

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
JOINT SCHEV/PRIVATE COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
May 13, 2024**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Mr. Ampy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Boitnott room of the Kline Campus Center at Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Council members present: Ken Ampy, Walter Curt, Jason El Koubi, William Harvey, John Jumper, Jennie O'Holleran, Delceno Miles and Doug Straley.

Council members absent: John Broderick, Victoria Harker and Thaddeus Holloman.

Staff members present: Tom Allison, Lee Andes, Grace Covello Khattar, Joseph DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner and Kristin Whelan.

Other notable attendees: Deb Love from the Office of the Attorney General; Nicholas Kent, Deputy Secretary of Education and the Honorable Chris Peace, President, Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia. See list at the end of this document of CICV Presidents who attended.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

On behalf of Council, Chair Ken Ampy welcomed the presidents of the private, non-profit institutions and stressed the importance of their colleges in meeting the goals and needs of the Commonwealth. He asked everyone at the table to introduce themselves. Mr. Ampy introduced Dr. Mary Dane Hinton, chair of the Private College Advisory Board (PCAB) whose opening remarks touched on FAFSA, the enrollment cliff and campus climate. She expressed the group's appreciation for SCHEV's support for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program. She emphasized PCAB's commitment to meet the current challenges in higher education together.

Dr. Alan Edwards, interim director of the State Council of Higher Education, welcomed everyone to the meeting and remarked that the statute that the joint PCAB and SCHEV meeting is based in was written 50 years ago this year.

President of the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV), Chris Peace, welcomed the group and gave an overview of the CICV and the private institutions in Virginia. He discussed the various ways that the CICV supports independent institutions in Virginia.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY REPORT**

Fletcher Mangum, founder and CEO of Mangum Economics, shared a presentation of the economic impact of CICV institutions on the state of Virginia. According to his findings, independent institutions impact the communities in measurable and positive ways. CICV

schools are in many rural communities and provide an economic backbone for their localities and have lower unemployment rates.

Students who attend CICV schools are racially and economically diverse. Forty percent of in-state CICV students receive Pell grants compared with 29% of students at the public institutions. These students benefit from the personal education from CICV institutions.

Ms. Miles asked about the number of students who stay in the communities of the CICV institutions after graduation. Mr. Mangum stated that he plans to study that question. President Shushock shared that Roanoke College has studied this and found that 20% of Roanoke College graduates stay in the New River Valley area whereas only 1% of Virginia Tech graduates stay in the area.

### **VIRGINIA PRIVATE NURSING COLLEGE PERSPECTIVES**

Cindy Rubenstein and Lisa Levinson, board members of the Virginia Association of Colleges of Nursing (VACN) shared a presentation about the state of private college nursing programs. The VACN is trying to address a critical shortage in RNs across the Commonwealth. Rural regions have an even greater shortage of nurses and are considered nursing deserts. Shortages are caused by nurse retirements due to age or burnout, a growing aging population, capacity in nursing programs that cannot accommodate all qualified applicants and a decrease in graduate programs.

They described what is needed to support the future nursing pipeline. Among several mentioned strategies, they suggested that faculty shortages can be addressed by including private, non-profit nursing programs in legislative mandated salary increases; and greater financial aid including grants and loan forgiveness.

Dr. Harvey asked some specific questions about the structure of the nursing curriculum. He also asked how many hours each faculty member teaches and what percentage of federal research dollars is awarded to CICV nursing faculty. Mr. Curt asked for further details about the enrollment decline in Virginia.

Eastern Mennonite University President Huxman commented that the CICV programs graduate students who stay in their community but that the CICV institutions struggle with salary competition with public institutions resulting in waitlists for their nursing programs. Shenandoah University President Fitzsimmons commented that the state should contribute to the salaries of the private school faculty for the good of the Commonwealth. Hollins University President Hinton asked for SCHEV's help with data collection.

Deputy Secretary Nicholas Kent offered support from the Secretary of Education. He noted that he went to a small, private, faith-based institution for his undergraduate degree. He also announced that the state budget has just passed. He pointed to the increase in the TAG award. The Governor also signed into legislation a permanent private college representative to SCHEV's board.

### **RESPONSE AND OBSERVATIONS**

Mr. Curt asked about the impacts of the FASFA issues on the private institutions. President Hinton said that it will have lasting impacts and that at Hollins, they make financial award commitments for four years and worry that their calculations could be off because of the FAFSA issues. The presidents also expressed concern about the families who grew frustrated with the FAFSA website and gave up. President Hinton stated that some institutions have had issues passing their budgets.

Mr. Peace made the case for further SCHEV support and advocacy for the CICV.

### **STATUS OF VIRGINIA TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT (VTAG) PROGRAM**

Mr. Andes joined the group to discuss TAG, updates and increases. He described the newly extended application deadlines, the improved application processes and the undergraduate award increases for residential students.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY POLICY AND BUDGET REVIEW**

Dr. Khattar gave a brief budget review for the state budget effective, July 1, 2024. She highlighted two bills:

HB713 (Torian): Charges public institutions developing public safety training and contains language that asks SCHEV to encourage the private institutions to follow the same requirements.

HB 1044 (Rasoul): The governor will appointment a former private college president to the SCHEV Council which will take effect July 1, 2025. SCHEV currently has a former private college president on its roster in Dr. William Harvey, Hampton University.

