 1, 2022

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section § 23.1-211 and Council’s “*Commonwealth of Virginia Policy on the Reciprocal Authorization of Distance Education and Related Activities*,” the following item approved as delegated to staff:

National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) Approvals

Institution	Effective Date
Eastern Shore Community College	February 25, 2022
Riverside College of Health Careers	February 18, 2022

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 23.1-213 to 230 and 8VAC-40-31-90 of the Virginia Administrative Code, the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

Postsecondary, Non-Degree Institutions Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy – Centreville	Centreville, VA	02/22/2022
Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy – Stafford	Stafford, VA	02/22/2022
Carter Machinery Academy for Construction Related Trades	Mechanicsville, VA Sterling, VA Salem, VA	01/22/2022
The Chrysm Institute of Esthetics	Hampton, VA	01/18/2022