Discussion of Draft Goals of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Virginia Higher Education

SCHEV Council

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STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Objectives for Today

1. Review statutory requirements for strategic plan development.
2. Share emergent themes from Council and Stakeholder surveys.
3. Discuss goal concepts and related themes.
4. Identify goal concept nomenclature.

Council's Statutory Responsibility

Develop a statewide strategic plan, per statute, for higher education that seeks to address critical issues and:

Reflects

statutory goals for higher education in the Commonwealth

(§ 23.1-301 - Top Jobs Act of 2011 and § 23.1-1002 - public institution goals).

Identifies

a coordinated approach to such state and regional goals.

Emphasizes

the future needs for higher education in Virginia.

Council Survey Responses – Emergent Themes

Virginia Higher Education Issues	Virginia Issues
Talent development and retention (e.g. work-based learning, employer engagement, alternative student pathways). (24%)	Talent development and retention (e.g. outmigration, graduate preparedness, barriers to participation). (34%)
Relevance of higher education and return on investment (relevance to high school graduates, employers' talent needs, research/innovation as an economic engine). (20%)	Economy (jobs, inflation, federal policy and funding changes) (28%)
Affordability and access (tuition and fees, student educational pathways). (17%)	**Societal and cultural dynamics (e.g., mental health, political polarization, declining confidence in institutions). (25%).**
Declining enrollment (demographic cliff, business model of higher education). (15%)	**Technological innovation and disruption (e.g. artificial intelligence advancements). (13%)**
Higher education funding (federal, state and institutional funding models). (11%)	Notes: Highlighted text = Leading issue (from Council and stakeholder survey responses) which higher education can play a significant role in addressing. **Bold text** = Additional top ranked issues which higher education can play a significant role in addressing from Virginia higher education stakeholder survey (over 500 responses)
Civil discourse, civic education and civic engagement. (9%)	

Goal Concepts and Related Themes

Overarching theme: Talent (access, pathways, development, retention and employment in Virginia)

Goal concept 1: Themes related to students' preparedness

Goal concept 2: Themes related to higher education's pertinence and value

Goal concept 3: Themes related to institutions' responsiveness and resilience

Goal Concept One: Council Feedback

Overarching Theme: Talent (access, pathways, development, retention and employment in Virginia)				
VA Higher Ed Goal Concept	**Support**	**Needs discussion**	**Significant adjustments needed**	**Ideas for goal concept nomenclature**
Goal concept 1: Themes related to students' preparedness • To learn (college readiness/preparedness) • To work (career readiness/preparedness) • To contribute (civil discourse, civic engagement) • To lead				

Goal Concept Two: Council Feedback

Overarching Theme: Talent (access, pathways, development, retention and employment in Virginia)				
VA Higher Ed Goal Concept	Support	Needs discussion	Significant adjustments needed	Ideas for goal concept nomenclature
Goal concept 2: Themes related to higher education's pertinence and value • To student needs– sense of belonging/access (e.g. male, low-income and underrepresented students) • To students/families (affordable pathways) • To taxpayers (return on investment)				

Goal Concept Three: Council Feedback

Overarching Theme: Talent (access, pathways, development, retention and employment in Virginia)				
VA Higher Ed Goal Concept	**Support**	**Needs discussion**	**Significant adjustments needed**	**Ideas for goal concept nomenclature**
Goal concept 3: Themes related to institutions' responsiveness and resilience • To industry needs (AI and other technological disruptions and innovations) • To student needs (e.g. mental health, basic needs, pathways, etc.) • To Virginians' needs (Funding models, organizational efficiencies and accountability, demographic changes) • To societal and cultural dynamics (e.g. political polarization and declining confidence in institutions)				

Next Steps

1. Incorporate Council feedback into revised goal concepts.
2. Host input sessions across VA on Council-shaped goal concepts and ideate supporting strategies.
3. Present revised goals and draft strategies at May Council meeting.