

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 24, 2022**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Dr. Schexnider called the meeting to order at 3 p.m., at the Virginia Community College System office in Richmond, Virginia. Committee members present: Alvin Schexnider, Jeff Smith, Jason El Koubi, Cheryl Oldham and Mirza Baig.

Committee member absent: William Harvey.

Staff members present: Joseph G. DeFilippo, Sandra Freeman, Monica Osei, Beverly Rebar and Paula Robinson. Ramona Taylor, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**

On a motion by Dr. Smith and seconded by Mr. El Koubi, the minutes were approved unanimously (4-0).

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

**ACTION ON PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the proposed organizational changes, two of which were presented as action items and one which the Chair reserved for discussion. The changes are all brought under SCHEV's duty to approve or disapprove proposed organizational changes, which has levels of potential action depending on the nature of the proposed change. Some changes are categorized as "simple" and others are "complex." Simple changes involved little to no money, while complex changes involve such things as establishing a new department with its own budget.

The organizational change at George Mason University is being presented as a name change because the university has a fully developed college that already has all of the elements needed to be accredited as a college of public health. The public health accreditor (CEPH) has given permission to use the term "public health" in the name. Dr. DeFilippo referred to the rationale presented on page 12 of the agenda materials. Dr. Bob Weiler, Senior Associate Dean of the College and Dr. Susan B. Woodruff, Director, Academic Program Development, were present and responded to questions from the Chair.

The following resolution was unanimously approved (4-0) to be forwarded to the full Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the name change of the College of Health and Human Services to the Department of Public Health at George Mason University, effective November 1, 2022.**

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the background for the organizational change proposed by Virginia Tech. The Blackwood Department of Real Estate would administer a bachelor of science in real estate and a real estate minor. Some new hiring will occur, but it will not be extensive. The department has a detailed budget, which is provided on page 18 of the agenda materials.

Dr. Kevin D. Carlson, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs, Pamplin College of Business, was present and responded to questions from committee members.

The following resolution was unanimously approved 4-0 to be forwarded to the full Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the establishment of the Blackwood Department of Real Estate at Virginia Polytechnic and State Institute and State University, effective November 1, 2022.**

Dr. Augustin Agho, Provost and Dr. Brian Payne, Vice Provost of Old Dominion University, presented the institution's proposal for the establishment of the School of Data Science. Dr. Agho spoke about the advantages of establishing the new school, given the level of investment ODU has made. Dr. Payne said they want a school that will coordinate, not control, data science. As the institution develops new data science programs, they want to be sure that they are collaborating. He said that the new school would ensure strategic distribution of resources.

Dr. Schexnider said that the committee wanted to take more time to work on the issues. Dr. Monica Osei said staff are more than willing to continue working with them, but currently the proposal does not answer many questions. Dr. DeFilippo agreed and said he would prefer that the institution start anew with a new rationale. Dr. Osei said that there are other options that do not require SCHEV approval, for instance, a center. The committee took no action on the proposal.

### **DISCUSSION OF STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT**

Dr. DeFilippo provided a presentation regarding state authorization reciprocity agreements, found on page 22 of the agenda materials. He reviewed the history of the state authorization compliance issue and of Virginia's participation in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). He further presented the list of requirements for institutions and states to participate in SARA. SARA membership provides multiple benefits and cost savings for institutions. Dr. DeFilippo acknowledged staff responsible for administering the program, Darlene Derricott and Emily Hils.

**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 4:11 p.m.

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Alvin Schexnider  
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

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Beverly Rebar  
Staff, Academic Affairs