Agenda Book
May 12-13, 2025

Location:

Randolph-Macon College

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

May 12-13, 2025, Council Meeting
Schedule of Events
Randolph-Macon College
Ashland, VA 23005

May 12, 2025

1:00 – 2:45

Academic Affairs Committee
Payne Hall, Room #316
Section I on the agenda
Committee members: Cheryl Oldham (chair); Micah Edmond; Jason El Koubi; Lindsay Fryer; Doug Straley; Steven Taylor.

1:00 – 2:45

Resources and Planning Committee
Payne Hall, Room #317
Section II on the agenda
Committee members: Jennie O'Holleran (chair); Walter Curt; John Jumper; Delceno Miles; John Olsen; Carlyle Ramsey.

3:00 - 5:00

Private College Advisory Board Meeting
Birdsong Pavilion
106 Patrick Street
Section III on the agenda

5:15 – 6:00

Reception
Performing Arts Center Patio
205 Henry Street

6:00 – 7:30

Dinner
Performing Arts Center, Haun Rehearsal Hall
205 Henry Street

May 13, 2025

9:00 – 12:35

Council Meeting
Birdsong Pavilion
106 Patrick Street
Section IV on the agenda

NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2025, Piedmont Virginia Community College

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

May 12-13, 2025, Council Meetings
Agenda
Randolph-Macon College

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I. Academic Affairs Committee **Monday, May 12, 2025** **Payne Hall, Room #316**	**1:00 p.m.**		
I.A. Call to Order	1:00 p.m.	Ms. Oldham	
I.B. Approval of Minutes from the March 17 Academic Affairs Committee	1:05 p.m.	Ms. Oldham	**5**
I.C. Review of Proposed Doctoral Program	1:10 p.m.	Dr. Osei	9
I.D. Action on a Proposed Organizational Change at a Public Institution	1:25 p.m.	Dr. DeFilippo	12
I.E. Action on a Proposed Private Postsecondary Institution Certification	1:40 p.m.	Ms. Freeman	19
I.F. Update on Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC)	1:55 p.m.	Dr. Pantazis	23
I.G. Receipt of Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee	2:30 p.m.	Dr. DeFilippo	**25**
I.H. Motion to Adjourn	2:45 p.m.	Ms. Oldham	
II. Resources and Planning Committee **Monday, May 12, 2025** **Payne Hall, Room #317**	**1:00 p.m.**		
II.A. Call to Order	1:00 p.m.	Ms. O'Holleran	
II.B. Action on Designated Institutions' Progress Regarding Institutional Performance Standards	1:05 p.m.	Dr. Khattar	29
II.C. Update on Six-Year Planning Process	1:35 p.m.	Dr. Khattar	34
II.D. Update on Higher Education Budget from the 2025 General Assembly	1:55 p.m.	Mr. Andes	37
II.E. Update on the Annual Report for the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program for FY 2024	2:10 p.m.	Ms. Thompson	39
II.F. Update on Major Projects Impacting the Resources & Planning Committee in 2025	2:30 p.m.	Mr. Andes	42
II.G. Motion to Adjourn	2:45 p.m.	Ms. O'Holleran	

III. Private College Advisory Board Meeting Monday, May 12, 2025 Birdsong Pavilion	3:00 p.m.		
IV. Council Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2025 Birdsong Pavilion	9:00 a.m.		
IV.A. Call to Order	9:00 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	
IV.B. Approval of Minutes from the March 18 Council Meeting	9:05 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	47
IV.C. Remarks from Randolph-Macon College President Robert Lindgren	9:10 a.m.	Dr. Lindgren	58
IV.D. Discussion of Draft Goals of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Virginia Higher Education	9:30 a.m.	Ms. Salmon	60
IV.E. Update on SCHEV Access Initiatives (GEAR UP and Level Up Virginia)	10:05 a.m.	Ms. McGrath	65
Break	10:30 a.m.		
IV.F Update on Civic Engagement	10:45 a.m.	Dr. Fisler/ Dr. Rackaway	69
IV.G. Update on the Changing Federal Landscape	11:05 a.m.	Mr. Shaffner	71
IV.H. Report from the Agency Director	11:40 a.m.	Mr. Fleming	73
IV.I. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee	11:50 a.m.	Ms. Oldham	
IV.J. Report of the Resources and Planning Committee	12:00 p.m.	Ms. O'Holleran	
IV.K. Receipt of Items Delegated to Staff	12:10 p.m.	Mr. Fleming	76
IV.L. Old Business	12:15 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	

IV.M. New Business
  -   Nominating Committee
  -   OFA Sponsorships
	12:20 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	

IV.N. Receipt of Public Comment	12:30 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	
IV.O. Motion to Adjourn	12:35 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	
NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2025, Piedmont Virginia Community College (Charlottesville)			

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
March 17, 2024

<u>DRAFT MINUTES</u>

Ms. Oldham called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., at Preston Library, Turman Room, Virginia Military Institute, in Lexington, VA.

