

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
July 23, 2024**

DRAFT MINUTES

General Jumper called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the SCHEV offices.

Council members present: General John Jumper (Chair), Jason El Koubi, Lindsay Fryer, Delceno Miles, Cheryl Oldham, Jennie O'Holleran, John Olsen, Carlyle Ramsey(virtual), Doug Straley and Steven Taylor.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Joe DeFilippo, Darlene Derricot, Alan Edwards, Brittany Everett, Jodi Fidler, Sandra Freeman, Tod Massa, Erin McGrath, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

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

General Jumper motioned to approve Dr. Ramsey's remote participation due to a medical condition. The motion was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Miles, seconded by Mr. El Koubi, the minutes of the May 13, 2024, Private College Advisory Board Meeting and the May 14, 2024, Council meeting were approved unanimously.

General Jumper expressed his gratitude in being chosen as the SCHEV Council Chair and he welcomed the newly appointed members. He spoke briefly about the importance of the work that SCHEV does. General Jumper stressed the importance of respecting Mr. Fleming's leadership and the expertise of the agency staff. General Jumper expressed an interest in the Council being more vocal advocates for higher education issues.

REMARKS FROM CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PREISIDENT, DR. JOHN CAPPS

General Jumper invited Dr. Capps to join the meeting and provide remarks about Central Virginia Community College. Dr. Capps spoke about the diversity of the student body and curriculum. Ninety-five percent of CVCC students graduate with no student debt and a similar number stay in the Lynchburg area.

Dr. Capps highlighted the following initiatives are outlined in Accelerate Opportunity, the CVCC strategic plan:

- Several programs, paid for by federal grants, that are targeted at first generation, underrepresented students. This includes a comprehensive advising and an enrollment management program.
- The math achievement learning lab (tutoring center) student math completion increased by 30%.
- With grant funding, CVCC created a new position, the Community Connections Coordinator. This person connects students living in poverty with programs in the Lynchburg community.
- CVCC partnered with Beacon of Hope to provide tuition free community college to local Lynchburg high school graduates. Now partnering with them again to bring back student pausers who started but did not finish a credential.
- The CAPS grant program helps single parents complete a program with tuition funding and childcare.
- Concurrent and dual enrollment agreements create more opportunities for community college and high school students. Transfer students can take advantage of concurrent enrollment agreements that CVCC has with Liberty, Sweet Briar, Randolph College and Lynchburg University. Another dual enrollment opportunity is the Governor's STEM academy.
- CVCC gets students into the workforce fast through their career credentialing and FastForward programs. These programs provide students with a streamlined pathway to the workforce.

Dr. Capps stated that the future is bright at CVCC. CVCC's summer enrollment is up by 18% and the fall enrollment is up by 12%. He closed by describing CVCC's commitment to providing a work-based learning experience for all students and he applauded the Virginia Community College System as a whole.

Mr. El Koubi asked Dr. Capps to discuss the relationship between the VCCS and SCHEV. Dr. Capps suggested that the VCCS needs more financial investments from the state to improve facilities, update equipment and to hire and retain faculty.

UPDATE ON VMSDEP

Mr. Fleming updated the Council on the status of the VMSDEP funding. The original bill has been repealed and the taskforce is working out how to address the problem. Mr. Fleming explained that the General Assembly met and approved greater, one-time funding for the program. SCHEV plays a role in how the funds are distributed. Conversations are ongoing and SCHEV anticipates further action in the 2025 General Assembly Session.

UPDATE ON DAY OF DIALOG EVENT

Dr. Fisler shared a presentation on SCHEV's partnership with the Constructive Dialog Institute (CDI) and the May 30, 2024, Day of Dialog event hosted at Virginia Tech. The CDI is national non-profit that helps colleges and universities transform their campuses into inclusive learning environments that support dialogue across differences. constructive dialog is a form of conversation where people with different perspectives try and understand each other without giving up their own positions. The CDI offers training to instructors at fourteen Virginia institutions.

