

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING (Virtual)
JANUARY 7, 2025**

MINUTES

General Jumper called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Council members present: Walter Curt, Delceno Miles, Jason El Koubi, William Harvey, Lindsay Fryer, John Jumper, Jennie O'Holleran, John Olsen, Carlyle Ramsey, Douglas Straley and Steven Taylor.

Council members absent: Cheryl Oldham and Micah Edmond.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Taylor Clark, Grace Covello Khattar, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Scott Fleming, Sandra Freeman, Alexis Gravely, Jessica Madden, Erin McGrath, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Tod Massa, Matthew Nwaneri, Laura Osberger, Monica Osei, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon, Barry Simmons, Paul Smith, Bob Spieldenner, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. El Koubi and seconded by Dr. Taylor, the minutes from the October 21, 2024, Academic Affairs Committee and the Resources and Planning Committee meetings and the October 22, 2024, Education Session and the October 22, 2024, Council meeting were approved 11-0.

ACTION ON PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the proposed new degree programs and gave remarks about each. William & Mary is proposing a B.A./B.S. in Public Health (CIP 51.2201) which responds to the Commonwealth's need for bachelor's level health care professionals. Four public institutions in Virginia offer similar or related degree programs. George Mason University is proposing a Ph.D. in Geology and Earth Science (CIP 40.0601) which responds to a need for advanced education in geological hazards to respond to climate crises. One public institution in Virginia offers a similar or related degree program. Virginia Tech is proposing a Master of Science in Data Science (CIP 30.7001) which responds to demand for professionals who can understand and interpret vast amounts of data. Four public institutions in Virginia offer similar or related degree programs.

In response to a query from General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo remarked that the forthcoming academic program policy revisions are intended to reflect Council's desire to lower the threshold for starting a degree program while raising the threshold for proving a degree program has delivered on intended goals and meets productivity standards. In response to a query from Mr. Curt, General Jumper noted that Council is revising policy but never intends to categorically approve degree programs without specific consideration of the merits and concerns of each proposed degree program. In response to a comment by Mr. Curt, Ms. Fryer expressed a desire for data driven decisions on both starting and closing degree programs rather than policy adopting

arbitrarily decided quotas. In response to a question from Ms. Fryer, Dr. DeFilippo noted that in the field of Geology doctoral education is required to teach at many four-year institutions and is also required by multiple government and private industry research organizations.

On a motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Mr. Straley, the following amended resolution was approved unanimously (11-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to the following institutions to initiate the indicated degree programs, effective fall 2025.

- **The College of William and Mary in Virginia: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science (B.A./B.S.) in Public Health (CIP code: 51.2201).**
- **George Mason University: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geology and Earth Science (CIP code: 40.0601).**
- **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Data Science (CIP code: 30.7001).**

ACTION ON PROPOSED EDUCATION LICENSURE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN SHORTAGE AREAS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the initiative to facilitate approval of new degree programs in education licensure shortage areas. Dr. DeFilippo then introduced George Mason University's proposed new Master of Education in Elementary Education (CIP 13.1202) and Master of Education in Secondary Education (CIP 13.1205). George Mason University attests that the elementary education degree program would produce 10 graduates per year and the secondary education degree program would produce 11 graduates per year.

In response to a query by General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted that Board of Visitor approval is required of all institutions proposing new degree programs. In response to a query by Dr. Taylor, Mr. Straley noted that while masters degrees are not required to teach at the K-12 level, they often grant additional endorsement areas making them desirable for individuals and for school divisions. Dr. DeFilippo remarked that degree programs presented under this process must result in licensure for those not already licensed to teach. In response to a query from Ms. Fryer, Dr. DeFilippo noted there are currently numerous degree programs in Virginia producing master's level licensed educators, but they often have different areas of focus.

In response to a query by General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted that degree programs presented for review are designed to help the Commonwealth meet its documented need for licensed educators but do not address the root causes of the continued shortage of education professionals. Dr. Harvey remarked his preference for degree programs being reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee before being presented to the full Council. In response to a query by Ms. Fryer, Dr. Taylor suggested elevating alternative credentialing for licensed teachers rather than a focus on potentially long term, high-cost degree programs. Mr. Straley supported Dr. Taylor's suggestion.

On motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Mr. Straley, the following resolution was approved unanimously (11-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to implement the specified degree programs in education licensure shortage areas, effective fall 2025:

- **Master of Education (M.Ed.) Elementary Education (CIP: 13.1202)**
- **Master of Education (M.Ed.) Secondary Education (CIP: 13.1205)**

ACTION ON PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the three proposed organizational changes and noted Council's statutory duty to approve or disapprove organizational changes. The University of Virginia is proposing to establish UVA NOVA in Fairfax, which will offer a master's degree and two graduate certificates. Virginia Commonwealth University is proposing to establish (i) a free-standing Department of Urology in line with national trends and (ii) a School of Life Sciences and Sustainability, which would administer a roster of already existing degree programs.

In response to a query from General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted the organizational change policy does not require institutions to secure Board of Visitor approval for proposed organizational changes. In response to a comment by General Jumper, Dr. Harvey noted a concern, not with the proposals presented to council but with the current policy not requiring Board of Visitor approval for organizational changes. In response to a comment by Dr. Harvey, Dr. DeFilippo noted that proposals presented to SCHEV speak only to the specific requirements in policy. In response to a comment by General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted the proposed organizational changes are all slated to go into effect in the near future, but a proviso could be added to the resolution requiring the institutions to confirm Board of Visitors approval of the proposed changes.

Dr. Taylor noted a desire not to usurp the president's role in the governance at any public institution. Mr. Curt noted the need for Council to provide statewide oversight of higher education, including oversight of which institution operates in each market area. Dr. Harvey noted that taking organizational changes to the Boards of Visitors should not cause institutions undue concern. General Jumper asked staff to consider potential mechanisms to ensure future organizational changes are having intended consequences. Further, General Jumper asked Dr. DeFilippo to present an amended resolution granting provisional approval and requiring the institutions to provide proof of Board of Visitor approval of the changes by July 1, 2025. Mr. Curt requested there be separate resolutions for each institution's proposed changes. Ms. O'Holloran noted faith in the institution's ability to obtain BOV approval while also noting concern with enacting policy change for proposals currently under review.

General Jumper requests staff present changes to the current organizational policy in a future Council meeting. Dr. Harvey called on the amended resolutions with provisos for both UVA and VCU as presented by Dr. DeFilippo.

On motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Dr. Harvey, the following resolution was unanimously approved (11-0).

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the establishment of the following organizational units at public institutions, effective as indicated:

- *Department of Urology*, located in the School of Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University, effective February 1, 2025.
- *School of Life Sciences and Sustainability*, located in the College of Humanities and Sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University, effective February 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VCU confirm to SCHEV Board of Visitors approval of the organizational units by July 1, 2025.

On motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Mr. El Koubi, the following resolution was approved (10-1).

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the establishment of the following organizational unit, effective as indicated:

- Off-campus instructional site *UVA | Northern Virginia* at 8095 Innovation Park Drive, 2nd and 3rd Floors, Fairfax, VA 22031, effective January 13, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UVA confirm to SCHEV Board of Visitors approval of the organizational units by July 1, 2025.

UPDATE ON 2024 DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Mr. Massa provided an update on the 2024 awarded degrees and certificates. He introduced the Council to a new suite of reports that will accompany the fact packs and are located at the following link: <https://collegeoutcomes.schev.edu/>.

Mr. Massa summarized that the Commonwealth awarded the same total number of bachelor's degrees in 2024 as was awarded in 2023. There was a small increase in degrees from private institutes and a small decrease at the public institutions. The breakdown of awards follows:

In 2023-24, Virginia's public and private nonprofit colleges and universities awarded **57,562 bachelor's degrees**, the same as the previous year.

- Public four-year institutions conferred 38,529 bachelor's degrees, which was 483 fewer than the previous year.
- Private nonprofit institutions and ECPI conferred 19,033 bachelor's degrees, 483 more than the previous year.

In 2023-24, Virginia's community colleges and Richard Bland College conferred **17,165 associate degrees**, 155 more than in the previous year. (The public and private four-year institutions conferred an additional **2,390 associate degrees**.)

