

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2024**

DRAFT MINUTES

Mr. Ampy called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. in the 9th floor main conference room of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Council members present: Ken Ampy, Jason El Koubi, William Harvey, Thaddeus Holloman, Cheryl Oldham, John Jumper, Scott Fleming, Jennie O'Holleran and Douglas Straley.

Council members who joined virtually: John Broderick, Victoria Harker and Delceno Miles.

Council members absent: Walter Curt.

Staff members present: Tom Allison, Lee Andes, Grace Khattar, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Justin Horton, Jodi Fisler, Sandra Freeman, Erin McGrath, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Paul Smith, Emily Salmon, Bob Spielfenner, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

Notable: The Honorable Aimee Guidera, secretary of education, Deputy Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent and Deb Love from the Office of the Attorney General.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ampy called for a motion to approve the remote participation of Mr. Broderick, Ms. Harker and Ms. Miles. All three members were located greater than 60 miles from the meeting location. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Ampy congratulated and thanked Dr. Edwards for stepping in as SCHEV Interim Director.

On a motion by Mr. El Koubi, seconded by Mr. Holloman, the minutes from the October 24, 2023, the minutes from the special Council meeting on December 12, 2023, and the minutes from the special Council meeting on December 21, 2024, were approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF THE SIX-YEAR PLANS AND FACT PACKS

Mr. Allison shared a presentation about the six-year plan and fact pack process. The six-year plan is required in the Code of Virginia. Each governing board is required to adopt a plan. Full plans are adopted in odd years and updated in even years. In consultation with OpSix, SCHEV leads the process. Public institutions are asked to complete a two-part report. Part one is an excel template that includes the non-general fund revenue of each institution, the general fund requests and academic planning for

the institutions. Part two is a narrative that also has specific requirements. These documents help SCHEV put together budgets and policies.

Mr. El Koubi asked how the plan timeline was determined. Mr. Allison described the odd year work. It includes two-hour meetings with each of the institutions and the OpSix. The process is a dialogue between the Commonwealth and the institutions.

In March, the Boston Consulting Group was hired to assist in updating the process. Boston Consulting Group requested fact packs for each institution. Instructions for fact pack completion were submitted to institutions in June. The meetings for each institution were held in August. After a period of questions and comments between the OpSix and the institutions, plans were finalized in September. Institutional boards approved the plans in the fall after they were finalized. All information on the six-year plan process and the results were posted on the SCHEV website by December 1.

Mr. Allison shared that Virginia has a higher graduation rate for our selective institutions. Our graduation rates for non-selective institutions also are higher than their national peers. Virginia enrollment has recovered since 2019. Some of our institutions struggle with retention and completion rates, but many of our institutions have plans to address these challenges. Boston Consulting Group identified the following critical statewide priorities:

1. Partner more intentionally across K12 and two- and four-year higher education institutions.
2. Manage enrollment and enhancing differentiation in an increasingly competitive market.
3. Provide student centered and transparent approach to affordability.
4. Improve completion rates for all students via data-based interventions.
5. Develop a comprehensive and coordinated approach to maximize post-completion outcomes and fill labor market needs.
6. Contain cost of college.
7. Make data more transparent to all audiences and fill in key data gaps.
8. Target state funding.
9. Support institutions facing acute funding challenges.

Mr. Allison described how the six-year plan process informs SCHEV budget and policy recommendations. He included specific examples of funding requests from the institutions in his presentation.

General Jumper asked how much of what the institutions ask for is unfunded. Mr. Allison said that the institutions are asked to provide balanced requests that includes expected sources of funding and specific uses of funds.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Dr. Khattar discussed the opening of the General Assembly including budget amendment deadlines and the timeline of events during session.

SCHEV works with members directly and with the House and Senate Appropriations committees. Staff attend committee meetings and serve as a resource for members who have questions. SCHEV staff testify when asked and collect information. The Secretary of Education assigns bills to SCHEV to comment on and SCHEV staff create legislative action summaries and fiscal impact statements.