Dr. Khattar was asked about the total General Assembly higher education outlay and the capital projects funding.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Ampy adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

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Ken Ampy  
Council Chair

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Kristin Whelan  
Coordinator of Board and Executive Operations

Private College President Attendees

Michael Salmeier, Interim President, Bluefield University  
David Bushman, Bridgewater College  
Susan Schultz Huxman, Eastern Mennonite University  
Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Mirta Martin, Ferrum College  
Larry Stimpert, Hampden-Sydney College  
Mary Dana Hinton, Hollins College  
Kenny Craig (on behalf of Dondi Costen), Liberty University  
Pamela Fox, Mary Baldwin University  
Irma Becerra, Marymount University  
Robert Lindgren, Randolph – Macon University  
Stephen Bruce (on behalf of Carlos Campo), Regent University  
Frank Shushok, Jr., Roanoke College  
Tracy Fitzsimmons, Shenandoah University  
Mary Pope Hutson, Sweet Briar College  
William Dudley, Washington and Lee University

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 14, 2024**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Mr. Ampy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Boitnott Room in the Kline Campus Center at Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Council members present: Ken Ampy, Walter Curt, Victoria Harker, William Harvey, Jason El Koubi, Delceno Miles, John Jumper, Jennie O'Holleran and Douglas Straley.

Council members absent: John Broderick, Thaddeus Holloman and Cheryl Oldham.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Brittany Everett, Jodi Fisler, Grace Khattar, Tod Massa, Erin McGrath, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon and Kristin Whelan.

Notable guests: Aimee Guidera, Secretary of Education; Nicholas Kent, Deputy Secretary of Education; and Deb Love from the Attorney General's office.

Mr. Ampy thanked the Bridgewater staff and briefly summarized the Private College Advisory Board (PCAB) meeting and reception. He highlighted some of his activities including attending the Council of Presidents (COP) meeting and the SCHEV staff meeting. He also highlighted the transition of the new SCHEV director. Finally, he thanked Dr. Edwards for serving as the interim director.

Mr. Ampy recognized Ms. Miles for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from Volunteer Hampton Roads and he announced that Mr. Straley was named Superintendent of the Year in Virginia. Mr. Ampy also announced that he has been named a 2024 Junior Achievement Greater Richmond Business Hall of Fame Laureate. Mr. Ampy also announced that General Jumper was recognized by the United States Air Force for his service; the Nellis Airforce Base's 57 Wing headquarters has been designated the General John P. Jumper Headquarters Complex.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Ms. Miles, seconded by Mr. Straley, the minutes of the January 9, 2024, Council meeting and the minutes from the March 19, 2024, Council meeting were approved unanimously.

**REMARKS FROM BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE PRESIDENT, DAVID BUSHMAN**

Mr. Ampy introduced President David Bushman. Dr. Bushman thanked his staff and the SCHEV staff. He stated that he was pleased to host his colleagues for the PCAB meeting.

Dr. Bushman spoke about the communities he represents. He described the virtues of a small college experience and how he keeps in touch with students that he taught. As

the president of Bridgewater for the past 11 years, Dr. Bushman stressed the importance of cultivating the continuity of leadership in private colleges. Dr. Bushman stated that higher education supports local communities and our broader democracy. He asked that SCHEV take the long view and look at how we serve the students which will strengthen our economy and protect our democracy.

### **DISCUSSION OF THE VIRTUAL LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA (VIVA)**

Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) representative, Genya O’Gara, and Dean of Libraries at James Madison University, Bethany Nowwiskie, shared a presentation about VIVA.

VIVA’s purpose has always been to level the playing field by making materials available to more students and building shared collections. VIVA is funded by the General Assembly, the public institutions and the participating private institutions. Public institution contributions have grown to now outpace the contributions from the state.

Among the functions of VIVA, Ms. O’Gara mentioned the following:

- VIVA has worked to make more open access publishing agreements available so that smaller institutions have greater access to the research materials.
- VIVA facilitates a shared print collection. This allows VIVA members to borrow freely from over 170 institutions in the EAST network.
- VIVA provides centralized publishing services for member libraries and faculty publishing programs.
- The Open and Affordable program supports open educational resources by awarding grants for faculty to create more openly published materials.

The Open and Affordable program is the newest of the VIVA offerings and was created in response to a survey that VIVA commissioned. More than 5,600 student responses from 41 institutions were recorded by the survey. One of the most significant findings was that students are very concerned about the costs of course materials.

Council members asked the following:

General Jumper asked how much of the demand for course curriculum materials go unmet. He also asked about the barriers to participation for some of the private institutions. Ms. O’Gara said that, for smaller institutions, limited physical storage space is a barrier.

Mr. Curt asked for clarification about what types of publications VIVA provides. Ms. O’Gara explained that open educational resources are specifically licensed to be used openly and some of these open resources can replace textbooks that are costly for students. Mr. Curt further asked how VIVA measures success. Ms. O’Gara shared that the information gathered from faculty when they apply for grants tells VIVA how much material the open-source material will replace. Currently, VIVA measures the cost avoidance over five years with a current anticipated \$26 million in savings over the next five years. Mr. Curt suggested that they share how much money VIVA saves Virginia students per year.

Ms. Harker and General Jumper asked how students learn about VIVA. Many institutions highlight the courses that have free resources in their catalogs.

## **DISCUSSION OF CARDINAL EDUCATION**

Dr. Daniel Garrison from George Mason University updated the Council on Cardinal Education. Cardinal is a partnership between six member universities to promote and advance online graduate engineering education through course sharing and outreach. The goal is to increase completion rates.

The consortium began in 1983 with Virginia Tech and University of Virginia telecasting lectures onto each other's campuses. In the two decades after the first partnership, Cardinal added additional receive sites where students congregate and watch classes on a television. In 2011, Cardinal switched to an online delivery platform. In 2019, Cardinal rebranded to reintroduce themselves as an online, asynchronous delivery mode. Recently, Cardinal has created centralized services, expanded marketing efforts and started offering new credentials.

Students have access to hundreds of courses from all six universities in the partnership including Virginia Commonwealth University, George Mason University, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Old Dominion University and Virginia State University. Courses are recognized equally between member universities. Students receive their credential from only one of the member institutions. The consortium makes it possible for students who may struggle with the lack flexibility at individual universities to work toward a degree. Cardinal students are largely male and white with a median age of 30 and four to six years of work experience.