Together, the two-year institutions also produced **14,637 sub-baccalaureate certificates** in 2023-24, an increase 2,241 over the previous year. (The public and private four-years conferred **1,302**.)

Together, the public and private universities also produced **34,411 graduate and professional degrees** (282 more than last year) and **4,820 post-graduate certificates** in 2023-24.

In total, Virginia's public institutions, Virginias Tuition Assistance Grant participating private colleges, and ECPI University awarded **132,287 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates** in 2023-24, which was 2,387 more than the prior year.

Mr. Massa concluded that the state will not meet the goals set forth in the Top Jobs Act of 2010-2011. The target was created to boost overall degree production. Mr. El Koubi asked about revising the aspirations of the act. Assuming no further growth or losses, Mr. Massa projected a shortfall of 19,000 degrees.

Ms. O'Holleran asked why ECPI, a private, for-profit institution is included in the totals. Mr. Massa reported that ECPI approached the administration and asked to be included. The proprietary institutions are not required to report. To require the collections of data from these institutions would require a significant increase in staffing. Mr. Olsen asked additional questions about SCHEV's data collection and reporting.

Mr. Massa reported that the state remains on pace to meet the Council's strategic plan goal of awarding 1.5 million cumulative undergraduate awards by 2030.

Mr. Massa briefly showed the Council members the ways to use the new website to find the data in which they are interested.

Council members discussed the population peak and the coming drop-off. Mr. Massa answered specific questions from Council members by showing them where they could find the data they are looking for on the new site.

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR'S INTRODUCED BUDGET

Mr. Andes presented a summary of the Governor's introduced budget, which includes additional funding for institutions and SCHEV and new budget language. Mr. Andes highlighted additional funding items for nursing grants, student financial aid and workforce development grant programs.

Ms. Miles asked about transferring funds from G3 to Career Ready Virginia. She was concerned about taking money from a program used to increase graduates for in-demand jobs. Mr. Andes said that the money was a one-time transfer.

General Jumper asked Mr. Andes about the role SCHEV has in the distribution of the additional funding in the Governor's budget. Mr. Andes directed the Council to the new language in the Governor's budget that provided specific direction for SCHEV in the distribution of funds. Particularly, SCHEV will distribute financial aid related to

Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) and a new nursing grant for Hispanic Serving Institutions.

General Jumper asked if there was any additional regulations or rules identified by the VMSDEP task force that may be presented for implementation. Mr. Fleming said that the findings of the VMSDEP task force were presented to the General Assembly. No further meetings of the VMSDEP task force are planned at this point.

Mr. Andes also highlighted the Governor's proposed use of Commonwealth Savers (formerly known as VA 529) surplus to aid in the funding of VMSDEP. There is ongoing debate by stakeholders regarding the use of surplus funds from Commonwealth Savers. Mr. Andes highlighted the language included in the Governor's budget regarding the upcoming expectation of sustainability for the New College Institute. Mr. Andes told the Council members they would receive a copy of the summary used by Mr. Andes during his presentation.

After completing a review of the summary of the Governor's budget, Mr. Andes identified the initiatives that Council approved in October that also were included in the Governor's budget. Those initiatives include the following: additional funding for the Workforce Credential Grant Program, VMSDEP stipend and a data analyst position within SCHEV and support for the VA Longitudinal data system. Other initiatives approved by Council but not included in the Governor's budget include increases in funding for student financial aid, TAG, Mental Health Workforce pilot funding, Constructive Dialogue Institute, the Space Grant Consortium and the VA State Grant. The Governor's budget also included items not requested by Council including funding for the VMSDEP waiver, TAG bonus for nursing students at Hispanic Serving Institutions and the College Career Ready program.

Mr. Andes stated that the Governor's budget was introduced on December 18, and the General Assembly is scheduled to open on January 8, at which time the legislature will have an opportunity to react to the Governor's budget. Amendments are due by January 10; the session is scheduled to end on February 22, unless extended by a vote. The General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene April 2.

General Jumper asked Mr. Andes if there was insight on any proposed amendments. Mr. Andes said typically there is no advance notice on budget amendments. Mr. Andes believes there is interest in VMSDEP and its funding from the Commonwealth Savers surplus, as well as an amendment about the TAG program and other funding for student financial aid.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Dr. Khattar discussed the upcoming General Assembly and role of SCHEV. The General Assembly is scheduled to meet on January 8, amendments are due on January 10, and the deadline for filing bills is January 17. Dr. Khattar directed Council to the agenda book for other important General Assembly dates.