In 2023-2024, SCHEV subsidized the fees by 50%. This year, SCHEV is covering 33.3% of the fees. The cohort of participants were measured and showed improvement in six different areas:

- Affective polarization.
- Belonging.
- Conflict resolution.
- Dichotomous thinking.
- Intellectual humility.
- Psychological safety.

In addition to improvement across all metrics, patterns of improvement were similar across demographic groups. Most students self-reported benefits of the training including:

- Applying skills to their personal and professional life.
- More confidence in communicating across differences.
- More confidence having difficult conversations.
- More comfortable working with diverse others.
- Building more meaningful relationships with their peers.

At the Day of Dialog, attendees shared the types of programs their institutions are implementing. There were approximately 100 participants from 20 institutions. A survey of participants found that most attendees were pleased with the programming. Mr. El Koubi asked who attended from the institutions. Ms. Fryer asked about any issues with the CDI program.

UPDATE ON SB 21(POLICIES FOR ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY OF ACCOMMODATIONS

Ms. Salmon provided an update on SB21 specifically on the eligibility of students with disabilities to obtain accommodations in higher education. SCHEV was tasked with identifying the barriers to receiving accommodations for students with permanent or temporary disabilities the institutions. The final goal is a best practice document which was finalized in May 2023.

SCHEV was charged with forming an expert panel to look at services provided on campus. The new workgroup used the best practices document, refined it, and developed survey questions to determine how public institutions aligned with best practices. The survey window closes in late July. The next meeting of the workgroup will look at emergent themes from the survey to determine next steps. The workgroup will convene several more times to draft a report that will be delivered October 1.

Ms. Miles asked if mental health falls within the description of disabilities in this case. Ms. Salmon indicated that mental health is covered in that some students who suffer from mental health issues also qualify for disability accommodations. Mr. Olsen asked how we are measuring the effectiveness of the institutions at providing these services. Ms. Salmon indicated that this study doesn't look at the effectiveness of what is offered. Ms. Olsen asked if SCHEV can look at this without legislation assigning it.

DISCUSSION OF PREPARATION FOR THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Mr. Andes led a discussion about the initial ideas for the Council's priorities for the recommendations for the budget and policy for the 2025 legislative session.

Many of the Council's priorities from January were addressed in the budget including funds for institutions to mitigate tuition increases, increases to need-based financial aid and requests for the SCHEV budget. 2025 is a short session and the General Assembly will be looking at amending the 2024-2026 biennium budget.

Virginia operates on a two-year biennial budget. Mr. Andes process behind creating Council recommendations. Staff prepared topic areas for Council to discuss. Staff will take notes on the discussions and create recommendations to share with the Council in September. Recommendations proposed in September will be finalized into a list to be formally adopted in October.

Mr. Andes further discussed how staff forms the list of recommendations. Staff looks at the relationship between the institutions' requests in their 6-year operating plans, fiscal and outcome conditions and broader economic factors and the statewide strategic plan.

Ms. O'Holleran implored the Council that they consider staff and stakeholder capacity when considering what to recommend. General Jumper would like everyone to feel a sense of urgency to get these recommendations in on time.

REPORT FROM THE AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Fleming highlighted the following from the Director's report. The rest of the report can be found on page 130 of the July agenda book.

Mr. Fleming reported on the first 8 weeks of his tenure as SCHEV Director. He stated he is encouraging staff to speak with their outside voices and have a bit more of a point of view. Agency priorities include access and affordability that include flexibility and opportunity. Mr. Fleming also said that making sure that higher education is student (customer) centered. He also stated that he's like align higher education with the workforce and recognize the postsecondary institutions as contributors to the economy. Finally, Mr. Fleming stated that he'd like higher education to serve our underserved communities better because as a state and a country we should be judged by how well we serve those that need it the most.