Dr. Khattar reviewed the bills of interest to SCHEV in the upcoming session. She highlighted bills that seek to do the following:

1. Audit education preparation programs at public colleges.
2. Eliminate legacy admissions practices at public institutions.
3. Changes in procurement that impact capital projects and state agencies.
4. Provide grants to qualifying campuses under a program called Hunger Free Campus.
5. Call for a SCHEV study of the in-state, out-of-state tuition differential.

UPDATE ON VIRGINIA TALENT + OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Alisha Bazemore shared a presentation about the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (VTOP). VTOP is a partnership between SCHEV, the Virginia Chamber Foundation and the Virginia Business Higher Education Council with the goal of facilitating the readiness of students, employers and institutions to participate internships and work-based learning.

Dr. Bazemore shared the progress the program has made in the areas of student readiness, employer readiness and institutional readiness. VTOP procured a state-wide staffing agency to help smaller businesses with recruitment and matching funds to smaller businesses. The partnership offers a mentorship training program to help employers support students. VTOP offers grants to institutions to transform federal work-study programs; other grants support the program staff on campus through professional development.

Dr. Bazemore presented the following student, employer and institutional highlights from 2023:

- Reached more than 1,000 users on the student and employer readiness modules.
- Funded and made operational all nine state regions.
- Recognized 100 top employers on Virginia Internship Day.
- Reached more than 30 employers using the state staffing agency.
- Awarded more than one million dollars in grants.

Dr. Bazemore outlined the plans for 2024:

- Hire additional staff to handle the volume of work.
- Expand the Commonwealth of Virginia Connection Program.
- Address data collection needs and legislative outcomes.
- Increase the number of students and employers.
- Award more than \$3 million in grants to institutions.
- Utilize the Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium.

Members asked about outcomes, capacity and data reporting. Dr. Bazemore stated that a workgroup is working on these questions now. Deputy Education Secretary, Nicholas Kent addressed some of the questions. Mr. Kent shared that the governor's introduced budget concentrates on building capacity at the institutional level through grants to create pillars and metrics for outcomes.

REMARKS FROM WILLIAM & MARY'S PRESIDENT, KATHERINE ROWE

Mr. Ampy welcomed President Rowe who joined the meeting to speak about current initiatives at William & Mary.

Dr. Rowe began her remarks by sharing her internship vision. The commitment from the Council of Presidents is a paid internship for each student without extended time to degree. Dr. Rowe stated that she wants the message to students to be that they can come to Virginia for college, develop a relationship with an employer and stay when they graduate. William & Mary is committed to hands-on and experiential learning. Internships should be paid, mentored and transcribed. Their goal is to provide access to funded internships in all William & Mary departments by 2026. Dr. Rowe sees this initiative as an opportunity to build on strengths and existing relationships in higher education and business. William & Mary's Chief Careers Officer oversees internship and work-based learning. The institution has collected significant gifts to support funded internships.

President Rowe discussed making William & Mary more affordable and the institution's commitment to meet the full demonstrated need of Pell-eligible students. Their goal is to have 20% of their student population be Pell-eligible. William & Mary is part of the Posse Initiative program that provides scholarships and leadership opportunities to underserved potential college students. William & Mary also launched the Commonwealth Impacts Partnership Outreach program to identify high-achieving students in limited income high schools to accept into the William & Mary Scholars program.

President Rowe discussed the new School of Computing and Data Science that William & Mary will bring before Council. This effort is a reorganization to be more efficient and to meet labor needs. There is large growth in computer and data science-applied science and physics, and William & Mary is bringing these disciplines together to meet the high demand more effectively.

General Jumper asked President Rowe about education leadership training. He asked her thoughts on a Ph.D. track in education leadership. She offered to have the dean of the William & Mary Education department address the Council.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Ampy motioned for Council to go into closed session by stating pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A)(1) and § 2.2-3711 (A)(8), the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia convene a closed meeting for the purposes of discussion and consideration of prospective candidates; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance of specific employees of the Council; and consultation with legal counsel regarding legal

matters in connection with the first matters. After a unanimous roll call votes, Members convened in a closed session.