Dr. Garrison described Cardinal's recent expanded efforts. In 2023, they had 18 outreach activities with the aim of no longer being the best kept secret in the Commonwealth. Mr. El Koubi and Ms. Harker offered marketing suggestions such as reaching out to Virginia high school students.

Cardinal's recent growth has come from offering graduate certificates and micro credentials. Cardinal has also increase partnerships that work on joint projects, promote the program, provide resources and sponsor employees.

General Jumper suggested that SCHEV have a scholarship targeted at students in this program. Ms. Harker suggested that they break down their completion data to include students who complete certificates. Ms. Harker also suggested that Cardinal keep SCHEV's strategic goals in mind to be sure that Cardinal's goals align.

Mr. Curt asked what Cardinal's total budget is. Dr. Garrison estimated that they have a \$2.5 million budget. Ms. Harker suggested that Cardinal's biggest restraint to growth is marketing. General Jumper suggested that they need to include increasing awareness in their strategic plan.

The presentation completed with a suggestion that Cardinal return to another SCHEV Council meeting to discuss restructuring.

## **UPDATE ON THE VIRGINIA TALENT + OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP (V-TOP)**

Dr. Bazemore updated Council on the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership's (V-TOP) recent efforts and also provided a brief background and stated the program's goal of having the most internship-ready students, employers and institutions of higher education.

Dr. Bazemore described their regional collaborations. She mentioned that V-TOP would like to funds obtain funds to hire one or two people who would be responsible for thinking every day about how to identify and link existing work-based learning opportunities, present those opportunities to employers and support students, employers and institutions throughout the process.

After describing the partnership with the staffing agency, iQuasar, Council members asked who pays the staffing agency fees. Dr. Bazemore explained that the staffing agency pays the student, the business is invoiced 50% of the cost (minus the match from V-TOP). If the business hires the intern permanently, the business pays a 12% finder's fee.

Ms. O'Holleran asked about the partnership with the Virginia Chamber Foundation and the Virginia Higher Education Business Council (VHEBC). The foundation helps V-TOP with marketing to business members and to connect to prospective employers. The VHEBC partnership provides connections to Virginia higher education leaders to help market to the institutions and promote institutional readiness.

General Jumper asked about V-TOP's impact on employment outcomes. For the institutions, V-TOP closes the gap for internship resources providing grants to lessen the barriers for students who cannot afford to accept an unpaid internship. For employers, V-TOP hosts a website that lists the available institutions with contact information, free resources for developing an internship program and mentorship training.

General Jumper asked if V-TOP is getting the results we expected and if students are getting full-time employment through the program. VTOP is working on creating a universal reporting method for outcomes of the program.

Mr. Curt asked about housing issues for employers interested in hosting interns in regions where housing is limited. He suggested creating partnerships with area universities to use campus housing.

Mr. El Koubi suggested that the program should be scaled up, but that SCHEV can't do it on its own. He also suggested that V-TOP needs to be synched up with national data. He asked Dr. Bazemore to comment on paid versus unpaid internships. She said that Virginia strongly encourages paid internships because they remove barriers for students and increase starting salaries.

Mr. Ampy announced that he was changing the order of the agenda and asked for the committee reports to be completed before moving on to the next agenda item.

## **Report from the Academic Affairs Committee**



Mr. El Koubi reported out on the academic affairs committee.

The Academic Affairs Committee heard from Dr. DeFilippo on the certification of two private post-secondary education institutions, University of the Cumberland and Pardee RAND Graduate School. Details of the Private Postsecondary Education (PPE) institutions can be found beginning page 10 of the agenda book. Certifying these institutions carries no financial impacts for the Commonwealth.

Academic Affairs committee presented the following two resolutions (found on page 11 of the agenda book) for Council's consideration

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies University of the Cumberland to operate as a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective May 14, 2024.**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies Pardee RAND Graduate School to operate as a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective May 14, 2024.**

General Jumper asked if the TAG grant would be available at these institutions. Dr. DeFilippo confirmed that it would not as these are institutions that are not based in Virginia.

Mr. El Koubi recommended that the Council vote on both resolutions as a block.

On a motion by Mr. El Koubi and seconded by Mr. Straley, the resolutions were passed unanimously.

The Academic Affairs Committee also heard from Dr. DeFilippo on an emergency action taken by staff in accord with the Virginia Administrative Code, 8VAC40-31-90, which delegates various administrative powers to the executive director of SCHEV, including the ability to take emergency action if a school is on the receiving end of adverse U.S. Department of Education action. Fairfax University of America (FXAU) was given notice that they are not Title IV eligible, an adverse action. When an institution receives an adverse action there is a heightened risk they won't continue operating so SCHEV suspends new admissions. The resolutions ratify the suspension of new enrollment and delegate authority to the agency director to remove the suspension if Fairfax University of America presents documented proof of the likelihood of receiving accreditation. Details of the emergency action can be found beginning on page 16 of the agenda book.

Academic Affairs committee presented the following resolutions (on page 18 of the agenda book) for Council's consideration: Mr. El Koubi recommended passing both resolutions as a block.

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia ratifies the suspension of new enrollment by Fairfax University of America (FXUA).**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agency director may remove the suspension upon his determination that FXUA has documented that it is likely to achieve accreditation by February 19, 2025.**

General Jumper asked for further clarification of what can lead to an adverse finding. Dr. DeFilippo provided additional information.

On a motion from Mr. El Koubi and seconded by Ms. O'Holleran, the resolutions were passed unanimously.