Six-Year Plans: On May 15, staff distributed instructions and templates to the 17 public institutions for updates to their six-year operating plans. The updated plans were due July 15; review by staff is ongoing. The Op-Six group will meet in August to discuss the updates and the findings from staff's review. SCHEV also facilitated a contract with VCU for updates to the 17 sets of fact packs, to inform institutions' plan updates and Op-Six's review thereof.

Student-Success Community of Practice: In May, the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) organization included SCHEV among the state agencies it selected for its new Community of Practice (COP) for Student Success. On June 28-29 our team represented Virginia in the COP's first convening to begin to identify/explore effective, scalable policies and practices toward developing and implementing an evidence-based, comprehensive (state-level), student-success policy

agenda. He asked Paula Robinson to speak on the key findings. Most SHEEO offer have a dedicated unit and SCHEV is considering it.

SCHEV Artificial Intelligence (AI) Taskforce: On June 26, staff convened a group of AI experts and practitioners as a taskforce to facilitate SCHEV's fulfillment of its roles in EO 30 and the "Guidelines for AI Integration Throughout Education." The agenda for this first meeting consisted of SWOT-type questions and dialogue. Ideas included transitioning the taskforce into a standing advisory committee; holding an AI-in-higher education summit; and creating a best practice/use case repository/clearinghouse.

SB 1280 Workgroup and Report: On June 27, staff submitted to the legislature's education-committee chairs the report from the workgroup required in SB 1280 (2023; Dunnavant) to be convened by SCHEV to ascertain whether a requirement of an internship/work-based learning experience for each undergraduate of a public baccalaureate institution would be "logistically and fiscally viable." The workgroup concluded and the report recommended that "wholesale adoption" of such a requirement is not viable at this time. Mr. Fleming asked Ms. Bazemore to comment on this. SCHEV's role was to convene a workgroup to create recommendations. Waiting for response for the House and Senate education chairs.

New Workstreams for the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP): On July 3, Drs. Bazemore and Edwards and I met with Kirk Cox and Frank Atkinson from the Virginia Business-Higher Education Council (VBHEC) regarding the new appropriation and budget language pertaining to: (i) internship centers at public institutions; and (ii) matching funds for small businesses that employ interns. As a V-TOP partner, the VBHEC is assisting with advancing those two initiatives by creating workstreams and work groups, which will develop recommendations over the next three months. Ms. Bazemore also commented on this. VBHE is facilitating a work group from July to September 2025 to study this and scale it up.

Virginia Intern Day: In June and at the request of SCHEV, Governor Youngkin issued his third proclamation of a Virginia Intern Day, this year on July 25. Staff has sent invitations to state officials, employers, higher-ed institutions, and interns for events around Capitol Square, Richmond and the Commonwealth on that day. Council members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to celebrate interns in their organizations.

Ms. Oldham asked if SCHEV has someone on staff who has a business background to develop business aligned programs. The Council spent several minutes brainstorming about created business aligned programs and serving the underserved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee

Ms. Oldham introduced the following item that the committee approved for Council's consideration:

William Mary proposed an organizational change. They are creating a new school of Computing, Data Science and Physics at the institution.

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the establishment of the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, effective August 15, 2024.

On a motion by General Jumper that was seconded by Mr. Straley, the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Oldham further reported that the committee participated in a discussion lead by Dr. DeFelippo about Academic Affairs team responsibilities. The committee spent a lot of time discussing program approval procedures and asked staff to discuss in further detail at the September meeting. Among the approval process topics committee members wish to examine more closely, are the program productivity reviews. The committee would like to know if there are processes to measure the return on investment on programs and if a student is able to earn enough to support themselves within specific programs.

Resources and Planning Committee

Ms. O'Holleran briefed the Council on the preliminary results of the survey of high school students. The results track with nationwide trends. The data review will continue, and a report will be delivered at the September meeting.

The committee also discussed the institution performance standard (ISP) measures. Only two institutions passed all the measures this year and several institutions failed on three or more measures, a possible result of the continuing impact of the pandemic. Committee will discuss further and act on the ISPs in September.