Dr. Khattar explained the role of SCHEV during the General Assembly. SCHEV provides feedback and data for the administration and to members of the money committees. Primarily, SCHEV gives technical support but has historically not

provided public support for bills. During the session, SCHEV staff attends relevant committees and subcommittees and facilitates obtaining fiscal impact statements from institutions as required by the Department of Planning and Budget.

Dr. Khattar directed members to a [link](#) on the SCHEV website to identify all bills related to higher education. She warned of technical difficulties between the BillTrack 50 system and the State Legislative System but expects that those will soon be resolved. The Council will receive updates at key points in the process when all bills are filed, at the beginning of the crossover session and the outcomes of the bills.

Dr. Khattar highlighted a few bills of interest related to higher education. The use of the Commonwealth Savers surplus funds and legislation related to athletics and actions of the NCAA seem to be topics of interest for the session. There is also interest in discussing dual enrollment in the Commonwealth. Finally, Dr. Khattar identified bills related to board leadership at institutions. Richard Bland is seeking to establish its own Board of Visitors governance separate from William and Mary.

Finally, Dr. Khattar discussed bills of interest to SCHEV. The Governor's budget provides funding for a data analyst position at SCHEV to make data accessible and user-friendly for families and students. This data has already been collected, so it would not require any additional reporting from institutions. Additionally, there is a bill that would prohibit the banning of transfer credit solely based on the sending body's accreditor type if the institution was approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Other restrictions on transfer credit such as course content and rigor would remain the same. Another bill of interest is common curriculum to increase the pipeline of nurses. The final bill identified as part of SCHEV's agenda would change Scott Fleming's title to executive director to align with other state agencies.

DISCUSSION OF SIX-YEAR PLANS

Dr. Khattar provided an update on the Six-Year Planning Process. The last six-year plan cycle was completed on December 1, 2024, and the plans are posted on SCHEV's website.

Starting in March 2025, SCHEV staff will meet with Op-Six, which includes representatives from the House and Senate money committees, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Finance, SCHEV's director and the Department of Planning and Budget, to refine and amend the templates.

Dr. Khattar directed Council to page 67 of the agenda book to view the current templates required to be completed by institutions. In May 2025, SCHEV staff will send the templates to institutions and require submissions by July 2025. Institutions will come in person in August and September to discuss the plans with the Op-Six and SCHEV staff. Based on those meetings, the Op-Six will develop questions and comments for the institutions. SCHEV staff will distribute those questions and comments to the institutions. The institutions are required to respond by October 1, 2025. The new plans will be posted on the website by Dec. 1, 2025.

UPDATE ON PELL INITIATIVE

Mr. Andes updated the Council on the upcoming changes by SCHEV in evaluating Pell Initiative proposals. For the last two years, institutions submitted proposals on how to spend the funds (\$37 million) over four years. This created a large escrow account due to a lack of certainty regarding the continuation of funds. However, according to Mr. Andes there is confidence that the funds should remain in the budgets allowing full funding to be dispersed each year.

Mr. Andes said that SCHEV staff will return to institutions and ask them to be more aggressive in Pell enrollment and in retention and completion initiatives. Proposals are due by February 3, 2025, and by late April, approvals for FY 2026 will be announced. SCHEV staff will spend less time reviewing institution goals but will spend more time evaluating the results of the activities undertaken making this a more performance-based program.

General Jumper asked if, as the program is being restructured, institutions are sharing best practices or ideas during the building of the program. Mr. Andes stated that best practices are being incorporated into the implementation of the program, and priority funding will be given to practices that have been successful.

Dr. Taylor asked about the performance portion of the funding formula. Mr. Andes explained that institutions would give SCHEV goals and the associated activities and that plans will be individualized to institutions. SCHEV staff will evaluate whether the institution achieved their goals. If an institution is underperforming in the annual review, SCHEV can determine if a new emphasis is needed. Dr. Taylor asked, since the proposals are not a one-size fits all metric, and institutions identify what they want to accomplish, if SCHEV will hold them accountable. Mr. Andes explained that if a practice or activity is unsuccessful then the evaluations will inform and provide information to help institutions adjust their goals and practices.