Upon reconvening in the public meeting, Mr. Ampy stated the following:

We convened today in a Closed Meeting pursuant to a recorded vote on the motion above and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires that SCHEY certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

Any member who believes there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place. The statement of the departure will be recorded in the minutes.

A roll call vote determined that no member had a statement of departure to record.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEES

Report from Academic Affairs Committee

In the interest of expediency, Ms. Oldham proposed the Council consider the following four resolutions carried over from the Academic Affairs committee as a whole.

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to James Madison University to initiate a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Health Sciences (CIP code: 51.0000), effective fall 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Virginia State University to initiate a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Mechanical Engineering (CIP code: 14.0901), effective fall 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia does not grant approval to James Madison University to initiate a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree program in Education (CIP 13.0411).

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to James Madison University to initiate a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Health Sciences (CIP code: 51.0000), effective fall 2024.

The motion from Ms. Oldham was seconded by General Jumper and approved unanimously by the Council.

Report from the Resources and Planning Committee

Mr. Ampy stated that because there was not a quorum in the resources and planning committee, the full Council would consider the action item on Budget and Policy recommendation changes. After a brief discussion, General Jumper motioned and Ms. O'Holleran seconded, the following resolution was approved unanimously by the Council.

WHEREAS, *Pathways to Opportunity*, the statewide strategic plan for higher education, seeks to make Virginia the best state for education by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's higher education system is a shared responsibility of the state, institutions and students and families to reach the highest levels of performance and accountability; and

WHEREAS, budget recommendations for the 2024-26 biennium focus on improving access, affordability, student success, labor market outcomes and institutional efficiencies and effectiveness; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the proposed budget and policy recommendations for the 2024-26 biennium, as amended and adopted on January 9, 2024.

Mr. Ampy announced that they would put off receiving the update on the statewide strategic plan.

RECEIPT OF REPORT OF THE INTERIM AGENCY DIRECTOR

Dr. Edwards briefly shared the Director's report and added his gratitude to Council members Harker, Miles and Jumper for their participation in the 2023 SCHEV Board of Visitors Orientation. He also touched on the upcoming Outstanding Faculty Awards on March 5, 2024, at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The full director's report is found on page 161 in the agenda book.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR RETIRED AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Ampy read a resolution in honor of former Director of SCHEV, Peter Blake. General Jumper motioned, Ms. Harker seconded, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Ken Ampy
Council Chair

Kristin Whelan
SCHEV Staff

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">• Machine Learning for Embedded Systems (11.0102)• Microfabrication (15.1601)• Smart Grid Technology (14.1099)	Spring 2024
James Madison University	New Degree Program Not Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Media Arts and Design (09.9999)	November 29, 2023
Old Dominion University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher Leadership (13.1299)	Spring 2024
Radford University	Post-Professional Certificate Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational Leadership (13.0401)	Spring 2024
Radford University	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add an online delivery format to the Master of Social Work (MSW) in Social Work (44.0701)	Spring 2024

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Construction Engineering and Management (14.3301) from 134 credit hours to 124 credit hours 	Fall 2024

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," the following items approved and reported:

Programs Discontinued

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
George Mason University	Degree Designation Discontinuance Approved: Discontinue the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree designation in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Astronomy (40.0201). [Council Approval Date:05/22/2002]	Spring 2024
George Mason University	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Information Security and Assurance (11.1003). [Council Approval Date: 04/08/2003] 	Spring 2024-Fall 2026
Old Dominion University	Program Discontinuances Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Certificate in Arts and Entrepreneurship (50.1001) Graduate Certificate in Health and Humanities (24.0199) Graduate Certificate in Social Justice and Entrepreneurship (30.9999) 	Spring 2024

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 approved as delegated to staff:

Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
Old Dominion University	Reorganize the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies to close the Department of Communication Disorders and Special Education . The department closure will	December 15, 2023

