

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL ORIENTATION
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024
MINUTES

Council Members present: Micah Edmond, Lindsey Fryer, John Olsen and Steven Taylor.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Lynne Archer-Brownlee, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Grace Khattar, Jess Madden, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Paula Robinson, Bob Spieldenner and Kristin Whelan.

Mr. Fleming started the meeting at 11:15 a.m. in Committee Room A in Chartway Arena at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. Mr. Fleming welcomed the Council members and asked Laura Osberger to outline the agenda for the meeting.

Ms. Osberger asked the members to introduce themselves. She directed the members to the SCHEV's role as stated in code.

Executive staff members provided overviews of the work of their section and how they work with Council members:

- Dr. DeFilippo talked about the Academic Affairs department and its coordination of both the public and private higher education sectors. He described the structure and duties of his unit including academic policy, program approvals and authorization of new and out-of-state institutions. Dr. DeFilippo answered several questions from new Council members about transfer, certification requirements and degree approvals.
- Ms. Archer- Brownlee provided an overview of the budget and finance department. She described how her unit supports the work of the agency by paying the bills, procuring goods and services and balancing the agency budget. She explained the largest SCHEV budget expenditures.
- Mr. Andes spoke the about Finance, Policy and Innovation unit. This unit described the unit's responsibilities in making budget and policy recommendations. He also described the financial aid responsibilities of his unit. He highlighted their responsibility with VMSDEP and domicile training. This unit also bridges the gap between higher education and K-12 through the college access activities of GEAR UP and Level Up. Council members asked questions about the relationship between the unit and financial aid at the federal level and about the operations of the Op-Six group. Prompted by a question, Mr. Fleming described the plan for the alignment of six-year plans and the statewide strategic plan.
- Dr. Edwards talked about strategic planning and policy studies. His unit is responsible for creating the statewide strategic plan every six years and monitoring it in the off years. He shared that this unit creates the Council

Initiative lists. The unit Dr. Edwards leads also administers the innovative internship program. Dr. Edwards answered Council questions about definitions of work-based learning.

- Mr. Massa talked about the Policy Analytics department and the data it collects and maintains. SCHEV is the lead agency for the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDC) and therefore has access to data from all the partner agencies. The Policy Analytics department directly supports several of SCHEV's assigned duties and supports the work of all other SCHEV departments. Mr. Massa also explained his team's responsibilities to the Virginia Information Technology Agency. Council members asked if the data system tracks student outcomes metrics and how SCHEV uses the metrics to making program approval decisions. They also asked questions about data collection methodology.
- Ms. Robinson provided an overview of the Equity and Engagement unit and her role as HR liaison with DHRM. She stated that the purpose of her role is to ensure all constituents, students and employees are served well by the Commonwealth. Mr. Fleming added that one of his priorities for SCHEV is to adequately serve under-served populations in the state. Council members asked for clarification of the term indigenous. Mr. Andes answered a question about undocumented students and the VASA financial aid form.
- Ms. Osberger discussed her unit. She first shared the role of Communications at SCHEV in media relations, FOIA and newsletters. She answered questions about member communications. Ms. Osberger shared the unit's role in coordinating logistics for Council meetings and members, agency operations and communications. Ms. Osberger described the planning of the Council meetings and the other larger events, the Board of Visitors and the Outstanding Faculty Awards.

Mr. Fleming wrapped up the meeting by encouraging the members to use SCHEV staff as resources.

The meeting concluded at 12:50 p.m.

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
September 16,2024**

MINUTES

Ms. O'Holleran called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm in the Chartway Arena Big Blue Room, Committee Room E at Old Dominion University.

Committee Members present: Delceno Miles, Jennie O'Holleran, John Olsen, and Dr. Carlyle Ramsey.

Committee Members absent: Walter Curt.

Staff members present Lee Andes, Alisha Bazemore, Alan Edwards, Grace Khattar, Laura Osberger, Tod Massa, Jess Madden, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner, and Yan Zheng.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the July 23, 2024, Resources and Planning Committee meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Ms. O'Holleran and seconded by Ms. Miles.

ACTION ON INSTITUTIONS' IPS PERFORMANCE

Dr. Khattar reported on the results of the 2024 institutional performance assessment for public institutions in Virginia. There are two categories of measuring institutional performance, educational and fiscal standards. The state budget sets forth six education-related standards, four covering two years of projections. Three of the institutions did not meet three or more of the educational standards - Longwood, Virginia State and UVA Wise. One institution, ODU, did not meet the 80% threshold for fiscal standards as assessed by the Department of Planning and Budgeting. However, Dr. Khattar said that the data from the APA (Auditor of Public Accounts) would not be complete until Spring 2025.

Ms. Miles raised concern regarding the possible negative impact on those institutions in regard to accreditation. Dr. Khattar said these performance measures were Virginia standards not necessary those of SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). At this point those institutions will not have any negative impacts either related to accreditation nor finances. SCHEV staff recommends certifying the four institutions (Longwood University, Virginia State University, University of Virginia-Wise, and Old Dominion University) for FY25. Staff recommends that these institutions submit a remediation plan and provide an update to Council no later than May 2025. SCHEV staff also recommends certifying all other Virginia public institutions for both FY25 and FY26.