Committee members present: Cheryl Oldham (Chair), Micah Edmond, Jason El Koubi, Lindsey Fryer, General John Jumper, Steven Taylor

Committee members absent: J. Doug Straley, Dr. William Harvey

Staff members present: Lynne Brownlee, Taylor Clark, Alan Edwards, Joseph G. DeFilippo, Scott Fleming, Jodi Fisler, Alexis Gravely, Jessica Minnis McClain, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner, and Kristin Whelan

<u>ACTION ON PROPOSED EDUCATION LICENSURE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN SHORTAGE AREAS</u>

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the five proposed new education licensure degree programs in shortage areas, found in a table on page 7 of the agenda book. In response to a query by Dr. Taylor, Dr. DeFilippo noted the table on pg. 8 of the agenda book shows institutions planned increase in graduates rather than total enrollment.

In response to a query from Ms. Freyer, Dr. DeFilippo remarked that master's degrees in education are useful tools for career switchers who have earned bachelor's degrees in another area. Dr. Elizabeth Edwards, Department Head for the Department of Kinesiology at James Madison University, further noted that JMU's proposed master's degree was designed at the master's level because of the breadth of the curriculum and to be able to target career switchers. Gen. Jumper thanked all of the institutions for working to help alleviate the teacher shortage in Virginia and remarked that institutions may see a council request for follow-up data on the success of efforts in shortage areas.

The following resolution was approved unanimously (6-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

> **BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to the four institutions listed below to implement the specified degree programs in education licensure shortage areas, effective fall 2025.**

Institution	Degree	Program Name	CIP
JMU	Master of Arts (MA)	Physical and Health Education Teacher Education	13.1314
Longwood	Bachelor of Science (BS)	Special Education	13.1001
UVa	Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd)	Secondary Education	13.1205
UVa	Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd)	English as a Second Language Education	13.1401
VATech	Master of Arts in Education (MAEd)	Reading and Literacy Education	13.1315

ACTION ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE POLICY

Dr. DeFilippo introduced and described the background of the proposed change to the organizational change policy. Dr. DeFilippo noted the proposed change is in response to council's specific request that Boards of Visitors be required to approve changes to academic units.

In response to a query from Ms. Freyer, Dr. DeFilippo noted no substantive feedback had been received from institutions. In response to a query from Mr. Edmonds, Gen. Jumper remarked that institutions already often involve their Boards of Visitors, particularly when planning organizational changes that require funding and lengthy planning. Further, Gen. Jumper noted that while there may be special cases, the proposed timeline works to ensure board awareness at an institutional level and to ensure that council is not approving changes that might be at odds with the plans of the institutional boards.

The following resolution was approved unanimously (6-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

> **BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the following modification to "Organizational Changes at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes," to take effect April 1, 2025:**
>
> All requests for organizational changes **must be approved** by the institution's Board of Visitors (BOV). ~~All requests that require governing board approval must be~~ and formally submitted to SCHEV **within one (1) year of that approval**. If the organizational change is approved by SCHEV, the change must be implemented **within one (1) year of the effective date** as indicated in the SCHEV approval letter. Organizational changes not implemented within the one year must be submitted as a new request. (p.8)

ACTION ON THE NEW DEGREE-PROGRAM APPROVAL POLICY

Dr. DeFilippo introduced and described the background of the proposed changes to the degree-program approval policy. Dr. DeFilippo noted the policy changes presented were

the result of months of iterative work that involved staff, institutional representatives, the Secretary of Education, and representatives from the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE). Further, Dr. DeFilippo noted that the reforms in the self-contained guidance document, which include eliminating program announcements, eliminating learning outcomes, eliminating job ads, reducing duplication requirements, and adding information on Return on Investment (ROI), apply only to new degree programs.

In response to a comment by Gen. Jumper, Director Fleming remarked that the aim of the changes was to improve nimbleness, and that review of the current approval process noted redundancy in requiring institutions to report information to the State Council of Education for Virginia (SCHEV) that is being reported elsewhere (SACS-COC). In response to a query by Mr. Edmonds, Dr. DeFilippo noted that changes in the duplication section respond to a request by the council and the Secretary of Education to utilize data provided by VOEE. In response to a query by Ms. Oldham, Dr. DeFilippo noted that institutional response has been cautiously positive, particularly as concerns shortening the review process timeline.