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	"close a department that is no longer needed" as the faculty and academic programs have been relocated to other academic units.	
Old Dominion University	Rename the Department of Human Movement Sciences to the Department of Human Movement Studies and Special Education . ODU indicates that the rename will "accurately reflect the academic programs offered by the department" and "ensure the location of the special education academic programs is known internally and external to the university." In addition, the term "studies" is more appropriate as it accurately reflects the academic areas the unit currently oversees.	December 15, 2023
Radford University	Rename the School of Nursing to the College of Nursing . Radford indicates that the rename will "ensure the unit utilizes the same nomenclature as the other independent academic units at the university."	January 15, 2024
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Create the Department of Neurosurgery . The Department will reside in the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. The establishment of the Department will provide an "academic unit, with a department chairperson, that has a focus solely on neurosurgery." Establishment of the department will align the organizational structure of the medical school Virginia Tech's SCHEV peer institutions "as all of the institutions, with the exception of two have a department dedicated to neurosurgery." The establishment of the department will necessitate hiring three (3) staff. The positions are current vacant lines in the school. The cost for the positions is \$1,456,250. The Carilion Clinic will provide all funding needed for the new positions and other costs needed to establish and operate the department in the first three years of operation.	December 1, 2023

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

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

Institution	Location	Effective Date
1st Providence Healthcare Training	Woodbridge, VA	August 29, 2023
Tidewater Medical Training	Hampton, VA and Virginia Beach, VA	August 29, 2023
Tidewater Tech – Little Creek	Norfolk, VA	November 15, 2023
Total Cyber Academy	Fairfax, VA	August 29, 2023
Virginia Center for Montessori Studies	Richmond, VA	September 5, 2023

Institutions of Higher Education Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia—Approval of Additional Location

Institution	Location	Effective Date
University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)	Fort Lee, VA and Fort Eustis, VA	September 21, 2023

Institutions of Higher Education Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia—Provisional to Full Certification

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Lincoln Memorial University	Ewing, VA	September 15, 2023

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
January 9, 2024**

DRAFT MINUTES

Cheryl Oldham called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., at the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, 10th Floor Conference Room, in Richmond, Virginia.

Committee members present: Scott Fleming, Dr. William Harvey, Thaddeus Holloman, Cheryl Oldham, and J. Douglas Straley. Jason El Koubi arrived at 10:14 am.

Staff members present: Joseph G. DeFilippo, Jodi Fisler, Sandra Freeman, Kathleen Kincheloe, and Kirstin Pantazis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 23 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

On motion by Mr. Fleming and seconded by Mr. Holloman, the minutes were approved unanimously (5-0).

Ms. Oldham introduced and invited staff to present information on the following topics:

ACTION ON PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the proposed Health Sciences degree program at James Madison University (JMU) as well as its curriculum. This program responds to higher-than-average projected growth in healthcare occupations and documented student interest. Dr. Sharon Lovell, Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Studies at JMU remarked that this degree provides a flexible pathway into healthcare for students who may be undecided when they enter college.

In response to a query from Mr. Fleming, Dr. Paula Maxwell, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty and Curriculum at JMU explained the two year period between Board of Visitors' approval and submission of the proposal to SCHEV. Mr. Fleming, Mr. Straley, and Dr. Harvey expressed interest in reviewing the factors affecting new degree program approvals.

The following resolution was approved unanimously (5-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to James Madison University to initiate a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Health Sciences (CIP: 51.0000), effective fall 2024.

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the proposed Mechanical Engineering degree program at Virginia State University (VSU) as well as its curriculum. This degree program responds to a call from industry for improved diversity in the workforce and to high employment demand. Dr. Nasser Ghariban, Chair of the Department of

Engineering at VSU, thanked the committee for its support and noted mechanical engineers are versatile, enabling them to fill multiple types of engineering roles.

Mr. Fleming noted support for VSU, their mission and their contributions to the commonwealth. Dr. Harvey also noted strong support for the degree program and the institution but noted he would abstain from the vote as a proud alumnus of VSU.