The Committee acted on the agenda item with committee members present approving the recommendations for certification of the Longwood University, Virginia State

University, University of Virginia-Wise, and Old Dominion University for FY25 with a follow up review next spring to determine certification for FY26; and certification for the College of William & Mary; Christopher Newport University; George Mason University; James Madison University; Norfolk State University; Radford University; Richard Bland College; University of Mary Washington; University of Virginia; Virginia Commonwealth University; Virginia Community College System; Virginia Military Institute; and Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University for both FY25 and FY26. Full Council will vote on this item on September 17, 2024.

UPDATE ON THE IMPACT OF THE FAFSA ON ENROLLMENT

Mr. Andes and Mr. Massa updated the Committee on the status and consequences of the U.S. Department of Education's (USED's) implementation of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on enrollment in Virginia's public institutions. Mr. Massa reported that there was a decrease in the number of first generation or FTIC students in the Commonwealth enrolling in public institutions attributable to the new FAFSA application; however, Mr. Massa said that the data coming in shows overall Fall enrollment is up for many public institutions in Virginia with 8 out of the 15 public institutions showing enrollment increases. Undergraduate enrollment in Virginia public institutions increased by approximately 3,000 students for Fall 2024 with community colleges seeing a moderate increase in enrollment.

Mr. Massa applauded the enrollment staffs for their work in admitting students considering the barriers imposed by the FAFSA roll out.

Ms. Moretz, who works for the Council of Independent Colleges, reported that private colleges experienced decreases in enrollment with 12 out of the 20 private institutions in Virginia having some decrease while 4 of the private institutions saw an increase and 4 remained at the same enrollment level. Ms. Moretz suggests that the smaller enrollment staff at many of the private college made it difficult to mitigate the full impact of the FAFSA rollout.

Mr. Andes noted that TAG (Tuition Assistance Grant) has a new deadline of September 15th moving from the former July deadline, which should afford students at private institutions more time to apply for the grant.

Ms. Miles inquired if there was a database of grants and scholarships for parents and colleges to access. She works with organizations where many of these scholarships and grants go unclaimed. Mr. Andes identified the Virginia Education Wizard website as a resource. Ms. Miles suggested better communication may improve awareness of these funding options.

Mr. Olsen asked if there were any enrollment differences between students from urban and rural areas. Mr. Massa replied that there did not seem to be a big difference and highlighted Radford, which experienced a 28% increase in enrollment. Once individual level data is received it will be easier to identify trends.

Mr. Olsen questioned if there could be an increase in second semester enrollment. According to Mr. Massa, students are often reported with a cohort and students starting in the spring may not be as easily identified as delaying enrollment and some may choose to attend a community college rather than a four-year institution for the current school year.

Mr. Andes said that some students may take a gap year. Ms. O'Holleran asked if there was a means of reaching out to the students. Mr. Andes discussed the Pell Grant initiative that may assist in identifying students who may be eligible but are not enrolled.

Ms. O'Holleran inquired if there is any data on how Virginia is doing nationally in terms of college enrollment. Mr. Massa said we do not have those numbers or ranks yet. Mr. Massa said that individual level data available after Nov. 15th will provide a more complete picture of the impact of the FAFSA rollout on enrollment.

Mr. Andes reported that the roll out of dates for the 2025-26 FAFSA will begin with some students gaining access on October 1 and all students having access by December 1st. He believes that this year should be smoother, but the process may still be problematic.

BRIEFING ON SCHEV's WEBSITE

Mr. Massa identified several informative resources on SCHEV's website including a glossary of terms as well as the policy and data tools links. He demonstrated how to search for a variety of reports ranging from SAT/ACT scores, retention of 1st and 2nd year students, Pell recipients, and average wages earned after graduation.

There are also reports available for private institutions in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Massa believes the reports are a vital aid in providing transparency.

Ms. O'Holleran inquired as to who uses the data. Mr. Massa said that it has a wide range of users from public institutions to the legislature, as well as advocacy groups among others.

Ms. Miles raised concerns that the website information did not seem consumer friendly for students and their parents. Mr. Olsen also raised similar concerns. Mr. Massa and Mr. Andes said that to create more consumer-friendly reports would require more resources. Mr. Olsen and Ms. Miles said they would support funding for this effort to provide a fuller picture for parents and students about each public institution.

BRIEFING ON THE REVIEW PROCESS OF THE SIX-YEAR PLANS

Mr. Andes gave a report on the review process for the six-year plans. Plans are developed in odd-numbered years and are affirmed or updated as necessary in even years. The six-year plan process began as part of the 2005 Restructured Higher Education Financial

and Administrative Operations Act. The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 reaffirmed the process. Plans are developed in odd-numbered years and are affirmed or updated as necessary in even years.

In August, Op-Six (Secretary of Education, Secretary of Finance, Director of Department of Planning and Budget, and the staff directors for the Senate and House money committees) met to discuss updates to the plans and provide comments to institutions.

SCHEV staff will send the comments to the institutions and other feedback by mid to late September. The updating of the Fact Packs has delayed the original September 1st date.

Institutions will submit responses to the comments and final copies of their six-year plans to SCHEV in November.