In response to a query by Mr. El Koubi, Dr. DeFilippo noted the changes presented are counter to certain feedback that SCHEV has received over time (including from the Secretary of Education and the General Assembly) to the effect that SCHEV's program approval process should be more stringent. Ms. Freyer noted the changes mean that council is responsible for ensuring degree programs are productive and on-track to meet their stated goals. Mr. Edmonds requested a presentation by VOEE on the use of the specially created data reports once the new dashboard is operational.

The following resolution was approved unanimously (6-0) to be forwarded to the full council:

> **BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the "New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document," effective immediately, or as soon thereafter as proves practicable.**

> **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director, or his delegate, may adopt such practices and procedures as he deems necessary to achieve a smooth transition to the Guidance Document's provisions.**

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 3:05 p.m.

_____
Cheryl Oldham
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

_____
Kirstin Pantazis
Staff, Academic Affairs

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State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: I.C. – Academic Affairs Committee – Action on Review of Proposed Doctoral Degree Program

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

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Presenter: Dr. Monica Osei
Associate Director of Academic Programs and Instructional Sites
monicaosei@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☒ No previous Council review/action
☐ Previous review/action
   Date:
   Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to inform the Academic Affairs Committee's consideration of and action on whether Old Dominion University's (ODU) proposal to establish a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Cybersecurity may go forward to an external site review.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
For public institutions' proposals of degree programs at the doctoral level, the SCHEV evaluation process proceeds in two steps. First, the proposal is evaluated by staff. If staff determines that the proposal has adequately justified "state need" – specific demand, employment demand, and student demand – then second, the proposal is advanced to an external review. Staff brings this evaluation to the Academic Affairs Committee due to concerns with the ODU proposal's documentation of "state needs."

ODU is seeking approval to offer a PhD degree program in Cybersecurity. The proposed program is designed for post-bachelor and post-master students. Students would be able to attend full-time or part-time. The degree program would require 78 credit hours for post-bachelor students and 48 credit hours for post-master's students. The submitted proposal contends that the primary justification for offering a PhD focused specifically on cybersecurity is the growth of cybersecurity education at the undergraduate level, thus necessitating PhD's in cybersecurity to serve as faculty.

Currently, ODU offers two closely-related or similar doctoral degree programs: (1) a PhD in Computer Science; and (2) a Doctor of Engineering/Doctor of Philosophy (DEng/PhD) in Engineering with a concentration in cybersecurity. Staff's concerns with the proposal's documentation of "state needs" include:

- ODU's DEng in Engineering with a concentration in Cybersecurity requires 48 credit hours. The program is offered in the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology. The degree program produces graduates who can serve as cybersecurity faculty, which is the university's stated purpose of the proposed degree program. ODU has indicated the existing concentration will not be closed.

- ODU claims that the proposed degree program will produce graduates to work as faculty in the field of cybersecurity. However, documentation submitted for "specific demand" does not demonstrate demand for <u>cybersecurity</u> faculty. The primary article cited by ODU is focused on how to design a cybersecurity doctoral degree for working professionals and does not adduce data that address the extent of demand for cybersecurity faculty.

- The proposed degree program would be available face-to-face and fully online. ODU projects that 25% of the students would be part-time and 75% full-time. The time to complete the degree program for part-time students would be seven (7) years for post-bachelor students. Part-time post-master students would graduate in four (4) years. ODU did not indicate how many of the 50 students (head count indicated in year five) would be post-bachelor and how many would be post-master. The results of the survey conducted by ODU indicate that, of the 19 bachelor students responding, nine (9) would enroll part-time and of the 45 graduate students in the cybersecurity concentration, 23 would enroll part-time.

- Employment ads included in the proposal do not indicate strong demand for faculty with doctoral degrees in cybersecurity. Of the 10 ads provided by ODU, six (6) are in Virginia. Of the six, three (3) do not mention cybersecurity as a field for the doctorate, while the other three (3) indicate computer science, cybersecurity and other computer science-related fields. The general picture that emerges is that institutions of higher education are most commonly recruiting for faculty with PhDs in computer science and the ability to teach cybersecurity and other computer science-related courses as part of a broader portfolio of competencies. As noted above, ODU already offers a PhD in computer science, as well as a DEng/PhD in engineering with a concentration in cybersecurity.