Finally, committee discussed the ongoing issues with the new FAFSA roll-out. SCHEV staff expects challenges to continue into next year. SCHEV college access staff will continue to help families navigate the application process.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Included at the end of this document.

DISCUSSION OF 2025 SCHEDULE OF LOCATIONS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ms. Osberger presented the proposed dates and location of the 2025 Council meetings. The following dates and locations are proposed for the 2025 Council meetings:

- **January 7, 2025** – Virtual
- **March 17-18, 2025** – Virginia Military Institute (Lexington)
- **May 12-13, 2025** (with Private College Advisory Board) – Randolph-Macon College (Ashland)
- **July 15, 2025** – Piedmont Virginia Community College (Charlottesville)
- **September 15-16, 2025** (with Council of Presidents) – William & Mary (Williamsburg)

- **October 20-21, 2025** – SCHEV (Richmond)

Council will vote on the schedule at the September Council meeting.

ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS FOR DEPARTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

General Jumper read a resolution honoring retiring Council member, Thaddeus Holloman. On a motion from General Jumper and seconded by Delceno Miles, the resolution passed unanimously.

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

General John Jumper
Council Chair

SCHEV 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
Christopher Newport University	Baccalaureate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Ethics (38.0104) 	Fall 2024
George Mason University	CIP Code Changes Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the CIP code of the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Economics (45.0601) to (45.0603) Change the CIP code of the Master of Science (MS) degree program in Finance (52.0801) to (27.0305) 	Fall 2024
Laurel Ridge Community College	Facilitated Staff Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate of Applied Science degree program (AAS) in Criminal Justice (43.0103) 	Fall 2024
New River Community College	Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the name of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Police Science to Criminal Justice (43.0103) 	Summer 2024
Old Dominion University	Graduate Certificate Programs Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artificial Intelligence in Data Science (30.7001) Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (11.0102) 	Fall 2024
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	CIP Code Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the CIP code of the Master of Laws (LLM) degree program in American Legal Studies (22.9999) to (22.0203) 	Fall 2024
University of Virginia	CIP Code Changes Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the CIP code of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program in Business Administration (52.0201) to (52.1301) Change the CIP code of the Master of Science (MS) degree program in Business Analytics (52.1301) to (30.7102) Change the CIP code of the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree program in Landscape Architecture (03.0103) to (04.0601) 	Summer 2024
University of Virginia	Facilitated Staff Approval:	Fall 2024

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Computational Biology (26.1104) 	
Virginia Commonwealth University	Facilitated Staff Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Pharmaceutical Sciences (51.2010) 	Fall 2024
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	CIP Code Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the CIP code of the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Water: Resources, Policy, and Management (03.0299) to (40.0605) 	Fall 2024
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Facilitated Staff Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree program in Landscape Architecture (04.0601) 	Fall 2024
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 Building Construction (52.2001) with 134 credit hours to 122 credit hours. 	Fall 2024
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Communication (09.0905) 	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	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Certificate program in Strategic Trade (52.1101) 	Summer 2024
James Madison University	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (13.1401) [Council Approval Date: May 19, 2020] 	Fall 2024
James Madison University	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Certificate program in eLearning (11.9999) 	Fall 2024
Longwood University	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree designation in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of 	Summer 2025

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
	Science (BA/BS) degree program in Physics (40.0801) [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	
University of Virginia	Program Discontinuances Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Arts (MA) degree program in Slavic Languages and Literatures (CIP code: 16.0400) [Council Approval Date: February 6, 1969] Education Specialist (EdS) degree program in Educational Psychology (42.2806) [Council Approval Date: April 2, 1974] 	Summer 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	Program Discontinuation Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Science (MS) degree program in Nursing (51.3818) [Council Approval Date: March 20, 1967] 	Fall 2024
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Program Discontinuation Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree program in Landscape Architecture (04.0601) [Council Approval Date: November 5, 1970] 	Fall 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
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	Rename the Department of Theatre and Speech to the Department of Theatre and Performance . William & Mary indicates that with the removal of speech courses offered by the department, the new name will "ensure the department's name is accurate." Moreover, the addition of the word "performance" will "highlight the department's focus on theatrical performance and dance performance."	June 1, 2024
Old Dominion University	Rename the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership to the Department of Educational Leadership and Workforce Development . ODU indicates that the new name "reflects the degree programs in the department and, will "provide an accurate and recognizable description of the department's purpose	May 15, 2024