Final copies of each institution's six-year plan will be published on the SCHEV website by December 1st.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. O'Holleran motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm.

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
September 16, 2024**

MINUTES

Ms. Oldham called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., at Chartway Arena, Big Blue Rooms/Committee Room A, Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, VA.

Committee members present: Cheryl Oldham (Chair), Micah Edmond, Lindsey Fryer, J. Douglas Straley, and Steven Taylor

Staff members present: Joseph G. DeFilippo, Jodi Fidler, Scott Fleming, Alexis Gravely, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Kristin Whelan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 23 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

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

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

ACTION ON CERTIFICATION OF A PROPOSED POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL

Dr. DeFilippo introduced and presented on Agora University, a private non-profit post-secondary education institution, operating in Virginia as a religious exempt institution since 2018. Agora University seeks certification as a prerequisite to expanding its offerings to include non-religious programs. Dr. DeFilippo discussed language in the code of Virginia exempting religious institutions from certification. Once they intend to offer secular academic programs, they must be certified to operate in Virginia by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Representatives from Agora University thanked council for their attention and support. In response to a query by Mr. Straley, Dr. Emmanuel Gergis, President and CEO of Agora University, noted all programs offered by Agora are offered via distance learning and accredited through the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). In response to a query from Dr. Taylor, Dr. Gergis remarked that Agora University intends to add an MBA program and is considering additional academic programs in information management systems or computer technology.

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 certifies Agora University to operate as a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective September 17, 2024.

ACTION ON PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Dr. DeFilippo described the background of the proposed new Joint School of Public Health through Old Dominion University (ODU) and Norfolk State University (NSU). Dr. DeFilippo reviewed the history of the proposed school, noting that the planning process took multiple years and was initially conceived before Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) was absorbed by ODU. The new Joint School of Public Health will enhance visibility and increase awareness of public health in the region, create a cohesive structure for an expanded regional presence, and fulfill the purpose of funding designated from the Virginia General Assembly in 2021 for this purpose. The new Joint School of Public Health would offer multiple academic degree and certificate programs and both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Dr. Li-Wu Chen, Founding Dean of the Joint School of Public Health, addressed the committee, noting the new school will transform public health in the region through strengthening collaboration, expanding opportunities and support for both students and faculty, and encouraging creation of regional best practices in the discipline. In response to a query from Dr. Taylor, Dr. Chen noted the new Joint School has worked closely with their accrediting body, the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), and is on track to receive accreditation by the end of 2025. In response to a query by Ms. Freyer, Dr. Chen commented on strong partnerships with regional and state level departments of public health and with Sentara Health. Dr. Taylor commended ODU and NSU for their collaborative rather than competitive efforts.

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 Joint School of Public Health at Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University, effective September 30, 2024.

REVIEW OF PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the agenda item, presenting “Program Announcements” for new degree programs that public institutions plan to submit for SCHEV approval. The Program Announcement is a feature of the SCHEV program approval process in accord with Council’s duty to “review and approve or disapprove all new undergraduate or graduate academic programs that any public institution of higher education proposes,” Code of Virginia § 23.1-203 (5). Dr. DeFilippo spoke about the purposes of listing program announcements related to alerting Council and other institutions and allowing time to comment about institutions’ programmatic plans. Dr. DeFilippo noted that institutions have one year after a program is announced to submit the completed program proposal.

Dr. DeFilippo provided an overview of a locus of activity in the area of data science and activity at the graduate level. In response to a query by Ms. Oldham, Dr. DeFilippo noted

program announcements are an informational item for the committee and are not reviewed by staff until a program proposal is formally submitted. Mr. Fleming, Director of SCHEV, added that staff intends to present a proposal updating the academic approval process to be responsive to the committee's requests for flexibility in the process and the inclusion of detailed labor market information in future proposals. Ms. Oldham noted a desire to affirm the importance of council's statutory duty to approve or deny all academic programs as more than a compliance exercise.

BREIFING ON SCHEV'S PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY POLICY

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the topic and presented on criteria used by SCHEV staff in the program productivity review process. Program productivity review is a statutory duty of the council and is conducted every five years. In response to a query by Mr. Edmonds, Dr. DeFilippo noted the criteria are based in the Code of Virginia but created by SCHEV staff with guidance over time from council. In response to a query by Ms. Oldham, Dr. DeFilippo noted degree programs targeted in the current process might have any number of reasons for low enrollment or low productivity. Mr. Fleming added SCHEV staff reviews academic programs on the criteria determined by council and the criteria, or the process may be changed as council deems necessary. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Freyer, Dr. DeFilippo invited committee member comments be sent to him any time for incorporation into staff's developing work on the program productivity policy.

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 2:32 p.m.

Cheryl Oldham
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Kirstin Pantazis
Staff, Academic Affairs

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
JOINT SCHEV/COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS MEETING
September 16, 2024**

MINUTES

Ms. Miles called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room C in the Big Blue Rooms of Chartway Arena, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia.

Council members present: Delceno Miles, Jason El Koubi, William Harvey, Jennie O'Holleran, Cheryl Oldham, Doug Straley, Carlyle Ramsey, Micah Edmond, John Olsen, Lindsay Fryer and Steven Taylor.