Ms. Fryer asked if the institution's goals are only based on completion or if there are other accountability standards. Mr. Andes replied that if an institution is better at retention and completion or recruitment the focus can shift to where they need to improve. Ms. Fryer asked if the proposals for initiatives are wide open. For example, could an institution focus on job placement for Pell recipients? Mr. Andes stated that the program is intentionally narrowly focused on enrollment or retention and completion efforts by the institutions.

General Jumper asked if Mr. Andes had any ideas on the impact of the FAFSA simplification process. Mr. Andes said that the impact varies by institution and demographics. Some existing students have demonstrated more need because the formula pushed them to a higher level of need. Mr. Andes stated that there is concern that some students are eligible for less funding even though their income did not change. Mr. Andes explained that the greater impact of the FAFSA simplification process was the implementation not the results, which has caused students to be more cautious about which colleges to attend, with more students staying in state. Even attendance at private institutions have more in-state students but overall decline in attendance. This has created more demand for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG).

Mr. Andes stated that it may take a few years to see the full impact of the FAFSA implementation. General Jumper requested that Mr. Andes keep Council informed regarding the continuing impact and progress of the FAFSA simplification process.

ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE GOALS OF THE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN AND PROCESS INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PLAN

Ms. Salmon reviewed the statutory requirements for the strategic plan development and annual reporting. She also provided select findings from the most recent Virginia Plan for Higher Education for 2024 and introduced a roadmap for developing the next strategic plan.

Ms. Salmon explained that by statute, SCHEV is tasked with developing the Commonwealth's strategic plan for higher education. The current plan, the Pathways to Opportunity, was developed during the COVID years and approved by Council in January 2021. Virginia Code requires a review every six years to ensure the plan's relevance in addressing critical issues. SCHEV submits a report on the annual progress toward reaching those statutory goals by January 1. The annual progress report was submitted in December 2024.

Ms. Salmon then focused on the status of the current plan and the framework for higher education in Virginia, which includes closing gaps in access and completion, lowering cost and expanding prosperity for individuals and for the Commonwealth as a whole. Achieving these goals will aid in realizing the vision of becoming the best state for education by 2030. As part of the framework, there are 10 supporting strategies and an overarching attainment objective of 70% post-secondary educational attainment by 2030. The educational attainment measure includes certificates and certifications for all working-age Virginians.

Ms. Salmon provided a high-level view of the strategic plan's process and reported that there is consistent improvement and attainment over time. The data is root data from the Census but sourced from the Lumina Foundation Stronger Nation, which compiled data points for all 50 states to inform how Virginia compares. The national average for the attainment objective is 54.3%, while Virginia is at 59%. The most recent available data is from 2022. According to Ms. Salmon, we are trending two years behind. There is improvement over the last decade in terms of attainment but to keep pace, the Commonwealth must achieve a 1.4% increase for the next eight years to reach the 2030 goal. Since we are looking at 2022 data, this gives us eight years to see success by 2030.

Ms. Salmon summarized that with regard to the measures of progress there are no big changes, no big gains and no big movement in the wrong direction, and there has been steady progress. Mr. El Koubi asked about the period Ms. Salmon is describing. Salmon replied that the measures always reference the two years prior, so for 2024, we are looking at 2022, with a base year 2019-2020. We are always trending two years behind in data. There is no one-to-one comparison.

Ms. Salmon suggested Council read the annual progress report posted on the SCHEV website as it has more details regarding progress toward the

Commonwealth's strategic plan. She also stated that staff are willing to meet or answer any questions.

General Jumper how SCHEV is defining an award. Ms. Salmon responded it was total degrees awarded, then aggregated by region, race, income and gender.

Ms. Salmon said staff seeks feedback from Council for the next strategic plan and how to align goals and measures and what should be quantified. Overall, the undergirding of the current plan focused on closing access and completion gaps and gaps in general, with no specific quantitative numbers.