The following resolution was approved unanimously (5-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Virginia State University to initiate a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Mechanical Engineering (CIP code: 14.1901), effective fall 2024.

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the proposed Doctor of Education degree program at James Madison University and noted the intent of JMU to appeal staff's recommendation not to approve the degree program. In response to a query by Mr. El Koubi, Dr. DeFilippo noted that council has a statutory duty to review and "approve or disapprove" any degree program proposed by public institutions of higher education; staff recommendations are based on criteria detailed in the program approval policy.

Mr. Straley noted his belief that any opportunity to increase access to avenues for educators to better themselves will ultimately benefit the commonwealth. Dr. Elizabeth Oldmixon, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Curriculum at JMU, presented information about the JMU College of Education and its aspirations for the proposed degree program. Among other considerations, she noted the program was presented in response to Governor Youngkin's identified gap in the teacher pipeline.

In response to a query by Ms. Oldham, Dr. Mark L'Esperance, Dean of the College of Education at JMU, remarked that the proposed program is different from other programs in the state in that it will be one of the lowest cost programs in the state, will be customizable to the student's intent, and will be geared toward keeping out-of-state students in state once they graduate. Dr. Harvey commented that limiting competition should not be the sole reason for disapproving a program proposal. In response to a query from Mr. Fleming, Dr. DeFilippo described the process and typical timeline of external review and added that the questions to be addressed by the external reviewers could be customized so as to leave the determination of the favorability of the review up to them.

The following resolution was approved unanimously (6-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to James Madison University to initiate a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree program in Education (CIP 13.0411) on condition that the proposal receives a favorable review from a team of external reviewers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council delegates to the director of SCHEV permission to communicate formal approval to the institution.

Mr. Alger, president of JMU, thanked the committee for the thoughtful discussion. Mr. El Koubi reflected on the complicated process of reviewing program approvals and thanked Dr. DeFilippo and staff for their work.

ACTION ON PROPOSED EDUCATION LICENSURE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN SHORTAGE AREAS

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the SCHEV initiative to support creation of education licensure degree programs in support of Governor Youngkin's higher education objectives and key results. In response to a query by Mr. Straley, Dr. DeFilippo noted the four programs presented at this time are the first in the process and more are expected to be presented for approval at the March council meeting. Representatives from Christopher Newport University, George Mason University, and the University of Virginia all thanked the committee and expressed appreciation to staff for the process employed under the initiative. Mr. Straley thanked the three institutions for their work to fill gaps in the education pipeline.

The following resolutions were approved unanimously (5-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to the three institutions listed below to implement the specified degree programs in education licensure shortage areas, effective fall 2024.

Institution	Degree/Credential	Program Name	CIP
CNU	BAEd	Elementary Education PreK-6	13.1202
GMU	EdS	School Psychology	42.2805
UVA	MEd	School Psychology	42.2805
UVA	EdS	School Psychology	42.2805

ACTION ON PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT CHANGE AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the proposed mission statement change from Old Dominion University (ODU), which is an expansion of the institution's current statement. Dr. DeFilippo further noted that details of the change and its rationale can be found on pages 29-30 of the agenda book. In response to a query by Dr. Harvey, Ashley Schumaker, Chief of Staff and Vice President of Operations at Old Dominion University, noted the new statement reflects the institution's move from an R2 to an R1 university, its active work with economic partners, and the institution's continued commitment to equity and inclusion.

The following resolution was approved unanimously (6-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the proposed mission statement for Old Dominion University, to take effect 30 days following adjournment of the 2024 General Assembly:

Old Dominion University (ODU) is a preeminent public research university located in Coastal Virginia. Our world-class faculty fosters dynamic on-campus and global online learning for undergraduate and graduate students that enriches their lives, promotes insightful and perceptive leadership, and motivates the pursuit of excellence in dedicated fields and professions. We collaborate with strategic partners to address challenges and propose solutions that impact the economy, environment, health and wellness, and social justice. In pursuit of equity and inclusion, ODU provides opportunities for educational, artistic, and professional growth to our diverse Monarch community.