Council members absent: John Jumper and Walter Curt.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Lynne Archer-Brownlee, Alisha Bazemore, Grace Covello Khattar, Joseph DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Scott Fleming, Alexis Gravely, Jess Madden, Tod Massa, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

Other notable attendees: Aimee Guidera, Secretary of Education and Nicholas Kent, Deputy Secretary of Education.

See the list at the end of this document of Presidents who attended.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Miles introduced the current Chair of the Council of Presidents, President Ryan. President Ryan thanked staff and all who organized the meeting. He expressed his gratitude for being a part of the Virginia higher education landscape with strong leaders at the Virginia schools.

Ms. Miles asked everyone to introduce themselves.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND FIRST AMENDMENT

President Ryan described the safety and first amendment initiatives at UVA. The protests at the end of the 2023-24 school year challenged the rules they had in place. Time, place and manner regulations allow the university to restrict activities. UVA adjusted the regulations to prevent camping on grounds and created policy around mask wearing. President Ryan explained that someone who is wearing a mask that seems to be hiding the wearer's identity can be asked for identification. Mr. Ryan emphasized that UVA is still committed to free speech while allowing equal access to the grounds by all students. President Ryan was asked about student body feedback which he said has been mixed.

Secretary Guidera arrived at the meeting and Ms. Miles asked the secretary for a statement. The Secretary welcomed the new Council members and provided updates from the Department of Education.

Secretary Guidera thanked the Council of Presidents for making Virginia look good in the latest college rankings. CNBC named Virginia the number one state for higher education and for business. The Secretary stressed the importance of paying attention to education outcomes. She pointed to the release of the JLARC report next month stating that the report may contain some challenging news. Secretary Guidera shared that the Op-Six group wants to continue and will not take the year off and continue to meet outside of the typical process cycle. The Secretary mentioned the priorities of the board orientation in November and the updated fact packs being released this week. She thanked everyone for submitting their capital requests for the updated budget. She asked everyone to use their voices to amplify the new efforts working toward excellence in K-12. Secretary Guidera finished her remarks by sharing that her team will meet with the federal undersecretary of education next week regarding the FAFSA.

FACTORS IMPACTING ENROLLMENT

Mr. Andes and Mr. Massa addressed the factors impacting enrollment. Mr. Andes discussed how the flawed rollout of the new FAFSA is impacting enrollment. The FAFSA confusion resulted in fewer students completing the form this year.

Mr. Massa announced that earlier this week SCHEV received the early enrollment estimates. Mr. Massa said he is pleasantly surprised that enrollments at eight of 15 public institutions are up in first-time enrollment counts. Radford's first-time enrollment increased 28% over last year. Only four out of 15 institutions saw a drop in enrollments. Total enrollment at public institutions is up by 3,300 students. Fifteen of the 23 community colleges also are experiencing enrollment increases. Total enrollment in the community college system is up by 200 students. While the privates have not performed as well, they still saw a small enrollment increase. Mr. Massa suggested that the presidents return to their institutions and celebrate their enrollment and financial aid staff for making the increase possible.

INTERNSHIPS AND WORK-BASED LEARNING

Ms. Bazemore provided an update on the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership. She shared current activities including, the collaboration with the Virginia Business Higher Education Council partnership. The V+TOP team is learning how to scale up the program by partnering with more business.

V+TOP will announce two new grants on September 26. These grants will have three tracks: The vision track to build and create a program, the building track to create a program and the growing track to scale up. V+TOP has a few workshops scheduled to explain changes to the matching grants and another information session for career practitioners. Ms. Bazemore is also looking for a marketing firm to help scale the marketing of these efforts. She thanked everyone for their help in these promotion efforts.

President Rao praised Ms. Bazemore's work and the efforts of the Commonwealth. He said that students and parents are looking for financial support and for pathways for a career. VCU has adopted measures to track how many students got into a job in their field or into a relevant graduate program.

Ms. Fryer asked about incentives in the program. Ms. Bazemore mentioned the 50% match for employers and the learning management modules that help businesses develop high-quality internship programs. Ms. Bazemore also stated that the V+TOP regional approach allows customization of the programs to meet employer needs in their region. Ms. Miles asked if there is enough data yet to see if the program is filling some of the high-need employment needs. President Rao pointed to national data that shows that students who participate in internships are 50% less likely to experience unemployment.

Ms. Miles asked the community college presidents to speak about programs offered at the community colleges that help students find work. Dr. Doré mentioned the FastForward program. Dr. Conston mentioned partnership with local companies to provide engineering internships. Tidewater is partnered with the Virginia ship repair and local welding. Dr. Sprinkle spoke about Wytheville Community College's partnerships in manufacturing and law enforcement to provide internship opportunities.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 30

Ms. Salmon discussed Executive Order 30 regarding Artificial Intelligence in higher education. SCHEV created a task force across industries to identify areas needing more elaboration and areas of concern. The group first met over the summer and will meet again next week. The task force identified a need to identify a network of people at the institutions who can share ideas and issues. They also identified a need for professional development at the K-12 level and for higher education faculty. Next week, they will discuss edits to the guidelines and identify priorities and where they can have the biggest impact.