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	and focus.” Further, the renaming would “align the department’s name with the terminology commonly used at the state level to describe areas (e.g., organizations, units, initiatives, and activities) dedicated to workforce development.”	
Old Dominion University	Create the School of Exercise Science . The School will reside in the College of Health Sciences. The establishment of the School will relocate the academic programs and faculty from the Dean’s office to a separate dedicated academic unit and ensure “faculty in exercise science have oversight...and an appropriate level autonomy” over “resources and exercise science education at the university.”	May 15, 2024
Old Dominion University	Create the School of Speech-Language Pathology . The School will reside in the College of Health Sciences. The new school is needed to relocate faculty and degree programs currently in the Office of Dean to “an academic unit that will serve as the designated location for faculty to conduct research” and “administer degree programs” in speech-language pathology. The school will also have “specialized faculty leadership” which is needed “to enable the faculty to coordinate and have oversight of resources used to support speech-language pathology education at the university.”	May 15, 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	Rename the School of Population Health to the School of Public Health . The School has been renamed to align with names used by VCU’s SCHEV peer institutions. The new name will ensure “VCU’s school is recognized by professional organizations for public health.” The proposed name will also “reinforce the university’s standing in the academic community of public health.”	July 15, 2024

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
July 24, 2024**

MINUTES

Ms. O'Holleran called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Conference Room of the SCHEV offices.

Committee members present: John Jumper, Jennie O'Holleran, Delceno Miles, John Olsen and Carlyle Ramsey(virtual).

Committee members absent: Walter Curt.

Staff members present: Lee Andes; Alisha Bazemore; Alan Edwards; Jim Ellis, Scott Fleming; Laura Osberger, Tod Massa; Erin McGrath; Emily Salmon; Bob Spieldenner and Kristin Whelan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Mr. Olsen, the minutes from the May 13, 2024, Resources and Planning Committee meeting was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Dr. Edwards provided some background on the origin of the survey. He also shared some of the challenges faced in the rollout and implementation of the survey.

SCHEV Program Specialist, Jim Ellis introduced Director of Social Science Research at Old Dominion University, Tancy J. Vandecar-Burdin, who shared preliminary findings from the survey of high school seniors.

Dr. Vandecar-Burdin discussed the methodology behind the pilot of the survey and through a series of slides, she described the responses from students regarding their post-high school plans. The results also illustrated reasons students don't attend college and pointed at the gender differences in the responses. The survey also looked at where high school students get their information about attending college.

Of the 630 completed surveys, Dr. Vandecar-Burkin shared a selection of answers to open ended questions. She stressed that the results are still preliminary.

She shared the key takeaways including the following:

- Virginia results resemble results from surveys in other states.
- Most frequent reasons for not attending college include costs, lack of value or necessity in a degree and not enjoying school.
- Sources of information about college attendance may be different for college bound vs. non-college bound students.

- About two-thirds of non-college bound students indicate that they may eventually go to college.
- Almost one in four off all students are only meeting with school counselor once (or not at all) to discuss plans for after high school.

Ms. Miles noted that she would like to see the geographic location of the survey respondents to compare the regions of Virginia. Mr. Fleming cautioned that the smaller response size might influence the accuracy of some of the data.

General Jumper questioned how Council can use the information learned from the survey. Even with preliminary results, General Jumper suggested that Council could make decisions about ways to address concerns.

Mr. Olsen asked how college was defined and if the definition was limited to a 4-year experience. He also asked about whether the list that was provided were students already inclined to go to college. Mr. Olsen expressed concerned that the survey underrepresented students who would prefer credentials on a shorter timeline. Ms. O'Holleran suggested that we could look at the results from surveys in other states.

