

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
May 16, 2023**

DRAFT MINUTES

Mr. Ampy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room #1, Claude G. Perkins Living and Learning Center, Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia.

Council members present: Ken Ampy, Walter Curt, Jason El Koubi, Victoria Harker, William Harvey, Thaddeus Holloman, Cheryl Oldham, Jennie O'Holleran, Alvin Schexnider, Jeffrey Smith and Katharine Webb.

Council members absent: Mirza Baig and John Broderick.

Staff members present: Tom Allison, Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Grace Covello Khattar, Ashley Crute, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Sandra Freeman, Tod Massa, Erin McGrath, Emily Muniz, Laura Osberger, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner, Kristin Whelan and Ben Wojcicki.

Notable Guests: Deputy Secretary of Education Madi Biederman and Deb Love from the Office of the Attorney General.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Dr. Schexnider, seconded by Ms. Webb, the minutes from the March 21, 2023, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REMARKS FROM HAKIM LUCAS, PRESIDENT OF VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

Mr. Ampy introduced Dr. Lucas and noted that his biography is included in the agenda book. Dr. Lucas discussed the importance of history to historically black colleges and universities and specifically to VUU.

Dr. Lucas introduced Raymond Pierre Hylton, historian and honored professor at VUU who came to VUU from Ireland and went on to write the history of VUU. Dr. Hylton spoke about the history of VUU by focusing on important dates.

On April 2, 1865, Richmond was in a panic and full of the acrid smell of smoke. On this day, the Union army was closing in on Richmond. The confederate government had already fled and the confederate soldiers set fire to tobacco warehouses as they retreated. At the time there were 50 enslaved people held in Lumpkin's Jail in Shockoe Bottom. Units of the U.S. Army marched the next morning to liberate the city, including those in Lumpkin's Jail.

On July 1, 1867, Dr. Nathaniel Colver, a New England abolitionist, arrived in Richmond to help the formerly enslaved people fully realize their freedom. Teachers and missionaries established the Richmond Theological Institution for Freedman to assist in teaching the newly freed slaves. The teachers and missionaries were harassed and

intimidated. Dr. Colver, in poor health, remained determined to persevere. He approached the First Baptist Church and shared his struggles. Mary F. Lumpkin offered a 1/2 acre of land for the school. Ms. Lumpkin was formerly enslaved and the former wife of Robert Lumpkin who had owned Lumpkin's Jail. Dr. Colver renamed the parcel of land God's Half Acre.

In 1899, after several name changes, VUU landed on its present name. Richmond Theological Seminary was combined with Waylon Seminary College and named Virginia Union University. No expense was spared in building the first nine structures. The first class convened in October of 1899. In the 20th century, two additional colleges merged and joined VUU.

In 1960, 300 students gathered in Martin E. Gray Hall, the dining hall. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Wyatt T. Walter addressed the campus. After listening to the speakers, the students marched down Mary Lumpkin's drive to Overbrook and finally to Broad Street to protest in segregated downtown Richmond. The students filled every seat of every segregated establishment including Thalhimers Department store. Thirty-four students stood firm against the threats from other customers. It was the first mass arrest of the civil rights movement. This ignited the campaign of human dignity that virtually eliminated segregation in Virginia.

BRIEFING FROM CARDINAL EDUCATION (FORMERLY THE COMMONWEALTH GRADUATE PROGRAM)

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the chair of Cardinal Education, Dr. Daniel Garrison. Cardinal Education supports graduate engineering and science degrees and is contributing to the Commonwealth engineering workforce.

Cardinal is an online provider of post baccalaureate engineering education through a course-sharing model. Dr. Garrison stated that Cardinal's goals align with the SCHEV goal of advancing opportunity. The Cardinal mission is to provide high-quality workforce professional development. The outcome is more equitable, affordable and transformative educational access in the state of Virginia, no matter the location. Six universities are members of the consortium - GMU, VCU, VT, UVA, ODU and VSU.

Following the presentation, Dr. Garrison answered questions from Council.

Mr. Ampy asked about Cardinal's funding. Dr. Garrison stated that each institution contributes to the funding, and sites also receive funding through budget appropriation. Dr. Harvey asked about the leadership structure at Cardinal. Cardinal is a coordinating body; coordinators from each institution serve as board of directors for the programs. Mr. Blake mentioned that SCHEV was instrumental in establishing Cardinal 40 years ago, and Council plays a role in recommending appropriation funds. Ms. Webb asked for the total number of students who have accessed and received positions in partnered companies. Mr. Curt mentioned that he is not familiar with Cardinal. Dr. Garrison stated that part of the relaunch effort is increased visibility. Mr. Curt also asked how Cardinal deals with the classes that are inevitably hands-on in an online format? Not all types of engineering programs are offered through the consortium, and 50% of each program needs to be taken at a home university where in-person engineering can be required.