DISCUSSION OF THE WORK OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Ms. Oldham noted that in the interest of time the discussion on the work of the Academic Affairs Committee would be postponed to a later meeting.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF LIAISON

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Oldham adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Cheryl Oldham
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Kirstin Pantazis
Staff, Academic Affairs

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
January 9, 2024**

DRAFT MINUTES

Ms. O'Holleran called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. in SCHEV's main conference room on the ninth floor of the Monroe Building in Richmond. Committee members present: Ken Ampy; John Jumper; and Jennie O'Holleran. Due to the absence of a quorum of members physically present, the following Committee members, who attended virtually, could not be approved to participate: John Broderick, Victoria Harker; and Delceno Miles.

Committee members absent: Walter Curt

Staff members present: Tom Allison; Lee Andes; Alan Edwards; Grace Covello Khattar; Tod Massa; Erin McGrath; Laura Osberger; Kristin Whelan; Emily Salmon; Justin Horton; and Yan Zheng. Deb Love from the Office of the Attorney General was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. O'Holleran deferred action on the Minutes of the Committee's meetings on October 23, 2023, and November 21, 2023, until the March 2024 meeting due to the absence of a quorum.

DISCUSSION OF THE GOVERNOR'S INTRODUCED BUDGET FOR THE 2024-2026 BIENNIUM

Ms. O'Holleran amended the agenda to start the meeting with the discussion item on the Introduced Budget, believing that the discussion would inform the action item on staff's proposed budget and policy recommendations.

Dr. Khattar and Dr. Zheng presented a summary of the Governor's Introduced budget. Staff reviewed SCHEV's role in working with the Secretary of Education's office prior to the Governor's budget release to provide data as requested. Further information was provided on the upcoming General Assembly process noting that the introduced budget will go through a series of iterations over the next few months.

As introduced on December 20, 2023, Governor Youngkin's budget adds \$111 million in new general fund for higher education; reduces appropriations for existing programs and initiatives by \$60.1 million in the 2024-26 biennium; and makes notable language changes. It also includes \$399 million in central account distributions as part of institutions' base budgets. The introduced budget provides support to maintain many of the existing programs and provides funding to a few new initiatives as well. It also considers the current and anticipated economic climate related to the state revenue picture and takes into account the possibility of a recession.

Staff reviewed the introduced budget in four parts; (1) systemwide funding initiatives, (2) institution-specific budget items, (3) SCHEV budget adjustments and (4) budget language changes. Council engaged in discussion on a series of items in the Governor's introduced budget including campus security, V-TOP, affordable access and the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP).

Members inquired about a series of items in the Governor's introduced budget including how campus security funds would be spent, the function of the Online Virginia Access Network, the funding for the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership Program and the affordable access language. Staff responded to Council's questions to provide clarity on the series of questions. Further, Council discussed data concerns related to SCHEV staff having access to Cardinal data to run analyses on administrative cost increases. Further Council discussed the differences between the federal financial aid changes from Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to Student Aid Index (SAI). Council expressed concern with federal financial aid changes that could impact students and families. Council also noted a desire to receive data on the institutional performance standards (IPS) regularly – even if budget language changes require a biennial certification process.

ACTION ON BUDGET AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2024-2026 BIENNIUM

Ms. O'Holleran acknowledged that the absence of a quorum precluded the Committee from taking action on this item, and she advised that action would be deferred to the full Council. She asked staff to review the proposed recommendations, with emphasis on changes since the discussion in November.

Mr. Allison presented on staff's proposed budget recommendations and policy considerations. He reflected on the recommendation-development process and noted the importance of Council taking action on budget and policy recommendations in light of the upcoming General Assembly session. Changes to the draft budget and policy recommendations seen in October include a reduction to SCHEV graduate aid recommendation, a reduction in the tuition mitigation request, a phased in approach to the funding disparities request, an increase to the workforce credential grant program and a reduction to undergraduate need-based aid. Staff also proposes policy changes including the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents program (VMSDEP) program, a study on the TAG program, policy changes to the institutional performance standards and additional support to the recruitment and retention of talent.

