

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES**

Mr. Ampy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in Room 374 of Newcomb Hall at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Council members present: Ken Ampy, Katharine Webb, Victoria Harker, Alvin J. Schexnider, Jennie O'Holleran, John Broderick, Walter Curt, Cheryl Oldham Jeff Smith, and Mirza Baig.

Council members absent: Jason El Koubi, Thaddeus Holloman, and William Harvey

Staff members present: Tom Allison, Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Celeste Chalkley (Governor's Management Fellow), Grace Covello, Joe DeFilippo, Scott Kemp, Alan Edwards, Jodi Fisler, Wendy Kang, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Beverly Rebar, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon and Yan Zheng.

Secretary of Education, Aimee Guidera, Deputy Secretary of Education, Sarah Spota, and Ramona Taylor from the Office of the Attorney General, Heather McKay from Virginia Office of Education Economics, also attended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Schexnider made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 19 Council minutes, which were seconded by Jeff Smith. All of the minutes were approved unanimously.

REMARKS FROM JAMES RYAN, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

President Jim Ryan talked to council about the following topics: (1) Affordability and access, and (2) Free speech and Inquiry.

On the discussion on free and open inquiry President Ryan highlighted language from the free speech policy at the University of Virginia which highlights cultivation of critical thinking and free discussion. He also discussed three efforts underway at the University of Virginia to foster free speech (1) democracy dialogues, (2) one small step, (3) and sustained dialogue.

Ken Ampy asked President Ryan about their retention and graduation rates with a focus on best practices on campus. President Ryan points to relationships with faculty members and supports to students from advising to mental health. Another example from UVA-Wise is that first-year students who live in dorms are much more likely to return than those who commute. Ms. Harker asked President Ryan about a new student advisory council and President Ryan discussed the collaboration between students and the President to create shared governance. Mr. Curt asks President Ryan about the tuition and fees and the breakdown of private and public institutions ranked. President Ryan pointed out that the cost of the University of Virginia is the most affordable for Virginia students against the next top 50 schools. Ms. O'Holleran asked President Ryan about communication of

tuition and fees with prospective students. President Ryan talked about the difference between sticker price and net price and wanting to improve the accessibility of these tools to families, he also discussed committing to a plan and sticking to it in the most simple ways for families. Mr. Schexnider asks about challenges facing institutions. President Ryan discusses a variety of concerns including the issue of the day, the concerns of D1 athletics, and the issues of access, affordability, and quality. He also highlights the challenging times politically and holding a community together while allowing robust conversations and exchanges of ideas. Mr. Blake asks about two or three things that we might look to as we look ahead for higher education. Mr. Ryan responds with looking ahead for even greater variety of credentials post high school and the pressure this will place on traditional higher education.

UPDATE ON VIRGINIA OFFICE OF EDUCATION ECONOMICS (VOEE)

Heather McKay presents on the Virginia Office of Education Economics Data Activities (VOEE). VOEE focuses on labor market data and analysis, state and federal programs for workforce development and education, and sustainable funding models for education. Ms. McKay presented on three areas (1) state-wide supply demand comprehensive labor market data analysis, (2) Virginia skills initiative, and (3) other activities and collaborations. As a part of the Virginia skills initiative VOEE plans to do alumni tracking and educational programming development. Other research activities from VOEE include career navigation in K-12 and the Virginia Infrastructure Academy. Mr Curt asks Ms. McKay about reaching out to businesses, Ms. McKay will show Mr. Curt the beta to get feedback. Mr. Curt suggests a survey on how many businesses are in Virginia to get better information from businesses.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Blake provided an update as a part of his report including the recent tuition and fee report, enrollment, and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Institutions raised tuition and mandatory fees but then gave a rebate on the tuition through one-time funds. Enrollment is fairly flat across the board with most of the increase in the first time in college. Scott Kemp, SCHEV Student Loan Advocate, presented on the recent federal debt cancellation plans. The impact this will have on Virginia is estimated that about 350,000-400,000 Virginian's will get their loans wiped out and 100,000 will get their loans cut in half. The second initiative is the public service loan forgiveness and in Virginia this will result in several borrowers who will receive refunds for those who paid over the 120 payments. SCHEV is doing some work to let Virginian's know of these programs. Mr. Schexnider asks about any conversations to minimize the debt at other states like improving the retention and graduation rates. Mr. Blake responds that yes; states are talking about this including financial aid and student progression and opportunities to transfer after starting at a community college. Mr. Smith asks about what communication vehicles SCHEV plans on using to get the message out and loan forgiveness. Mr. Kemp responds with the email blast to state agencies, news stories, and press releases that have also been done. Ms. Oldham asks about the timeline to know if this happens at all regarding legal challenges. Mr. Kemp responds that if students want debt cancellation they need to complete the form by December.