Mr. El Koubi asked why there is a difference between attainment measure and attainment objective. Ms. Salmon replied that the attainment objective is a broader, more encompassing objective, referencing top jobs. All stakeholders wanted to keep this measure from the previous strategic plan. However, when looking at these three goals and the desire to disaggregate by subgroup, Council wanted to define the attainment measure separately.

General Jumper remarked that this is a good task for Council to tighten up the measures of success to be more specific.

Ms. Salmon discussed the roadmap to a new Virginia plan with the timeline running from January to December 2025. She noted that this agenda item starts the process with the goal of publishing a plan by December or January.

Ms. Salmon stated that next steps are to present draft goals to Council in March for reaction and refining them iteratively. Additionally, Ms. Salmon will seek out input from stakeholders. SCHEV staff will then seek endorsement of the goals in September to write the new strategic plan.

General Jumper stated this is a great leverage opportunity for input into the larger idea of more efficient and effective processes. He encouraged Council's deliberative engagement in the process.

General Jumper requested a robust risk analysis to go along with the roadmap for the developing the new strategic plan, call out where risks exist and point efforts toward addressing those risks.

Mr. El Koubi said he had three points. First, the overall road map looks good, structured, easy to see how it will all come together with the roadmap highlighted by Ms. Salmon. He wanted to second General Jumper's charge to be deliberative both for staff and Council. Mr. El Koubi challenged the other Council members to dig into this charge. He continued that, through his work on the VEDP board, he had an opportunity to engage with risk analysis. He offered to connect Ms. Salmon and SCHEV staff with folks who worked on risk analysis with VEDP. Mr. El Koubi encouraged the Council and staff to frame goals as much as possible to position Virginia as a leader in the nation. Mr. El Koubi stated that it will be necessary to have data sets for all 50 states to benchmark among the states.

Ms. Salmon told Council members to reach out with any questions and that SCHEV staff will reach out as this process progresses.

REMARKS FROM DEBBIE SYDOW, PRESIDENT, RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

President Sydow joined the Council meeting to discuss Richard Bland College (RBC). Her presentation started with a detailed history of the governance relationship between RBC and William & Mary. She discussed the efforts and roadblocks that RBC has faced in seeking independent governance.

Dr. Sydow joined RBC in 2012. She introduced the many changes she has implemented at RBC since she took over. RBC has reintroduced collegiate sports and started a drone operating academy on the campus. In 2023, RBC restarted its appeal for independent governance. RBC has put forward a bill for the 2025 General Assembly to consider allowing RBC to create its own independent Board of Visitors.

Today, Richard Bland College is 58% minority. RBC students come to campus with a 3.0 GPA. First generation students are 51% of the student body and half of students live on campus. Dr. Sydow highlighted that RBC enjoys a 24% referral rate.

Enrollment in residential population has grown. There is a slight decline in the commuter population, but overall, enrollment is growing. RBC has a robust dual-enrollment population, with several hundred coming to campus and many more online.

Dr. Sydow highlighted the unique first- and second-year student experience at RBC. Students receive extensive support to ensure future success. Eighty-five percent of the RBC faculty is full-time with terminal degrees rather than adjunct. Many students have research opportunities through the grant office and faculty research. Richard Bland College focuses its students on critical thinking.

The University College allows students to stay at Richard Bland for years three and four while earning degrees at Virginia State University or Virginia Wesleyan University. The Promise Scholars program allows Pell-eligible, qualified students to graduate from William & Mary debt-free.

Dr. Sydow shared that RBC emphasizes mental health and well-being of their students. Each student is provided with a Learner Mentor who is trained to be a one-stop to aid students in finding the help they need.

Dr. Sydow concluded by introducing Council to the Reach Project, designed as outreach to students in rural areas of the state.

She concluded by taking some questions from the Council. General Jumper asked Dr. Sydow how RBC is planning for the demographic shift. She stated that RBC has areas of risk but plans to work to appeal to the demographic and provide alternatives to the typically higher education model.

PRESENTATION ON VIRGINIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP'S TALENT INITIATIVE

Council member Jason El Koubi presented to the Council in his capacity as president and CEO at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). The VEDP has a talent initiative that he introduced to the group.

He discussed positioning Virginia as America's top state for talent. The initiative was part of VEDP's strategic planning and included input from various stakeholders, including Alan Edwards, who was SCHEV's interim director at the time.