DISCUSSION OF PRIORITY INITIATIVES FOR THE PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY PLAN

Following up from the March meeting discussion, Ms. Salmon recapped the potential initiatives and summarized the March discussion. Ms. Salmon presented the latest iteration of potential priority initiatives for Council's consideration. Staff reviewed the updated table/agenda materials that aligned with the revised potential initiatives to the *Pathways to Opportunity Plan* goals and strategies as well as to the Governor's priority areas for higher education. Council input from March included condensing similar initiatives into one initiative and identifying any gaps.

Council discussed the amended list. Ms. Webb asked staff to consider if/how to include the cost and funding need study next steps into a priority initiative. Ms. Oldham asked questions about the student outcomes reports, specifically ensuring transparency, ease of access and usability. Additional questions and input pertained to how the initiatives would be tracked over time, including qualitative and quantitative assessments such as a "priority initiative report card" based on the completion and success/impact of the initiative. For the next meeting, Council asked that staff provide any funding and policy needs required to implement the initiatives.

REPORT FROM THE AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mental health summit: One March 29, Chair Ken Ampy and Vice Chair Katie Webb participated in the summit on mental health in education organized by Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera and Secretary of Health and Human Resources John Littel. Governor Youngkin and First Lady Suzanne Youngkin led the event. SCHEV staff Emily Salmon, who assisted in planning the event, also participated as did several representatives of the SCHEV Student Advisory Committee.

Innovative Internship Program/Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership: SCHEV continues to work with the Virginia Chamber Foundation to expand business outreach. SCHEV staff also met with Virginia Business Higher Education Council (VBHEC) President Kirk Cox and Chair Dennis Tracey to explore ways to strengthen a partnership with VBHEC, which has been an early and consistent advocate for internship opportunities. In early May, SCHEV awarded \$142,000 in grants to four institutions of higher education to help transform on-campus Federal Work-Study jobs to function more like internships.

VACE conference: Several SCHEV staff, including the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership team, participated in the annual conference of the Virginia Association of Colleges and Employers (VACE). V-TOP is one of the event sponsors, and SCHEV staff members were involved in planning the conference. Staff presented on efforts to transform federal work-study into internships and on V-TOP's student-readiness modules.

Summit on Private Postsecondary Education: On April 18, SCHEV's Private Postsecondary Education (PPE) unit hosted its annual summit. Attendees learned best practices in distance education as well as readiness for work-based learning. PPE staff presented on recertification, compliance audits and the program-approval process for certified schools. Sessions also were presented by representatives from the Board of

Nursing, the Department of Veterans Services and the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards.

New Economy Workforce Credential Grant program: On March 30, SCHEV staff member Tom Allison spoke before the Virginia Board for Workforce Development about the annual report for the WCG program, which the Council reviewed at its March meeting.

Virginia Native Nations higher education summit: On March 24, SCHEV staff member Paula Robinson was among the presenters at this event, which is designed to foster collaboration between Virginia's tribal nations and its colleges and universities.

GEAR UP annual progress report: Staff recently submitted to the U.S. Department of Education an Annual Progress Report as required of recipients of federal GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grants. GEAR UP Virginia (GUV) reported progress in providing programming and professional development to GUV students and educators in high-need middle and high schools, as well as through the state-wide Level Up Virginia (LUV) initiative. GUV's programming includes college visits, tutoring, test preparation and STEM enrichment; LUV recently coordinated an event outside of the Executive Mansion celebrating "Decision Day," the day on which high-school students across the country traditionally choose which college or university they plan to attend. Staff members from SCHEV, the Virginia Department of Education and the Governor's office wore their favorite college gear for photos outside the Executive Mansion.

General Professional Advisory Committee: On March 27 and April 24, SCHEV staff convened the public institutions' chief executive officers. Topics covered during the two meetings included the six-year-plan process and consultation with the Boston Consulting Group; presentations by the SCHEV Student Advisory Committee; the enrollment-projection process and related policy considerations; recent activities related to Transfer Virginia; updates on the Innovative Internship Program; and initiatives of the Constructive Dialogue Institute. Council Chair Ken Ampy and Vice-Chair Katie Webb attended one or both meetings.

Six-year-plan review and instructions: SCHEV staff continued to assist Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in various ways with its review of the six-year-plan process. BCG also met with college and university leaders through various SCHEV advisory committees. SCHEV staff participated in meetings in preparation for a meeting of the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Education, the director of the Department of Planning and Budget, the staff directors of the General Assembly money committees and the SCHEV director with BCG. Six-year-plan instructions will be issued on May 15.

Safe driving recognition: The Department of General Services recently reported that SCHEV was involved in the least number of preventable automobile accidents in the category of pool vehicles based upon the mileage driven. SCHEV received the award for the lowest number of accidents in the category of 10,000 miles to less than 100,000 miles. Staff member Stacey Garnett represented SCHEV at the awards breakfast.