DISCUSSION OF SCHEV'S PURPOSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Ms. Webb discussed her experience as the longest serving council member to SCHEV including the welcoming environment, the importance of SCHEV in the state governance structure, and the language in code of SCHEV's role. This council is comprised of members regardless of political affiliation to aid and inspire the highest degree of cooperation by working together and collaboration. Mr. Blake highlights the changes made in code 12 years ago including a sitting member of a school superintendent and a former public college university president on our board. Mr. Blake highlights three categories of SCHEV roles in code including strategic planning and managing data systems, second is the academic affairs responsibilities, and third is the fiscal responsibilities. Mr. Blake discusses the responsibility of council to make higher education the best it can be in Virginia on behalf of Virginia residents for the benefit of the Commonwealth. Ms. Harker points out that SCHEV is tasked with more each year while our staff is diligent but lean so she encourages the council to work with the team outside of meetings to remain efficient.

UPDATE ON PRIORITY INITIATIVES SUPPORTING THE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN, PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Emily Salmon presents on priority initiatives giving council an update. The update included the nine initiatives that was decided on by this council last year. Focusing the discussion on new initiatives including an equitable goal of enrollment and attainment, a goal to address learning loss, and to identify improvements in the transfer process.

DISCUSSION OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION BYLAWS CHANGE

Ms. Rebar presents on council changes to the bylaws for remote participation in the meetings. These changes are made to reflect changes in the Virginia Information Freedom Act. Changes in the code incorporate new considerations for electronic meetings by public bodies including conducting an all-virtual meeting. If a member wants to participate in a meeting remotely there are four separate justifications for that, and it has to be approved by the council. This is an introduction to the new language and next meeting we will ask council for an action on this item.

ACTION ON MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

Ms. Osberger presented the 2023 schedule for council meetings which requires an action. Mr. Ampy motions for approval of the schedule, Mr. Schneixnder moves the motion, Ms. Webb seconds the motion.

2023 SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS:

- **January 10, 2023** – SCHEV (Richmond)
- **March 20-21, 2023** – Radford University (Radford)
- **May 15-16, 2023** (with Private College Advisory Board) – Virginia Union University (Richmond)
- **July 18, 2023** – Central Virginia Community College (Lynchburg)
- **September 18-19, 2023** (with Council of Presidents) – James Madison University (Harrisonburg)
- **October 23-24, 2023** – SCHEV (Richmond)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEES

Report from Academic Affairs Committee

Mr. Schexnider presents an action item for Lincoln Memorial to operate as a degree granting institution in Virginia. The motion is presented by Mr. Schexnider, Mr. Ampy moves the motion, Ms. Harker seconds the motion. Mr. Schexnider also presents on the program announcement process of new degree programs. The committee also discussed a new framework for transfers from Virginia Community Colleges that we think will enhance the process.

Report from the Resources & Planning Committee

Ms. Harker presents on the budget proposal and staff's recommendations of the budget. The committee asked the staff to quantify this per student and by institutional level data in the October meeting. The committee also discussed the cost and funding needs study updates where the first year was focused on the planning phase and the next year will be focused on peer or comparison groups with a suggestion from council to start with smaller building blocks of the model. The committee also reviewed the institutional performance measures where we hope to have more information on the fiscal side of these measures in the October meeting. A template was also provided for institutions who do not meet the educational measures of the institutional performance standards. Another item discussed was the enrollment trends nationally and across the commonwealth. The enrollment trends showed a large gap between men and women since 1975, it also presented on enrollment trends by race and ethnicity. Another data element included trends on the salary and compensation differences between men and women who earn college degrees where it implies an economically rational decision for more women to enroll in colleges. In the Commonwealth a series of efforts is underway by institutions and by SCHEV to encourage enrollment and retention of the population groups mentioned above. The final update was on the six year plans noting that SCHEV staff sent feedback on September 11th with comments due back by October 11th.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Mr. Blake updated council on routine items pointing to the agenda book.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Webb asked for an update on the Board of Visitors training and orientation and also on the mental health pilot RFP that is out. Mr. Blake responds on the Board of Visitors is on October 18th and 19th in Richmond at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden with the agenda currently underway. Mr. Curt has asked for information on how to sign up for this event. As far as the mental health pilot program the RFP was released in September and the deadline is October 7th and the review process will begin after this deadline but completed by November 7th.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Ken Ampy
Council Chair

Laura Osberger
Director of Board & Executive Operations