The Committee then heard from Dr. DeFilippo with a follow up on recent Committee discussions regarding criteria for review and approval of proposed degree programs. Academic Affairs staff has engaged with the Secretary of Education regarding how SCHEV can best support the Governor's guiding objectives for higher education and with VOEE on how best to incorporate Commonwealth-focused employment data in reviewing academic program proposals. Presented on pages 21-27 of the agenda book are excerpts from the SCHEV program approval policy and the Governor's Higher Education Guiding Objectives and Initiatives with a focus on four (4) degree program justification topics:

- Response to Current Needs (Specific Demand)
- Employment Demand
- Duplication
- Student Demand

The committee then received an update from Dr. DeFilippo on the scope of the work with Private Post-Secondary institutions and an update on the inclusion of dual enrollment students in the data on transfer student success. Information is available beginning on page 28 of the agenda book.

The Academic Affairs committee concluded the meeting with an update from Dr. DeFilippo on the work of the staff of Academic Affairs. Staff continue to host trainings for both public and private post-secondary institutions, as well as to earn recognition at the state and national levels for being knowledgeable leaders in their specialty areas.

Mr. Ampy invited Erin McGrath to present the next item on the agenda.

### **UPDATE ON SCHEV ACCESS INITIATIVES**

Ms. McGrath shared a presentation to update the Council on current access initiatives. First, she gave an overview of enrollment challenges and described the enrollment trends and inequities. Virginia's sub-populations do not enroll in higher education at the same rate as the state average. Access initiatives seek to close the gaps.

GEAR UP Virginia is a seven-year federal college access grant that serves 8,119 students in 12 school divisions. For students, the grant provides tutoring, campus visits, summer camps, postsecondary advising, financial aid advising and scholarships. For school faculty and staff, the grant provides professional development including STEM

instruction, data-driven instruction, FAFSA training and VirginiaCAN conference sponsorships.

Level Up Virginia is a statewide college access program. Level Up events include college nights, Virginia College Application Week, FAFSA Next, VCCS Spring Registration and Decision Day VA. Level Up also is comprised of communications and digital strategy, and professional development and technical assistance for school counselors and access providers.

Ms. McGrath also described the FAFSA support initiatives her team supports including the College Access Advisory Board, a financial aid webinar series, postcard mailing campaign and the Pell initiative.

The SCHEV access team partners with several organizations.

- Virginia Department of Education and SCHEV share Postsecondary and Access Specialist staff member, Brittany Everett.
- VA529 provided a \$3.5 million match donation to GEAR Up Virginia.
- Virginia College Access Network offers professional development and a yearly conference.
- UVA's College Advising Corps places full-time advisors in GEAR Up high schools.
- ECMC co-sponsors Level Up Virginia events.

Mr. Curt asked how the money is allocated and what percentage of the qualified population are the services reaching. Ms. McGrath promised to follow up with him with that information.

Noting the time, Mr. Ampy suggested that Council members with further questions, email Ms. McGrath directly.

## **REPORT FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR**

Dr. Edwards highlighted the following from the Director's report. The rest of the report can be found on page 116 of the May agenda book.

**Artificial Intelligence in Education:** In early April, Secretary Guidera hosted a kick-off meeting with agency heads from SCHEV, VDOE, VCCS and the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) to discuss Governor Youngkin's *Executive Order 30: Implementation of Standards for the Safe Use of Artificial Intelligence across the Commonwealth*, and the associated *Guidelines for Integration of AI throughout Education*. Participants discussed concerns regarding restrictive state/VITA technology policies as well as opportunities for innovation via AI-tool use and partnerships between the public (education) sector and the private sector. SCHEV staff are assembling a taskforce from which to solicit feedback on, and steps toward effective implementation of the *Guidelines*.

**Survey of High School Seniors:** The survey to assess high school seniors' plans post-graduation, and the reasons for those decisions, continues to progress on schedule. The work (being done under contract by two units at ODU) received human-subjects

approval/exemption from the university's full Institutional Review Board (IRB). During the week of May 6, a pilot survey was distributed to 350 students as a trial. Following review of the trial survey's data and any edits deemed necessary to the final version, the official survey will be distributed to about 16,000 high school seniors during the week of May 20.

### **Report from the Resources and Planning Committee**

Ms. O'Holleran reported out on the committee's activities.

The first item was an action item on the regulation and guideline updates.

- Mr. Andes reviewed several regulation and guideline updates at the direction of Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 19 to reduce regulatory requirements by at least 25%.
- Staff identified 27 total items within the reviewed regulations and guidelines that are not specifically required by either statute or budget language. Of these, staff determined that 11 could be removed without causing harm to the administration of the programs. By removing or rewording these items, staff will reduce regulatory requirements by over 40%, exceeding the administrative goal of 25%.
- Mr. Andes also presented new guidelines for administering the emergency assistance grant program. This is a new initiative whereby institutions can assign a portion of their respective appropriations of state financial assistance to provide emergency assistance. The new guidelines follow very closely with existing programs and were vetted by the financial aid directors at public institutions.
- The committee acted on this agenda item with the full committee recommending approval of the proposed changes and new guidelines. Rather than read the lengthy text of the resolution, Ms. O'Holleran directed Council members to read the resolution on page 47 of the agenda book. She stated that the committee seeks action from full Council.

**WHEREAS, Governor Youngkin has established a goal to reduce regulatory requirements by at least 25 percent, and staff have identified such requirements that can be removed from the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant program and the Industry Based Credential Grants programs without impacting the administration of the programs; and**

**WHEREAS, the Cybersecurity Student Loan Repayment Grant program is no longer funded or making new awards; and**

**WHEREAS, by making the proposed changes to the above programs, the combined regulatory requirements for the reviewed financial aid programs will be reduced by over 40 percent; and**

**WHEREAS, the institutions have been authorized to use a portion of the respective appropriations of Virginia Student Financial Assistance programs towards making emergency assistance awards and SCHEV has been tasked to create appropriate supporting guidelines; now therefore,**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves: (i) the reductions, as proposed, in the financial-aid regulations and guidelines; (ii) the repeal, as proposed, of the Cybersecurity Student Loan Repayment Grant regulations; and (iii) the guidelines, as proposed, for the Virginia Commonwealth Emergency Assistance program, subject to any technical issues raised during**

On a motion from Ms. O'Holleran and seconded by Mr. Ampy, the resolution passed unanimously.