New staff: SCHEV welcomes Curtis Sharpe, Emily Muniz and Bob Spieldenner. Curtis is a user-support specialist and worked previously for the Virginia Information

Technologies Agency. Emily comes to SCHEV from Central Virginia Community College and will focus on transfer and talent pathways. Bob worked in communications at Virginia Tech and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. He is responsible for SCHEV's internal and external communications.

Other staff activities: On April 27, agency staff members convened for their quarterly meeting. The agenda included updates from the director and the new user-services lead, and discussions of employee benefits and agency priorities around professional development, communications and engagement. In early May, SCHEV staff along with officials from Governor Youngkin's administration and staff from executive and legislative agencies visited James Madison University, University of Virginia's College at Wise and Virginia Tech.

Out and about: In April, Peter Blake participated in a 50th-anniversary event of Reynolds Community College, at which Council Chair Ken Ampy moderated a discussion with higher-education scholar Arthur Levine. In April, he attended a convening on the future of higher education hosted by the Chronicle of Higher Education and Virginia Commonwealth University. He also participated in board meetings of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, the Six-Year Capital Outlay Plan Advisory Committee, Virginia529, the Virginia Space Grant Consortium and the Virginia College Building Authority. He participated in the annual awards luncheon for Virginia21, which features student leaders from across Virginia, the Virginia Community College philanthropy luncheon and Governor Youngkin's inaugural workforce summit.

Mr. Curt inquired about the potential survey of high school students and wanted to know if discussions with the Secretary's office and the high school superintendents have commenced. Dr. Smith pointed out some of the obstacles that would need to be addressed when surveying high school students. He suggested that permission from guardians and type of information collected would be concerns that would need to be reviewed by the Office of Educational Accountability. Dr. Smith also stated that a survey may be cost prohibitive but focus groups may be more effective and authentic.

Mr. Holloman would like an update on the dual enrollment progress. Mr. Ampy would like to invite the new VCCS Chancellor, David Doré, to the July Council meeting at Central Virginia Community College.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEES

Report from Academic Affairs Committee

The action item voted on by the committee and moved to the full Council where it was unanimously approved include the following:

Recommend the approval on the following:

Proposal from NSU for a Master of Public Health. The program will be within the partnership between ODU and NSU and is the first program of its kind at a Virginia HBCU. Effective Fall 2023. Committee motioned to approve, Ms. Webb seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The committee reviewed the process of evaluating duplicative degree programs. Upon suggestions from the committee, staff will further evaluate the process and bring before the committee again.

The committee received updates on PPE and IPAC activities.

Report from the Resources & Planning Committee

Ms. Harker highlighted the following from the Resources and Planning committee:

In October this council voted to certify 10 institutions for FY23 and FY24. Seven institutions did not pass three or more measures most notably due to the COVID pandemic, therefore these institutions were placed on remediation plans. Staff provided a summary of the progress update to the remediation plans noting that institutions have seen progress on a series of efforts related to increased recruitment and retention of students. The committee voted on the resolution that RCB, CNU, LU, NSU and VSU have satisfactorily met the performance standards of the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act and the Appropriation Act. The committee passed the resolution 5-1, with Mr. Curt voting no. In addition, the committee tasked staff with creating a new resolution to address concerns with the IPS process. The following new resolution was presented by the committee –

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia directs its staff to form a workgroup to review the Institutional Performance Standards process and its statutory measures, with the purpose of informing Council's budget and policy recommendations in the fall to advance a more timely and relevant process aligned with current and future state needs.

The resolution passed unanimously.

The committee reviewed the enrollment projection process.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Mr. Blake confirmed no new items were delegated to staff.

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Council members, Mr. Broderick and Dr. Schexnider were tasked to create a slate of nominees for the Council officers beginning July 1, 2023. Rather than vote as a block, Mr. Curt requested that the Council vote for each position separately.

Mr. Ampy was nominated for Council Chair. His appointment was approved 8-1. Council members voted as follows:

Mr. Ampy – yes

Mr. Curt – no

Mr. El Koubi – yes

Ms. Harker – yes

Mr. Holloman – yes

Ms. Oldham – yes
Ms. O’Holleran – yes
Dr. Schexnider – yes
Ms. Webb – yes

Ms. Harker was nominated for Council Vice Chair. Her appointment was approved unanimously.

Mr. Holloman was nominated as Council Secretary. His appointment was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Ampy and seconded by Ms. Webb, Council moved that, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-371 I(A)(I), the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia convened in a closed meeting for the purposes of addressing personnel issues related to SCHEV's Director. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

Upon resumption of the Council meeting, Mr. Ampy presented the following resolution for approval. After a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously (9-0).

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to the terms of Council’s Employment Agreement with the Director, the Director be awarded a performance bonus of 5% to be paid as soon as practicable, based on the Director’s performance over the past year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. with a motion by Dr. Schexnider and seconded by Ms. Harker.

Ken Ampy
Council Chair

Kristin Whelan
SCHEV Staff