Ms. Miles asked each President to share the top priority at their institution.

George Mason University – Integrating students in this difficult geopolitical climate.

University of Virginia – Safety and security.

Old Dominion University – Safety, security and academic supports.

Longwood University – Being a source of stability and calm in an unsettled world.

Christopher Newport University – Access and affordability.

James Madison University – Security.

Tidewater Community College – Financial aid and FastForward.

Virginia Community College System – Strategic plan to generate 300,000 meaningful credentials by 2030. Good high paying jobs.

Virginia Tech – Financial aid and mentoring for students. Internships and research.

William & Mary – Safety.

University of Virginia at Wise – Access, affordability and retention.

Wytheville Community College – Program alignment with workforce and financial supports and high-quality facilities.

Ms. O'Holleran asked how SCHEV can do to support the safety efforts on campus. President Ryan suggested resources to employ threat assessment teams.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Fleming summarized up the meeting by comparing Virginia higher education to the 1990s Chicago Bulls basketball team. He pointed out that the team stayed on top by

improving each off season even while they were leading the league. SCHEV's role is to support these efforts in improvement at the institutions. Mr. Fleming also discussed some of the changes to the fact pacts and shared that Mr. Massa has been working on a plan to automate the fact pacts. Mr. Fleming shared that Dr. DeFilippo is looking to improve the program approval process. He stated that SCHEV will lean into program productivity to look more closely at outcomes and that SCHEV will begin updating the statewide strategic plan next year. Mr. Fleming shared his desire for SCHEV staff to use their expertise and use their outdoor voices more.

Mr. Fleming close by thanking everyone for making his transition smooth and enjoyable. Ms. Miles thanked Mr. Fleming and the presidents.

The chair adjourned the joint meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Council Secretary

Kristin Whelan
Coordinator of Board and Executive Operations

Council of Presidents President Attendees

William Kelly, Christopher Newport University
Gregory Washington, George Mason University
Charlie King (Interim), James Madison University
W. Taylor Reveley, IV, Longwood University
Brian Hemphill, Old Dominion University
James Ryan, University of Virginia
Donna Price Henry, University of Virginia at Wise
David Doré, Virginia's Community Colleges
Michael Rao, Virginia Commonwealth University
Timothy Sands, Virginia Tech
Katherine Rowe, William & Mary
Dean Sprinkle, Wytheville Community College
Marcia Conston, Tidewater Community College

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

MINUTES

Ms. Miles called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Board Room of the Broderick Dining Commons, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia.

Council members present: Micah Edmond, Delceno Miles, Jason El Koubi, William Harvey, Lindsay Fryer, Cheryl Oldham, Jennie O'Holleran, John Olsen, Carlyle Ramsey (virtual), Douglas Straley and Steven Taylor.

Council members absent: Walter Curt and John Jumper.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Grace Covello Khattar, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Scott Fleming, Alexis Gravely, Jessica Madden, Erin McGrath, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

Notable Guests: Deputy Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. El Koubi seconded by Ms. O'Holleran, the minutes from the July 23, 2024, Council meeting were approved 10-0.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Miles directed everyone to the biographies of the new Council members published in the agenda book and asked the new members to introduce themselves.

Ms. Miles thanked Dr. Hemphill and his staff for breakfast.

ACTION ON MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

Ms. Osberger presented the 2025 Council meeting schedule and location resolution for approval.

On a motion by Mr. Edmond seconded by Mr. Taylor, the 2025 Council meeting schedule was approved unanimously as presented 10-0.

DISCUSSION OF SYSTEMWIDE BUDGET & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. Andes led a discussion of the budget and policy recommendations. He described the timeline for discussion and action. Council will act on the recommendations at the October meeting. Mr. Andes stated that SCHEV presented many recommendations at the January meeting that were accepted, and staff recommends that Council reaffirm some of these recommendations that were accepted but not fully funded. He described how staff forms the recommendations to guide the Council.

Mr. Andes reviewed the following 14 policy recommendations staff devised for Council's consideration:

Recommendations that require funding -

- Primary undergraduate need-based financial aid.
- Workforce credential grant.
- Graduate financial assistance.
- Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG).
- Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP).
- Space Grant and Sea Grant scholarships.
- Mental Health Workforce Pilot.
- Constructive Dialogue Institute.
- Funding to meet and enhance SCHEV capacity.
- Outstanding Faculty Awards.

Topics that Council may develop that may have a future budget impact-

- Strategic planning alignment.
- Institutional Performance Standards.
- Financial assistance reimagination.
- Program flexibility.

Mr. Andes also shared other topics currently under state review upon which Council may want to endorse or make recommendations.

- VMSDEP.
- Cost study alignment.
- Campus food insecurity.
- Disability accommodations on campus.
- Campus safety.

Mr. Andes suggested that Council could choose to reaffirm their support of TAG increases. The increases were accepted by the General Assembly at a lower amount than requested, and Council could reaffirm the recommendation and see if the funding will be increased. Mr. Taylor asked if the graduate-level TAG spending can be used for work-based learning spending. Ms. Fryer asked about the increase in TAG and what the current enrollment data show for the private institutions.