The committee discussed national enrollment trends and heard from guest speaker and SCHEV employee Michael Walsh, a recent retiree from James Madison University who has extensive experience in enrollment research.

- Mr. Walsh facilitated a discussion on the enrollment challenges that higher education is facing, including the declining pool of applicants, students reconsidering the benefits of higher education and as institutions endure the repercussions of the pandemic and the flawed rollout of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- The committee encouraged staff to identify avenues of collaboration between K-12 and higher education to address historic concerns related to enrollment. Members also suggested that staff create a list of not only what SCHEV is charged to do but possible legislation to address enrollment issues.

The third item was an update on the 2024 higher education budget.

- Mr. Allison and Dr. Khattar updated the committee on the 2024-26 budget. During the previous day's committee meetings, the General Assembly was also in session to vote on the proposed budget. Staff noted that the higher education budget remains largely unchanged from the conference report released on March 7. Staff provided a thorough update on the conference budget during the March meeting.
- Once approved, the budget will go into effect July 1, 2024, for the upcoming biennium.
- As the budget and legislation are finalized, staff will report to Council with an updated list of SCHEV duties.

The fourth item was an update on the FASFA process.

- Mr. Andes discussed the various setbacks related to the FASFA process. Notable roll-out challenges include: a three-month delay in making the application available to applicants; a soft-launch that included black-out dates and waiting rooms; complications for applicants to create student-aid accounts; errors in both the function of the application and in the calculation of the Student Aid Index; multiple delays in the release of FAFSA results to the institutions; and delays in the ability of students to make corrections to the form.
- As the glitches were addressed, the application process itself improved week to week. Many institutions responded by adjusting application deadlines; some are making estimated award packages, and nearly all are advising late applicants that they will try to be as understanding and accommodating as possible.
- The delayed release of the FAFSA information is reducing the amount of time available for institutions to compile and prepare the data for awarding aid and for working with students on any needed verification or adjustments. These on-going issues have created concerns about fall enrollments.

The fifth item was an update on the timeline of the Institutional Performance Standards and Six-Year Plan process

- Mr. Allison and Dr. Khattar presented on the suggested timeline for both the Institutional Performance standards (IPS) and Six-Year plans.
- Both are a part of SCHEV duties as listed in Budget and/or Code. Council is charged with reviewing the institutions for certification of the IPS every other year.
- SCHEV also is charged to review and coordinate the Six-Year Plan process in consultation with Op-Six (Secretary of Education, Secretary of Finance, Director of Department of Planning and Budget, and the money committees).
- Action will need to be taken by Council this fall to review the certification process for IPS. Staff will update the committee in July and September with data prior to seeking action.

### **REPORT ON COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Ms. Harker and Mr. Holloman introduced the slate of executive committee nominations including the following:

Council Chair nominee, General John Jumper  
 Council Vice Chair nominee, Ms. Delceno Miles  
 Council Secretary, Mr. Doug Straley

On a movement by Ms. Harker and seconded by Ms. O'Holleran, the slate of executive committee positions was approved unanimously.

### **ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS FOR DEPARTING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Ms. Harker read a resolution recognizing Chair Ampy for his service to SCHEV. Mr. Ampy read two resolutions recognizing President Broderick and Ms. Harker for their service to SCHEV and the Commonwealth.

On a motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Mr. Straley, the resolutions recognizing departing members was passed unanimously.

### **RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF**

Included at the end of this document.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was voiced.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was voiced.

### **RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment had been requested, and none was provided spontaneously.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Ampy adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m. He thanked everyone and said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Commonwealth as chair of SCHEV.

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Ken Ampy  
Council Chair

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SCHEV Staff

**Items Delegated to Director/Staff**

Part 1 of 3:

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**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Degree/Program/CIP</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Central Virginia Community College	<b>Program Name Change Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Police Science to Criminal Justice (43.0103)</li></ul>	Summer 2024
Christopher Newport University	<b>Degree designation Approved:</b> <p>Add the degree designation Bachelor of Arts (BA) to the existing Bachelor of Music (BM) degree program in Music to create a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts (BM/BA) degree program in Music (50.0903)</p>	Fall 2024

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Christopher Newport University	<b>Undergraduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and Creative Activity (30.0000)</li> </ul>	Fall 2024
George Mason University	<b>CIP Code Change Not Approved:</b> Change the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code of the Master of Science (MS) in Accounting from 52.0301 to 52.1399	April 23, 2024
James Madison University	<b>Graduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Policy (44.0503)</li> </ul>	Summer 2024
Northern Virginia Community College	<b>Program Name Changes Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103)</li> <li>• Certificate in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103)</li> </ul>	Summer 2024
Patrick and Henry Community College	<b>Program Name Change Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103)</li> </ul>	Summer 2024
Radford University	<b>Program Modifications Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add an online delivery format to the Master of Science (MS) in Data and Information Management (11.0802)</li> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Master of Science (MS) degree program in Counseling and Human Development (13.1101) from 48 credit hours to 60 credit hours</li> </ul>	Fall 2024
University of Virginia's College at Wise	<b>Baccalaureate Certificate Programs Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Management (52.0201)</li> <li>• Hospitality and Tourism Management (52.0901)</li> </ul>	Fall 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>Graduate Certificate Programs Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Sciences (13.0607)</li> <li>• Sustainability, Health, and Health Care (51.2211)</li> </ul> [Correction Date: March 14, 2024]	Fall 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>Program Modifications Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the delivery format of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Human and Organizational Development (52.1005) from hybrid to traditional face-to-face and fully online</li> <li>• Add an online delivery format to the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Sociology (45.1101)</li> </ul>	Fall 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>New Degree Program Not Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Digital Forensics and Incident Response (43.0403)</li> </ul>	March 27, 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>New Degree Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Supply Chain Management (52.0203)</li> </ul>	Fall 2024