Staff offers its proposed budget and policy recommendations as an integrated package. The individual components were developed in concert with one another. For example, staff proposed a modest compromise on funding for the VMSDEP program and also proposed funding to mitigate tuition increases overall. Staff could have proposed that Council recommend a larger amount for VMSDEP and nothing for tuition mitigation. The dollar amount of the combined total may be about the same, but the distribution among institutions would be different. The proposed integrated strategy reflects staff's conclusion that such an allocation was a fairer way to allocate funds for the two items.

Members discussed the budget and policy recommendations ensuring that feedback and outcomes data when accessible be used to ensure funds are being spent effectively. Council discussed the VMSDEP budget and policy changes, as well as ways to support and expand financial incentives for students to consider initially enrolling into a two-year college and then transferring to a four-year institution.

UPDATE ON 2023 DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Ms. O'Holleran welcomed Mr. Massa to present on the degrees and certificated awarded in 2023. Staff noted that in 2022-23, Virginia's public and private nonprofit colleges and universities awarded 56,591 bachelor's degrees, 195 more than the previous year.

- Public four-year institutions conferred 39,012 bachelor's degrees, which was 115 fewer than the previous year.
- Private nonprofit institutions conferred 17,579 bachelor's degrees, 310 more than the previous year.

In 2022-23, Virginia's community colleges and Richard Bland College conferred 17,010 associate degrees, which compares to 18,061 in the previous year. (The public and private four-year institutions conferred an additional 1,259 associate degrees.) Together, the two-year institutions also produced 12,396 sub-baccalaureate certificates in 2022-23. (The public and private four-year institutions conferred 1,214.)

Together, the public and private universities also produced 34,129 graduate and professional degrees and 4,669 post-graduate certificates in 2022-23.

In total, Virginia's public and private nonprofit colleges and universities awarded 127,268 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates in 2022-23, slightly below last year's record of 128,620 awards.

The top four programs for bachelor-degree awards at public institutions were psychology, biology, computer and information sciences, and liberal arts and sciences. Degrees in STEM-H fields (science, technology, engineering, math and health professions) continued to grow.

The Commonwealth does not appear to be on-track to meet the degree-award goals of 2011's *Top Jobs Act* (Top Jobs for the 21st Century; or TJ21), with 1,356 fewer undergraduate degrees awarded to in-state students compared to last year. Staff analysis indicates that, unless significant gains are made in degree completion over the remaining four years, Virginia will fall short by as many as 30,000 degrees at public institutions (assuming no growth and no further losses). This projected shortfall is predominantly the result of decreases in the annual award of associate degrees and a lack of growth in bachelor's degrees since 2016-17. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the situation.

While challenges remain for the Commonwealth to meet goals around student access and completion, this year's degree report indicates that Virginia remains on pace to meet *The Virginia Plan's* goal of 70% of working-age Virginians holding a degree or

workforce credential by 2030. To date, 808,418 undergraduate credentials have been awarded since 2014-15 with a target goal of 1.5 million by 2030.

Staff noted data on differences in demographics as it relates to degrees and certificates awarded. Specifically, there is a difference in degrees awarded by gender, 42% of degrees went to men and 58% to women. Council discussed trends of degrees and certificates awarded by gender over time, noting that there have been no significant changes to this in recent years. Council further discussed packaging tuition from two-year to four-year colleges to support increase enrollment and community colleges. Discussion of the term non-credit occurred among Council members. Mr. Massa commented the importance of aligning language to federal programs and Mr. Allison pointed out the Virginia Community College System branding of their Fast Forward program. Council requested that staff review public facing sites for the term “non-credit” to assess where it is needed and where it is not needed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. O’Holleran motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m., seconded by Mr. Ampy.

Jennie O’Holleran
Committee Chair

Grace Covello Khattar
SCHEV Staff