Dr. Edwards stated that staff will share a final report at the September meeting.

Mr. Andes suggested looking at the high school college attendance rates because the culture of the school influences whether the students decide to go to college.

Dr. Carlyle suggested that the Office of Institutional Research can provide information regarding students studying in tech fields.

UPDATE ON INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

SCHEV has been assessing the Institutional Performance Standards (ISP) for two decades. Mr. Andes described the six education and six finance administrative measures. The six education-related measures are for SCHEV to review, and administrative-finance related review takes place on the Office of Planning and Budget.

Four of the educated-related measurements determine how well the institution can project and plan. These measures act as a counterweight to over projections.

- Headcount – how many in-state undergraduate students.
- Degrees awarded for in-state associate or bachelor's degrees.
- STEM-H Degrees awarded.
- Progression and retention.

The follow two measures are benchmarks rather than projections.

- Degrees for underrepresented students.
- Two-year transfers.

There are financial benefits for institutions that meet all the standards and are certified by Council. Institutions who miss one or more of the measures, Council can require a

mediation plan or decertify an institution. Council has latitude to grant exception and modifications in the process.

The financial incentives for institutions that meet the requirements for the projections and benchmark measures may include access to the following:

- The interest earning on tuition and fees.
- Unexpended appropriations from the prior year.
- Pro rata on rebates on credit card purchases.
- Rebates on transaction fees on some sole-source procurements.

Mr. Andes reviewed this year's results of the system as a whole. Virginia falls short on the number of degrees for underrepresented students. General Jumper suggested that there needs to be some baseline that can be adjusted up or down to avoid anomalies that could cause an institution to fail in one area. Mr. Fleming pointed out the Institutional Performance Standards are a very small lever at that Council may wish to discuss the value of the IPS in the future.

Mr. Andes further discussed the measures for individual institutions. UVA and Virginia Tech are the two institutions that passed all measures. For institutions that failed on some measures, SCHEV asks for an explanation. Many institutions point to lingering effects of the pandemic. Historically, Council has passed institutions with two or fewer missed measures and required remediation for institutions that have failed on three or more of the measures.

General Jumper stated that Council should avoid punishing the victim. He asked how the institutions board of the visitors are addressing these issues. He suggested that it may be time to reassess the measures.

The Council took no action but plans to in September.

UPDATE ON FAFSA COMPLETIONS AND COLLEGE ACCESS ACTIVITIES

Mr. Andes discussed the new FAFSA rollout. Currently institutions are still dealing with a lot of uncertainty. Institutions are cautiously optimistic but cannot interpret information precisely. The stress level in the financial aid offices is very high and they worry they will lose good people. Mr. Andes is concerned about the loss of trust between institutions and the federal government and the students and the financial mechanisms going forward. The federal government has said that it is committed to opening the 2025 FAFSA on October 1. Mr. Andes believes there will be fewer problems but that there are still issues. While many problems have been addressed, the primary issues current concern include the following:

- Institutions are dealing with continued uncertainty about fall enrollments.
- Institutions report that delays in being able to make corrections and receive the reprocessed FAFSAs are causing significant problems. Awards will continue until the beginning of the fall term.
- Many students have committed to enroll at institutions without knowing how much financial aid they may receive.

- Financial aid offices continue to experience heavy workloads, and staff face high levels of stress deep into the summer.

Ms. Miles asked about the pressure on financial aid staff. Financial aid staff is dealing with an increased workload, no slower work periods and upset students and families. Mr. Olsen asked if this has particularly impacted the enrollment of underrepresented populations. Mr. Andes stated that the risk to underserved students is a real concern. Mr. Olsen asked if there are ways to mitigate the issue. Access efforts like reaching out to students early and providing counseling in filling out the application help.