Part 2 of 3:

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council’s “Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes,” and the “Framework for Associate Transfer Degree Programs,” the following items approved as delegated to staff:

**Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Transfer Degree Programs  
Effective Date, Summer 2024**

<b>Community College</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>CIP</b>
Blue Ridge	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
	Associate of Science	Computer Science	11.0701
		Education	13.0101
		Engineering	14.0101
		General Studies	24.0102
		Business Administration	52.0201
		Social Sciences	45.0101
Paul D. Camp	Associate of Science	Business Administration	52.0201
		Computer Science	11.0701
		General Studies	24.0102

Central Virginia	Associate of Science	Computer Science	11.0701
J. Sargeant Reynolds	Associate of Science	Computer Science	11.0701
		Health Sciences	51.0000
Laurel Ridge	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
	Associate of Science	Computer Science	11.0701
		Education	13.0101
		General Studies	24.0102
		Health Sciences	51.0000
		Business Administration	52.0201
Social Sciences	45.0101		
Mountain Empire	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
	Associate of Science	Education	13.0101
		Engineering	14.0101
		General Studies	24.0102
		Business Administration	52.0201
Science	30.0101		
Mountain Gateway	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
	Associate of Science	Social Sciences	45.0101
New River	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
	Associate of Science	Education	13.0101
		Engineering	14.0101
		General Studies	24.0102
		Business Administration	52.0201
Science	30.0101		
Patrick & Henry	Associate of Science	Business Administration	52.0201
		Education	13.0101
		General Studies	24.0102
		Health Sciences	51.0000
		Science	30.0101
Social Sciences	45.0101		
Tidewater	Associate of Science	Education	13.0101
		Health Sciences	51.0000
Virginia Highlands	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
	Associate of Science	Computer Science	11.0701
		Education	13.0101
		Engineering	14.0101
		General Studies	24.0102
		Health Sciences	51.0000
		Business Administration	52.0201
		Science	30.0101
Social Sciences	45.0101		
Virginia Western	Associate of Science	Computer Science	11.0701
		Health Sciences	51.0000

Wytheville	Associate of Science	Business Administration	52.0201
		Education	13.0101
		General Studies	24.0102
		Health Sciences	51.0000
		Science	30.0101
		Social Sciences	45.0101

Part 3 of 3:

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

**Four-Year Publics  
Programs Discontinued**

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
James Madison University	Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Speech Pathology (51.0203) [Council Approval Date: 09/05/1968]	Summer 2024

**Two-Year Publics  
Programs Discontinued  
Effective Summer 2024**

Community College	CIP	Award
Danville	15.0000	AAS, Applied Engineering Technology
Danville	15.1302	Diploma, Computer Aided Drafting and Design Technology

Danville	47.0603	Certificate, Auto Body Mechanics
Danville	43.0406	Certificate, Cybercrime Investigation
Danville	15.0899	Certificate, Drafting Technology
Laurel Ridge	51.0799	Certificate, Medical Transcriptionist
Mountain Gateway	12.0500	Certificate, Culinary Arts
Northern Virginia	23.1303	Certificate, Professional Writing
Patrick & Henry	52.0399	AAS, Accounting
Patrick & Henry	52.0499	AAS, Administrative Support Technology
Patrick & Henry	22.0302	AAS, Legal Assisting
Patrick & Henry	52.0499	Certificate, Clerical Studies
Patrick & Henry	51.0999	Certificate, Health Sciences
Reynolds	51.0999	AAS, Health Science
Southwest Virginia	15.0303	AAS, Computer Electronics Technology
Southwest Virginia	50.9999	Certificate, Arts & Crafts
Southwest Virginia	19.0709	Certificate, Early Childhood Development
Southwest Virginia	48.0508	Certificate, Welding

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
May 13, 2024**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Ken Ampy called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m., at Bridgewater College, Forrer Hall, Room 215, in Bridgewater, Virginia.

Committee members present: Ken Ampy, Jason El Koubi and J. Douglas Straley.

Committee members absent: Thaddeus Holloman, Dr. William Harvey and Cheryl Oldham

Staff members present: Joseph G. DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Jodi Fisler, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Paul Smith, and Bob Spieldenner.

Special guests present: Deputy Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 18 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**

On a motion by Mr. Straley and seconded by Mr. El Koubi, the minutes were approved unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Ampy introduced and invited staff to present information on the following topics:

**ACTION ON PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION CERTIFICATIONS**

Dr. DeFilippo introduced and presented on two private post-secondary education institutions seeking authorization to operate in the Commonwealth. Dr. DeFilippo discussed language in the Code of Virginia which applies to both in-state and out-of-state institutions prohibiting the offering of post-secondary education without being authorized by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Representatives from the University of the Cumberlands and from Pardee RAND Graduate School thanked Council for their attention and support. In response to a query from Mr. Straley, Dr. DeFilippo noted staff have reviewed both applications and found both to be compliant with regulations.

The following resolutions were approved unanimously (3-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies University of the Cumberlands to operate as a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective May 14, 2024.**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies Pardee RAND Graduate School to operate as a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective May 14, 2024.**

### **REPORT OF EMERGENCY ACTION**

Dr. De Filippo introduced and presented on an emergency action taken by SCHEV staff suspending new enrollment of students by Fairfax University of America (FXUA), a private post-secondary education institution. Virginia regulations enable the director of SCHEV to take emergency action if a school is on the receiving end of adverse U.S. Department of Education action. Fairfax University of America is no longer Title IV eligible, an adverse action. In response to a query from Mr. El Koubi, Dr. DeFilippo noted that losing Title IV eligibility means the institution cannot award Federal Student Financial Aid.