He stressed that the initiative still needs to be refined. Mr. El Koubi introduced the following trends that are informing the initiative:

1. Improved economic performance.
2. Intensified competitive landscape.
3. Talent-driven location decisions.
4. Scarcity of project-ready sites.

Mr. El Koubi outlined the process and introduced Council to the transformational goals for the Commonwealth including:

1. Robust state growth.
2. Every region wins.
3. Best state for business.
4. Top state for talent.
5. Most innovative, collaborative and effective state economic development operations.

Mr. El Koubi stressed the top state for talent goal. VEDP identified three core strategies including retaining and attracting talent, developing talent, aligning with employer needs and unlocking work potential by reducing barriers. He also spent some time describing the measures used to define success and where the data places the Commonwealth currently. He discussed the role of higher education in reaching the goal of top state for talent.

Mr. Fleming thanked Mr. El Koubi for his presentation.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Fleming discussed SCHEV's significant accomplishments from his first six months and throughout 2024. He first noted the digital fact packs which were updated a year ahead of time. The team also began linking program approval and program productivity together to be nimbler and more responsive to the need of the work force while retaining accountability. SCHEV has issued dozens of reports and onboarded four new and one returning Council member. We also carried out the largest BOV orientation to date.

For 2025, he stressed focusing on outcomes for all students, access and affordability. SCHEV will talk about workforce alignment. SCHEV will review the six-year planning process and see how to make the most of it. SCHEV will continue to plan for the incoming enrollment cliff and emphasize the importance of post-secondary credentialing.

The full report is available on page 91 of the January agenda book.

General Jumper thanked the staff for their work and stressed that Council need to be patient with the changes they wish to implement. He stressed that the Council needs to be ambitious but not kill our initiatives with overreach.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Mr. Fleming promised to send the links to the enrollment data that Dr. Harvey requested. General Jumper asked that staff reach out to Dr. Harvey directly. Included at the end of this document.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

General Jumper suggested that in the near future, SCHEV pursue ways to anticipate the impact of the enrollment cliff on smaller institutions and provide strategies to help.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

John Jumper
Council Chair

SCHEV Staff

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

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

Academic Program Actions

| Institution | Degree/Program/CIP | Effective Date |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| George Mason University | Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the name of the Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd) in Early Childhood Education for Diverse Young Learners (13.1210) to Inclusive Early Childhood Education | Spring 2025 |
| James Madison University | CIP Code Changes Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Economics from 45.0601 to 45.0603 Master of Science (MS) degree program in Integrated Science and Technology from 30.1501 to 30.0601 | Spring 2025 |
| James Madison University | Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Counseling and Supervision (42.2899) from 48 credit hours to 60 credit hours | Summer 2025 |
| Radford University | Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Therapy (51.2305) | Spring 2025 |
| Radford University | Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Master of Science (MS) degree program in Criminal Justice (43.0104) from 36 credit hours to 30 credit hours | Fall 2025 |
| University of Virginia | Facilitated Staff Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a post-baccalaureate program pathway to the existing SCHEV-approved Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program in Nursing Practice (51.3818) | Spring 2025 |
| University of Virginia | Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Master of Science (MS) degree program in Global | Fall 2025 |

| Institution | Degree/Program/CIP | Effective Date |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| | Commerce (52.1101) from 40 credit hours to 30 credit hours | |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | CIP Code Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the CIP code of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Healthcare Policy and Research from 51.2299 to 45.0102 | Fall 2024 |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Literature (23.0101) | Spring 2025 |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing Future Faculty (13.1214) | Fall 2025 |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | Program Modifications Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Master of Art Education (MAE) degree program in Art Education (13.1302) from 36 credit hours to 30 credit hours Modify the credit hours of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Nursing (51.3808) from 58-67 credit hours to 58-59 credit hours | Fall 2025 |