General Jumper asked if anything has been done to look at the root causes of the rollout failure. Mr. Andes stated that he believes FAFSA was trying to change too much at once and too quickly. General Jumper suggested that SCEV organize an effort to address the problem. He suggested engaging veterans' groups to get them to help with the process of getting students through the application process.

Ms. McGrath discussed the access efforts. Ongoing initiatives include the following:

- Provide support to specific high-need school divisions through the administration of the GEAR UP Virginia grant.
- Coordinate Level Up Virginia to support taking the primary steps in going to college.
- Support the annual conference, the Virginia College Access Network for access practitioners.

Ms. McGrath introduced the new activities and initiatives that her team is involved with:

- Launched the Level Up Virginia website.
- Coordinate the Middle School Campus Visit project.
- Increased FAFSA support to address flawed rollout process.
- Partnered with the Virginia Department of Education to bridge communication and collaboration between the two agencies.
- Implement an AmericCorps planning grant to study the feasibility of establishing AdviseVA statewide college advising corps.
- Increase emphasis on FAFSA completion.

Ms. O'Holleran encouraged the access team to continue to keep SCHEV Council informed and share ways that they can help.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. O'Holleran announced a vote to approve remote participation of Carlyle Ramsey. The committee voted and approved the motion unanimously.

Ms. O'Holleran motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11: 45 a.m.

Jennie O'Holleran

Committee Chair

SCHEV Staff

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
July 23, 2024

MINUTES

Ms. Oldham called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., at James Monroe Building, 10th floor Conference Room, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in Richmond, Virginia.

Committee members present: Cheryl Oldham (Chair), Jason El Koubi, Steven Taylor, Lindsey Fryer, and J. Douglas Straley.

Staff members present: Darlene Derricott, Joseph G. DeFilippo, Jodi Fisler, Sandra Freeman, BethAnn Howard, Emily Muniz, Monica Osei, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Paul Smith.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 18 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

On motion by Mr. Straley and seconded by Mr. El Koubi, the minutes were approved unanimously (5-0).

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

ACTION ON PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the proposed new school at The College of William and Mary in Virginia (W&M). The new School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics will improve administration, enhance visibility, and enable improved external collaboration, particularly with Jefferson Labs. The new school would contain three departments and multiple degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Dr. Peggy Agouris, Provost at W&M, addressed the committee, noting the new school would be the first new school in over 50 years and will be transformative to the way W&M engages with the workforce community. In response to a query from Dr. Taylor, Dr. Agouris noted consistent demand for graduates in the included fields of study in the Northern Virginia region and growing demand for graduates in Richmond and throughout the commonwealth. In response to a query from Ms. Fryer, Dr. Agouris noted no concerns about continuing funding for the new school and an expectation of increased research development, which would benefit both students and faculty. In response to a comment from Mr. El Koubi, Dr. Agouris commented that smaller organizational units allow for increased nimbleness and efficiency, which increases responsiveness to workforce needs.

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** approves the establishment of the **School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics** at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, effective **August 15, 2024**.

DISCUSSION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the topic as an overview of the duties and responsibilities of SCHEV related to both public and private post-secondary higher education in Virginia, for the benefit of new committee members. SCHEV has parallel yet distinct duties for the two sectors (public and private), which are outlined respectively on pages 17-19 of the agenda book. In response to queries by Ms. Oldham and Dr. Taylor, Dr. DeFilippo suggested a discussion of internal academic affairs staff processes and the productivity and viability review process at a future committee meeting. In response to a query from Mr. El Koubi, Ms. Freeman, Private Postsecondary Education Director, explained that SCHEV staff review all complaints received from students of private and public institutions, whereas complaints that fall under Title VI are forwarded to a proper state or federal agency. In response to a query from Ms. Freyer, Dr. DeFilippo noted that staff regularly receives requests from organizations across the nation to comment as experts on civic engagement, program approval policy, and transfer credit policy, among other topics.

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 11:28 a.m.

Cheryl Oldham
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Kirstin Pantazis
Staff, Academic Affairs