The following resolutions were approved unanimously (3-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia ratifies the suspension of new enrollment by Fairfax University of America (FXUA).**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agency director may remove the suspension upon his determination that FXUA has documented that it is likely to achieve accreditation by February 19, 2025.**

### **DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL CRITERIA**

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the topic and presented on four criteria used by SCHEV staff in the evaluation of new degree program proposals: specific demand, employment demand, student demand and duplication. The topic has been discussed in committee over the last several meetings; this item continues past discussions and requests explicit input from the committee on potential efficiencies, as well as how to be responsive to state needs. The Secretary of Education has asked staff to consider how SCHEV can use its responsibility to support the governor's strategic objectives for Higher Education, including preparing students for employment and increasing exposure to the world of work. Deputy Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent, spoke to the Governor's concern that approved programs are in demand and their value is commensurate with debt taken on to obtain the degree.

In response to a query from Mr. El Koubi, Dr. DeFilippo described the collaboration between SCHEV staff and the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE). VOEE is working with staff to create a SCHEV tool syncing education product with Virginia labor market needs. In response to a query by Mr. Ampy, Dr. DeFilippo noted the policy allows for evaluation of proposals that rely more heavily on some of the four criteria areas than others, which accounts for proposed degrees in emerging fields where employment skills are known but job titles are fluid or rapidly evolving. Mr. Ampy thanked SCHEV staff and

the Secretary of Education's staff for their work and recommended a follow-up conversation with the full academic affairs committee.

**UPDATE/FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION FROM MARCH: CERTIFIED POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS; TRANSFER STATUS OF ASSOCIATE DEGREE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the topic and presented updates on certified postsecondary schools and the transfer status of high school graduates who earn an associate degree while in high school. In response to a query from Mr. Straley, Dr. DeFilippo noted a trend in postsecondary schools being concentrated in northern Virginia but being important factors in local economies across the Commonwealth. Dr. DeFilippo indicated that data show growth in the number of students participating in dual enrollment back to pre-pandemic levels. Further, Dr. DeFilippo noted that, while there is a state policy on the credit worthiness of dual enrolment courses, there is no state policy that governs the academic standing afforded high school associate degree graduates when they enter four-year institutions directly.

**RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF LIAISON**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ampy adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

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Ken Ampy  
Acting Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

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Kirstin Pantazis  
Staff, Academic Affairs

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
May 13, 2024**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Ms. O'Holleran called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the John Forrer Learning Commons at Bridgewater College. Committee members present: Walter Curt; Jennie O'Holleran; Delceno Miles; and John Jumper.

The following Committee members were absent: John Broderick, Victoria Harker.

Staff members present: Tom Allison; Lee Andes; Alisha Bazemore; Alan Edwards; Grace Covello Khattar; Laura Osberger, Tod Massa; Emily Salmon; and Kristin Whelan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by General Jumper, the minutes from the March 18, 2024, Resources and Planning Committee meetings were approved with one change on page 18 to change Mr. Harker to Ms. Harker.

**ACTION ON REGULATION AND GUIDELINE UPDATES**

Chair O'Holleran requested Mr. Andes update the committee on the regulation and guideline updates based on Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 19 to reduce regulatory requirements by at least 25 percent. The purposes of this item are to present for Council action: (i) The items from the financial-aid-program regulation and guidelines that staff's review identified as not being required specifically by statute or in the Act of Appropriation. (ii) Staff's proposed guidelines for the new program via which public institutions may use a portion of their respective appropriation for the Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program (VSFAP) toward emergency assistance programs for students. (These guidelines will govern institutions' aid-use authorization as afforded to them in Chapter 1, Item 255.5, of the 2023 [Special Session] Act of Assembly.)

Staff identified 27 total items within the reviewed regulations and guidelines that are not specifically required by either statute or budget language. Of these, staff determined that 11 could be removed without causing harm to the administration of the programs. By removing or rewording these items, staff will reduce regulatory requirements by over 40 percent, exceeding the administrative goal of 25 percent.

Mr. Curt inquired about the involvement of the universities in SCHEV's proposed recommendations. Staff indicated that the universities were involved in our recommendation process and kept informed. Ms. Miles asked about the partnership of colleges with private foundations to help supplement emergency aid programs at the colleges.

The Committee acted on a motion offered by Ms. Miles seconded by General Jumper to recommend the proposed changes to full Council. Members present included Ms. O'Holleran, Mr. Curt, Ms. Miles, and General Jumper.



## **DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL ENROLLMENT TRENDS**

Ms. O'Holleran introduced guest speaker Mr. Michael Walsh to facilitate additional council discussion of enrollment. Nationwide and within Virginia, many institutions have been and/or are experiencing enrollment declines, both in overall numbers and within specific demographics. Council members continue to express concerns over these trends. Mr. Walsh highlighted the enrollment challenges from multiple fronts as the pool of applicants begins to decline, as students reconsider the benefits of higher education and as institutions endure the repercussions of the pandemic and the rollout of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Ms. Miles asked about the inclusion of international students when looking at enrollment trends. Mr. Walsh indicated that he has focused on domestic students given the volatility in current international student enrollment trends. Mr. Curt asked Mr. Walsh about the demographic change in higher education related to gender. Mr. Walsh indicated that male enrollment has been declining since the 1990s and noted several theories as to why. Some states have addressed this by incorporating new courses or programs based on regional or local needs. General Jumper inquired about the correlation in the reduction of male enrollment and the high school dropout rate. Mr. Walsh indicated that more research would need to be done to confirm that correlation. Mr. Walsh highlighted two populations of students that are leading to some of the enrollment decline including individuals who are not graduating from high school and a group of students who are enrolling in technical programs. The committee suggested collaborating more with the K-12 sector and being more proactive to address issues related to enrollment decline.

