

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES**

Dr. Schexnider called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., at the University of Virginia. Committee members present: Alvin Schexnider, Jeffery Smith, William Harvey, Cheryl Oldham, and Mirza Baig.

Committee members absent:

Staff members present: Joseph G. DeFilippo and Beverly Rebar.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 19 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

On motion by Dr. Harvey and seconded by Dr. Smith, the minutes were approved unanimously (4-0).

Dr. Schexnider introduced and invited staff to present information on the following topics:

ACTION ON PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the proposed provisional certification for Lincoln Memorial University, a regionally accredited private university seeking to be approved for a site in Ewing, Virginia. The institution offers bachelor's degrees in veterinary science and clinical instruction related to its veterinary programs. Dr. DeFilippo described what provisional certification means and why an institution may seek to be provisionally certified. He provided further information about the institution and its application that had been reviewed by staff.

On motion by Dr. Smith and seconded by Dr. Harvey, the following resolution was unanimously approved (4-0) forwarded to the full Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia provisionally certifies Lincoln Memorial University to operate as a degree-granting 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, Lincoln Memorial University shall be allowed to advertise and receive student applications, but not actually instruct students at the Ewing location;**

2. that, during the period of provisional certification, Lincoln Memorial University shall be allowed to recruit and hire faculty and staff;
3. that, during the period of provisional certification, all publicity, advertisement, and promotional material related to the Ewing location must include a statement that the school is provisionally certified to operate in Virginia by SCHEV;
4. 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;
5. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, Lincoln Memorial 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;
6. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, Lincoln Memorial 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
7. that, Lincoln Memorial University's provisional certification shall lapse if conditions 4-6 are not fulfilled prior to September 20, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council delegates to the SCHEV Director authority to confer full certification on Lincoln Memorial University upon his determination, at a point in time prior to September 20, 2023, that Lincoln Memorial University has satisfied all *Virginia Administrative Code* requirements, including, but not limited to, conditions specifically enumerated above.

UPDATE ON OUT-OF-STATE DISTANCE EDUCATION CERTIFICATIONS

Dr. DeFilippo provided background on the requirement to certify out-of-state distance education providers. In order to be authorized to operate in Virginia, out-of-state providers must either be a member of NC-SARA or be certified by SCHEV. The law took effect July 1, 2022. Staff created an expedited process for schools seeking certification to offer distance education to Virginia residents and about 20 institutions have been certified by SCHEV so far.

REVIEW OF PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the agenda item, presenting "Program Announcements" for new degree programs that public institutions plan to submit for SCHEV approval. The

Program Announcement is a feature of the SCHEV program approval process in accord with Council's duty to "review and approve or disapprove all new undergraduate or graduate academic programs that any public institution of higher education proposes," Code of Virginia § 23.1-203 (5). Dr. DeFilippo spoke about the purposes of listing program announcements related to alerting staff, Council members and other institutions about institutions' programmatic plans.

Dr. DeFilippo provided descriptions of each proposed program and factors that may affect approval of such programs. Committee members offered comments and received information from institutional representatives.

DISCUSSION ON NEW FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSFER ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Dr. DeFilippo described the purpose of the agenda item, which is to inform the Academic Affairs Committee of a proposal for a new framework for transfer associate degree programs at Virginia's community colleges. The new framework would authorize community colleges to offer a common slate of transfer associate degrees, and remove the current dependence on the Associate of Arts & Sciences in general studies. This change is intended to improve transfer advisement and yield more accurate data on program enrollment and degrees granted at community colleges. Pending further consultations with institutions this fall, staff anticipates presenting the framework for Council action in January 2023. Committee members engaged in discussion of implications of the proposed framework, and heard from Dr. Sheri Robertson of the VCCS, on the positive reception of the framework among community colleges.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF LIAISON

Dr. DeFilippo commented on the recent activities and accomplishments of Academic Affairs staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Schexnider adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Alvin Schexnider
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Beverly Rebar
Staff, Academic Affairs