Mr. Fleming suggested that Council may want to consider a VMSDEP stipend increase as the program is growing faster than the funding.

Ms. Fryer asked about the institutional demand for the Constructive Dialogue Institute. Ms. Fisler, who was not in attendance, will follow up with Ms. Fryer.

Mr. Olsen asked about SCHEV staff turnover. He asked about providing hybrid work opportunities to save resources and retain staff. Mr. Fleming expressed his desire for SCHEV to provide more flexibility to attract and retain talent. Ms. Oldham asked about additional staffing and resource constraints on the work that SCHEV does. Mr. Fleming shared that SCHEV operates at a deficit every year and would like to expand into more workforce initiatives.

Mr. Andes shared that SCHEV is looking for new funding of the Outstanding Faculty Awards (OFA) for the 2026 event. Mr. Andes suggested that funding the OFA could be another SCHEV recommendation, but staff also is looking for private sponsorship.

Mr. Andes next introduced potential recommendations items that do not require funding.

- Strategic planning alignment between the statewide plan and the institutional plans.
- Changes to Institutional Performance Standards. Council could consider additional measures or strengthen some already in place. Ms. Miles requested looking at what other measures other systems use.
- Financial assistance reimagination. A new review of need-based programs.
- Program flexibility. Reimagining higher education. Is higher education serving its constituents? Diversity in program options. How can SCHEV be supportive of the alternatives?

Ms. O'Holleran suggested bringing in other stakeholders for the strategic planning conversations. Mr. Taylor asked for a side-by-side of the last biennium budget and the proposed budget at the October meeting so that Council can have a better sense of the prioritization of recommendations.

Mr. Straley expressed high school support for the program flexibility recommendation.

Mr. Kent commented that Governor is committed to requesting funding for campus safety and security and appreciates the support from the Council.

UPDATE ON STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY INITIATIVES

Ms. Salmon reviewed the Council's responsibility to create a statewide strategic plan and how it relates to Council's priority initiatives. She explained SCHEV's responsibility as stated in the Virginia Code. She shared that SCHEV is currently at the end of the strategic planning process cycle.

Ms. Salmon explained the Council's role in creating and implementing the priority initiatives. The most recent initiatives were updated last October. Ms. Salmon discussed the goals of the current, Pathways to Opportunity Plan. The Council shapes and approves the biennial priority initiatives to address the strategic plan's generalities and to lead by example. These initiatives emphasize Council's topics of concern. Each initiative is connected to the three goals -

1. Close access and completion gaps.
2. Lower costs to students.
3. Expand prosperity.

Council approved the current slate of initiatives on October 24, 2023, and receives regular updates on the initiatives progress. Ms. Salmon shared a series of slides with the initiatives listed by the month that the Council learned or acted on each. Each initiative is grouped under the goal that the initiative addresses.

Mr. El Koubi asked how SCHEV determines the success of the initiatives. Ms. Salmon said that the metrics for success includes enrollment, awards, borrowing, wages and attainment. Staff will present the findings of the measures at the January Council meeting. Mr. El Koubi encouraged rigor in determining the Council's goals.

Ms. Salmon provided the example of SCHEV's support for the Online Virginia Network (OVN) market survey of former Virginia college students who have not completed a degree as an example of a Council initiative in action.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Fleming thanked the hosts at ODU and thanked the Council members for their service. He also thanked the staff for their commitment. He described his desire to align strategies between the state and the institutions and continual improvement even as the state is recognized as the best in the nation for higher education. Mr. Fleming mentioned the executive staff retreat where the team discussed aligning the statewide strategic plan with the institutional plans.

Mr. Fleming highlighted the following from the Director's report, published on page 201 of the agenda book:

Virginia Intern Day: On July 25, the Commonwealth observed its third Virginia Intern Day, as [proclaimed by Governor Youngkin](#), to recognize student interns and their employers. Activities included a celebration with over 100 students at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond, at which remarks were provided by various state officials, including Deputy Secretary Nicholas Kent, Virginia Works Commissioner Carrie Roth, and Mr. Fleming. He elaborated that he would like to work toward Virginia being number 1 for talent and education. He thanked Ms. Salmon for her work on the project.

DISCUSSION OF THE NEW K-12 STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION

By way of introducing the item, Mr. Fleming praised the new standards and talked about the importance of maintaining high standards for K-12 students. He stated that students are not served by telling them they are doing well at something when they are not. Dr. Coons, Virginia's state school superintendent, was unable to join the meeting to deliver her presentation. The presentation and discussion will be rescheduled.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEES

Report from Academic Affairs Committee

Ms. Oldham introduced the following resolution to certify Agora University that was moved forward by the committee for full Council consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies Agora University to operate as a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective September 17, 2024.

Mr. El Koubi seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Ms. Oldham introduced an organization change at Old Dominion University (ODU) and Norfolk State University (NSU) to establish a joint school of public health. The proposed organizational change does not change any academic units at NSU. At ODU, the School of Community and Environmental Health will be moved to the new joint School of the Public Health. Two new departments will be established: Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Environmental Health, and the Department of Health Behavior Policy and Management. Neither institution is requesting additional state funding.

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the establishment of the Joint School of Public Health at Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University, effective September 30, 2024.