Mr. Walsh discussed the need for institutions to do research on the incoming population and the need to increase retention efforts. Mr. Curt asked Mr. Walsh about the social marketing practices of the larger schools and the impact that may have on them being known as "safety schools." He also asked about the ability of SCHEV to keep a unified database related to admissions and enrollment. Mr. Walsh noted some challenges in the collaboration process of putting together a survey to address why students make the decisions they do related to college enrollment that would meet the needs of all public colleges in Virginia. Ms. Miles highlighted the need for employers to weigh in on the enrollment process in relation to what programs are needed for our businesses. Chair O'Holleran noted that we can include policy suggestions in the upcoming biennium to encourage collaboration efforts to address concerns related to enrollment. Chair O'Holleran suggested staff to come up with a list of not only what SCHEV is charged to do but what might need higher authority as well to address enrollment issues. General Jumper suggested staff also come up with ideas to address various Council concerns. General Jumper also suggested a program where two-year and four-year institutions would collaborate more and a package where tuition would be known ahead of time to keep students motivated to complete the program. Mr. Andes highlighted the importance of cost assurance but noted some aspects that would be complicated related to the decentralized system of higher education in Virginia. Mr. Curt suggested students at the two-year colleges take classes at the nearby four-year colleges during the evening hours when the four-year buildings are less used to encourage transfer rates.

## **UPDATE ON HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET FROM THE 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Chair O'Holleran invited Mr. Allison and Dr. Khattar to provide an update on the 2024-26 budget. Staff indicated that the General Assembly is currently in special session to vote on the new proposed budget that was released Saturday. The higher education budget remains largely the same to the Conference budget released on March 7. Staff provided a thorough review of the conference budget at the March Council meeting. There was a slight change to the VMSDEP policy to extend the hold harmless for students who commit by May 15 and enroll by Fall 2024. If the General Assembly takes action and votes to approve the budget today, the 2024-26 biennial budget will go into effect July 1.

As far as legislation goes the Governor has until May 17 to veto, sign or take no action only on legislation that was returned to the Governor without his recommendation adopted. In other words, when the legislature denied his amendments, he has an opportunity to take final action by vetoing, signing or taking no action which would result in the passing of the legislation by May 17.

As the budget and legislation are finalized, staff will report to Council with an updated list of SCHEV duties. The committee inquired about the final impact to the TAG program. Mr. Andes indicated that the TAG award was increased to \$5,125 in the first year and \$5,250 in the second year.

## **UPDATE ON FAFSA PROCESS**

Mr. Andes was invited by the Chair to discuss the various setbacks related to the FAFSA process. Notable roll-out challenges include: a three-month delay in making the application available to applicants; a soft-launch that included black-out dates and waiting rooms; complications for applicants to create student-aid accounts; errors in both the function of the application and in the calculation of the Student Aid Index; multiple delays in the release of FAFSA results to the institutions; and delays in the ability of students to make corrections to the form. As the glitches were addressed, the application process itself improved week to week. Many institutions responded by adjusting application deadlines; some are making estimated award packages, and nearly all are advising late applicants that they will try to be as understanding and accommodating as possible. The delayed release of the FAFSA information is reducing the amount of time available for institutions to compile and prepare the data for awarding aid and for working with students on any needed verification or adjustments.

Mr. Andes noted that Virginia is faring better than other states in terms of FAFSA completion noting that our access partners have been very active in the outreach process to encourage completion. General Jumper inquired about ways to help the VMSDEP recipients complete the FAFSA process in light of the new requirement to complete FAFSA for the VMSDEP process. Mr. Andes said that we can work with our access partners to target the military populations in Virginia to ensure they are receiving the support needed to complete the FAFSA.

## **UPDATE ON INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND 2024 SIX-YEAR PLAN PROCESS**

Mr. Allison and Dr. Khattar were invited to update the committee on the process for the Institutional Performance Standards and the Six-Year plan timelines. Dr. Khattar reviewed the six education-related measures that the Council is charged with reviewing and certifying the public institutions in the Commonwealth. Dr. Khattar also noted that this committee will review the education-related measures at the July council meeting, and financial data will be presented at the September council meeting upon receipt from the Secretary of Finance and the Department of Planning and Budget. Staff would seek action from Council to certify the institutions at the September council meeting.

Committee members expressed interest in updating the measures themselves to ensure accountability of institutions. Staff indicated that updates to the measures would require action from the legislature, and we could propose updates for future cycles of review of the Institutional Performance Standards.

Mr. Allison reviewed the Six-Year plan process noting that this is an update year for the plans. Institutions develop, and boards approve, six-year plans in odd-numbered years, to inform the preparation of the next biennial budget. In even-numbered years, such as this year, plans may be updated, if necessary, and (re)affirmed by boards. The templates provided by the state for institutions' plans contain two parts: an Excel workbook (Part I); and a narrative Word document (Part II). In even-numbered years, institutions are required only to update Part I, but may update Part II if desired.

SCHEV staff consulted with staff of Op-Six members in April, and agreement was reached that only minimal changes to the templates would be made this year given its update-year status. As a result, the plan templates and instructions will be released to institutions in May. Those instructions note a possibility of the deadline for plans' submission being extended if the state budget is delayed beyond May 15. Last year, SCHEV staff and a contracted consulting firm developed 17 "fact-packs" - visualizations of data on each institution's academics, outcomes and finances. At the direction of the finance and education secretariats, SCHEV staff are exploring options to update the fact-packs to inform op-six's review of the six-year plan updates.

General Jumper inquired about the ability to analyze the data received by the institutions in the Six-Year plan process noting that staff should review the data and make recommendations to Op-Six based on what we are reviewing.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Ms. O'Holleran motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

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Jennie O'Holleran  
Committee Chair

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Grace Covello Khattar  
SCHEV Staff