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 |
|---|---|----------------|
| College of William and Mary in Virginia | Degree Designation Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree designation in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (B.A./B.S.) degree program in Mathematics (27.0101) Master of Arts (M.A.) degree designation in the Master of Arts/Master of Science (M.A./M.S.) degree program in Physics (40.0801) | Spring 2025 |
| Old Dominion University | Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Science (MS) degree program in Park, Recreation and Tourism Studies (31.0301) [Council Approval Date: February 22, 2017] | Spring 2025 |
| Radford University | Degree Designation Discontinuances Approved: | Spring 2025 |

| Institution | Degree/Program/CIP | Effective Date |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree designation in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (B.A./B.S.) degree program in Physics (40.0801) Master of Arts (M.A.) degree designation in the Master of Arts/Master of Science (M.A./M.S.) degree program in Criminal Justice (43.0104) | |
| University of Mary Washington | Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Science (MS) degree program in Geospatial Analysis (45.0702) [Council Approval Date: October 29, 2013] | Spring 2025 |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | Graduate Certificate Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (13.1401) | Spring 2025 |

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 | <p>Create the School of Arts. The School will reside in the College of Arts and Humanities. Two existing departments will be moved to the school: the Department of Fine Art and Art History and, the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance.</p> <p>The establishment of the school will "help increase collaboration between the faculty in the two departments... and the two professional art venues on the main campus."</p> | January 2, 2025 |
| College of William and Mary in Virginia | Rename the School of Marine Science to the Batten School of Coastal and Marine Sciences . The school has been renamed to recognize a \$100 million gift. Further, "the change to include the word 'coastal' will accurately reflect the faculty's research and activities....." | October 15, 2024 |
| Radford University | Reorganize Academic Affairs to close the College of Graduate Studies . The college closure will "close a unit that does | June 1, 2025 |

| Institution | Change/Site | Effective Date |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------|
| | not function as a college in the way Radford University treats academic units.” | |
| University of Mary Washington | <p>Reorganize the College of Business to relocate the Department of Computer Science from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.”</p> <p>All resources supporting the Department of Computer Science will be reallocated and relocated with the department.</p> | January 13, 2025 |
| University of Mary Washington | <p>Reorganize the College of Business to relocate the Department of Economics from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.”</p> <p>All resources supporting the Department of Economics will be reallocated and relocated with the department.</p> | January 13, 2025 |
| University of Mary Washington | <p>Reorganize the College of Business to relocate the Department of Mathematics from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.”</p> <p>All resources supporting the Department of Mathematics will be reallocated and relocated with the department.</p> | January 13, 2025 |
| University of Mary Washington | <p>Reorganize the College of Education to relocate the Department of Athletics, Health, and Physical Education from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.”</p> <p>All resources supporting the Department of Athletics, Health, and Physical Education will be reallocated and relocated with the department.</p> | January 13, 2025 |

| Institution | Change/Site | Effective Date |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| University of Mary Washington | Reorganize the College of Education to relocate the Department of Nursing from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.” All resources supporting the Department of Nursing will be reallocated and relocated with the department. | January 13, 2025 |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | Rename the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture to the Richard T. Robertson School of Communication . The School is located in the College of Humanities and Sciences. The school has been renamed “to align the [unit] more closely with the names used by VCU’s SCHEV peer institutions.” | November 1, 2024 |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | Reorganize the College of Humanities and Sciences to relocate the Department of Focused Inquiry from the University College to the College. The relocation of the department from the University College will “allow the Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences to align faculty with similar academic backgrounds with degree programs and other academic program needs.” The reorganization is needed to ensure the department “is located in a college that allows for collaborative opportunities among faculty with similar academic backgrounds.” | December 15, 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 disapproved as delegated to staff:

Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

| Institution | Change/Site | Effective Date |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Virginia Commonwealth University | Change the name of the University College to the Academy for Interdisciplinary Innovation | October 10, 2024 |

| Institution | Change/Site | Effective Date |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Virginia Commonwealth University | Change the name of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology to the Department of Neuroscience | November 26, 2024 |

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

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

| Institution | Location | Effective Date |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Accelerated Academy | Purcellville, VA | September 23, 2024 |
| Illuminate Beauty Institute | Norfolk, VA | September 23, 2024 |
| Empire Beauty School (Change of Ownership- 4 locations) | Richmond, VA Midlothian, VA VA Beach, VA Newport News, VA | September 27, 2024 |
| OceanPointe Dental Academy of Richmond | Glen Allen, VA | October 28, 2024 |
| Yoll Academy | Fairfax, VA | December 2, 2024 |