Mr. Straley seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Ms. Oldham shared that Dr. DeFilippo covered the 11 new program announcements that will be coming before Council within the next year for consideration.

The committee also received a briefing regarding the policy on program productivity. Staff will be providing recommendations on improving the process in the future.

Ms. Oldham reported on the activities of the Academic Affairs staff as reported to the committee by Dr. DeFilippo. She introduced the Council to the unit's newest hire, Associate for Academic Affairs, Alexis Gravely.

Report from Resources and Planning Committee

Ms. O'Holleran stated that Dr. Khattar reported on the results of the 2024 institutional performance assessment for public institutions in Virginia reviewing fiscal and education-related measures. Three of the institutions did not meet three or more of the educational standards - Longwood, Virginia State and UVA Wise. One institution, ODU, did not meet the 80% pass threshold for preliminary fiscal standards as assessed by the Secretary of Finance. The committee certified the four institutions for FY25, and staff will present additional data to Council in the spring for them to consider certification for FY26. The committee recommends certifying all other public institutions for both FY25 and FY26.

BE IT RESOLVED that, consistent with § 23.1-206, *Code of Virginia*, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies for FY 2025 and FY 2026 that the following 13 public institutions have satisfactorily met the performance standards of the *Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act* and the *Appropriation Act*: College of William & Mary; Christopher Newport University; George Mason University; James Madison University; Norfolk State University; Radford University; Richard Bland College; University of Mary Washington; University of Virginia; Virginia Commonwealth University; Virginia Community College System; Virginia Military Institute; and Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies for FY 2025 only that the following four public institutions have

satisfactorily met the performance standards of the *Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act* and the *Appropriation Act*: Longwood University; Old Dominion University; University of Virginia's College at Wise; and Virginia State University. The Council will review updated data and remediation plans from each of these institutions no later than May 2025 to determine certification for FY 2026.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Olsen. The Council passed the resolution unanimously.

Ms. O'Holleran, Mr. Andes and Mr. Massa updated the Committee on the status and consequences of the U.S. Department of Education's (USED's) implementation of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on enrollment in Virginia's public institutions. Mr. Massa said that preliminary data shows that fall enrollment is up for many public institutions in Virginia. Overall, undergraduate enrollment in Virginia public institutions increased by about 3,000 students for fall 2024. Individual level data will be available after Nov. 15th and will provide a more complete picture of the impact of the FAFSA rollout on enrollment. Mr. Andes reported that there will be a new roll out of dates for the FAFSA with some students gaining access on October 1 and all students having access by December 1.

Ms. O'Holleran shared what the committee learned from Mr. Massa who identified several resources on SCHEV's website, including a glossary of terms, as well as the policy and data tools links. Mr. Massa demonstrated how to search for a variety of reports ranging from SAT/ACT scores, retention of first- and second-year students, Pell recipients and average wages earned after graduation. Reports also are available for private institutions in the Commonwealth. Mr. Massa believes the reports are a vital aid in providing transparency. The committee concluded that this is an invaluable resource for policy makers, parents and students.

The committee received a report from Mr. Andes on the review process for the six-year plan. Plans are developed in odd-numbered years and are generally affirmed or updated as necessary in even years. In August, the Op-Six (Secretary of Education, Secretary of Finance, Director of Department of Planning and Budget, the money committees and SCHEV director) met to discuss updates to the plans and provide comments to institutions. SCHEV staff will send comments and other feedback to institutions by mid to late September. Institutions will submit responses to the comments and final copies of their six-year plans to SCHEV in November. Final copies of each institution's six-year plan will be published on the SCHEV website by December 1st.

Mr. Fleming introduced Dr. Tancy Vandecar-Burdin from ODU who joined the Council to discuss findings from the High School survey and answer questions from Council. Dr. Vandecar-Burdin shared that further analysis reflects the earlier findings that cost, and value are the most important concern for high school students. The results also suggest that more touchpoints with parents could help allay some of the concerns about attending college. The data also suggest that students could benefit from further supports than what are available to them now.

Mr. Fleming asked Dr. DeFilippo to discuss Private Postsecondary Education's efforts to reduce regulations towards the 25% reduction goal set by the Governor. The unit plans to present on its efforts to Council at the October meeting. Mr. Taylor asked for details on the process of reducing regulations.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Included at the end of this document.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. William Hooper joined the meeting virtually to share a public comment about his concerns with the Federal Student Aid handbook which guides the federal financial aid for veterans. The Title 38 wording in the book is incorrect. He is asking for SCHEV to reach out to the federal Department of Education to aid with this problem. He gave suggestions for remediation. He reached his time limit and Ms. Miles asked him to conclude his remarks.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Delceno Miles
Council Vice Chair

Kristin Whelan
SCHEV Staff

Items Delegated to Director/Staff
Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

Academic Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Longwood University	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Elementary and Middle School Education and Teaching (13.1206) with 127- 134 credit hours to 120-123 credit hours 	Fall 2024
James Madison University	Post-Professional Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Education (13.1315) 	Fall 2024
James Madison University	Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the name of the Graduate Certificate in Educational Technology (13.0501) to Learning Design and Technology (13.0501) 	Fall 2024
James Madison University	Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the name of the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) in General Psychology (42.0101) to Psychology (42.0101) 	Fall 2024
Old Dominion University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Science for Teachers (11.0199) 	Fall 2025
Old Dominion University	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add an online delivery format to the Master of Arts (MA) in Economics (45.0603) 	Fall 2024
Radford University	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree program in Healthcare Administration (51.0701) with 45 credit hours to 36 credit hours 	Fall 2024
Richard Bland College	Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncrewed Aerial Systems (49.0109) 	Fall 2024
Tidewater Community College	Facilitated Staff Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merge the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Civil Engineering Technology (15.0201), the AAS in Electronics Technology (47.0105), the AAS in Industrial Technology (15.0699), and the AAS in Mechanical Engineering Technology (15.0899) into a AAS degree program in Engineering Technology (15.0000) 	Fall 2024

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
University of Virginia	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add an online delivery format to the Master of Education (MEd) in Special Education (13.1001) 	Fall 2024
Virginia Highlands Community College	Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the name of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103) 	Summer 2024
Virginia Peninsula Community College	Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the name of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103) 	Summer 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	Graduate Certificate Program Discontinuances Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Baccalaureate Teaching and Learning (13.1212) International School Leadership Practice (13.0412) School Psychology (42.2805) 	Spring 2025
Radford University	Program Discontinuation Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-Baccalaureate Certificate program in Teaching Language Arts in the Digital Age (23.9999) 	Fall 2024
Radford University	Program Discontinuation Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) degree program in Counseling Psychology (42.2803) [Council Approval Date: October 17, 2006] 	Fall 2024
University of Virginia	Program Discontinuances Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Specialist (EdS) degree program in Counselor Education (13.1101) [Council Approval Date: April 2, 1974] Education Specialist (EdS) degree program in Higher Education (13.0406) [Council Approval Date: April 2, 1974] 	Fall 2024

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
University of Virginia	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Specialist (EdS) degree program in Special Education (13.1001) [Council Approval Date: April 2, 1974]	Summer 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
Christopher Newport University	Create the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance . The Department will reside in the College of Arts and Humanities. The new department will ensure "all faculty" teaching in the "three disciplinary areas" are in the same academic unit and able to work together "to administer related academic programs."	October 4, 2024
James Madison University	Rename the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures to the Department of World Languages and Cultures . The Department has been renamed to address a recommendation by an external review team "to remove the word foreign" and "utilize terminology that reflects the diversity, equity, and inclusion of the department." The new name also will reflect "the overall academic focus of the unit."	August 1, 2024
Old Dominion University	Reorganize the School of Community and Environmental Health to establish two departments: the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Environmental Health , and the Department of Health Behavior, Policy, and Management . The Departments will reside in the Joint School of Public Health. The establishment of separate departments "will support the needs of the faculty in their specific disciplinary areas." Faculty will be able "to collaborate in teaching and conducting research in their	September 30, 2024

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	disciplinary area.” Further, the reorganization will ensure faculty in respective disciplines “are supported by discipline-specific leadership.”	
Radford University	Reorganize the Department of English and the Department of Foreign Languages to establish the School of Writing, Language, and Literature . The School will reside in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. The establishment of one academic unit will “provide stable leadership for the faculty teaching in foreign languages and literatures at the university.”	August 10, 2024
University of Virginia	Create the Department of Genome Sciences . The Department will reside in the School of Medicine. The new department is needed to “ensure that human genome research is supported appropriately and adequately by the School of Medicine and at the university.” Further, as a research department, the department will “demonstrate the University’s commitment to the discipline of human genome sciences.”	July 17, 2024
University of Virginia	Create the Department of Graduate Nursing Programs . The Department will reside in the School of Nursing. The new department will establish an academic unit “focused on needs of faculty and students that are unique to” the doctoral level clinical degree program, master’s level degree program, and post-master’s certificate programs. Moreover, the department will provide an infrastructure to faculty in their teaching, clinical practice and education, and service to ensure nursing graduate education is adequately supported in the School of Nursing and at the university.” UVA will close two departments—the Department of Acute & Specialty Care and, the Department of Family, Community & Mental Health Systems—and utilize the resources to establish	August 19, 2024

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	and operate the proposed new department.	
University of Virginia	<p>Create the Department of Nursing Research. The Department will reside in the School of Nursing. The department will serve as “the primary academic unit for scholars dedicated to research and scholarly excellence in nursing.” The new department is needed to “ensure that doctoral level education in nursing research and faculty teaching and working in nursing research are adequately and properly supported by the School of Nursing and at the university.”</p> <p>UVA will close two departments—the Department of Acute & Specialty Care and, the Department of Family, Community & Mental Health Systems—and utilize the resources to establish and operate the proposed new department.</p>	August 19, 2024
University of Virginia	<p>Create the Department of Undergraduate Nursing Programs. The Department will reside in the School of Nursing. The new department is needed to “focus on teaching and improvements in instructional design services that support pedagogical innovation and respond to the learning needs of undergraduate students.”</p> <p>UVA will close two departments—the Department of Acute & Specialty Care and, the Department of Family, Community & Mental Health Systems—and utilize the resources to establish and operate the proposed new department.</p>	August 19, 2024