Materials Provided: N/A

Financial Impact: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: If approved, the proposal would move forward to external review by a team of experts.

Staff Recommendation:
Based on a review of the application, staff presents ODU's proposed **Ph.D. degree program in Cybersecurity (CIP code: 11.1003)** to the Academic Affairs Committee for consideration as to whether the program should move forward to external review by a team of experts.

The Committee may vote to approve, disapprove, approve with condition, or table for future action.

If approved, staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Affairs Committee authorizes the Ph.D. degree program in Cybersecurity (CIP code: 11.1003) proposed by Old Dominion University to move forward to an external review by a team of experts.

If not approved, staff recommends adoption of the following resolution and transmission of it to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia does not grant approval to Old Dominion University to initiate a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program in Cybersecurity (CIP code: 11.1003).

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: I.D – Academic Affairs Committee – Action on a Proposed Organizational Change at a Public Institution

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning
joedefilippo@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☒ No previous Council review/action
☐ Previous review/action
   Date:
   Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to present information for review and action on a proposed organizational change at a public institution. The information is presented in fulfillment of Council's statutory duty to:

> review and approve or disapprove the establishment of any department, school, college, branch, division, or extension of any public institution of higher education that such institution proposes to establish, whether located on or off the main campus of such institution (*Code of Virginia*, §23.1-203 (7)).

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
Organizational Changes Presented for Approval

- The College of William and Mary in Virginia (William & Mary) is proposing to establish a **Department of Data Science** in the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics.

Materials Provided:
A summary of the proposal is provided behind these cover pages.

Financial Impact:
William & Mary affirms that no new resources will be requested from the state to establish or operate the proposed new department or to implement the proposed organizational change. For specific information on the university's internal (re)allocations, see the summary provided behind these cover pages.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A

Relationship to the Goals of _The Virginia Plan for Higher Education_:
Council's consideration of proposed new organizational units supports three strategies outlined in _Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education_:

- Strategy 5: Cultivate affordable postsecondary education pathways for traditional, non- traditional and returning students.
- Strategy 7: Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.
- Strategy 9: Improve the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

Resolution:
Staff presents the proposed establishment of the **Department of Data Science** at the College of William and Mary in Virginia to the Academic Affairs Committee for approval.

The Committee may vote to approve, disapprove, approve with condition, or table for future action. If approved, adopt the following resolution and transmit it to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the establishment of the Department of Data Science, located in the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics, at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, effective July 1, 2025.

The College of William and Mary in Virginia
Proposed Establishment of the Department of Data Science, located in the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics (selections from the proposal)

Background
On September 23, 2024, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and the Provost hosted a community forum with the faculty of the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics. Faculty from the Department of Applied Science, Department of Computer Science, Department of Physics, and the Data Science Program attended. The group discussed reasons to establish a new department. The group discussed the organizational structures at other public universities in Virginia and at SCHEV peer institutions. At the conclusion of the community forum, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs invited faculty to submit questions or concerns to Department Chairpersons by October 4, 2024. The Vice Provost for Academic Affairs also asked the Department Chairpersons to discuss available options for the Data Science Program and to communicate any recommendations by October 7, 2024.

On October 23, 2024, the Provost, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and the Dean-elect of the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics met to discuss the establishment of a new department.

During the month of October 2024, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs met regularly with the provost to update her on academic and organizational matters, including the discussions related to proposing a new department. The Vice Provost for Academic Affairs communicated the results of the community forum, an email letter from the Department Chairpersons, and discussions with the Dean-elect of the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics. Upon review of the feedback received from faculty, Dean-elect of the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics, and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Provost determined the university should propose to establish a new department.

Purpose of Proposed Change
The purpose of the proposed organizational change is to establish an academic unit solely responsible for the administration and oversight of data science academic programs and resources at William & Mary.

Rationale for the Proposed Change
The proposed organizational change to establish the Department of Data Science will be advantageous to William & Mary. The proposed new department will help in three (3) ways: 1) provide necessary autonomy for the Data Science Program; 2) establish oversight of resources; and 3) create organizational consistency at the university.

Autonomy
When the Director of the Data Science Program met with the faculty teaching data science courses at the university in August 2024, the group discussed concerns raised by the faculty that they were not afforded the autonomy or independence of choice to develop new curricula or to pursue external funding while they remained in the Department of Computer Science. Moreover, the faculty argued that as a Program the

faculty do not have and would not have representation on curriculum committees in the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics or on university-wide faculty committees. Without a standalone department, they would not be able to represent the data science degree program or education on curriculum committees in the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics or on university-wide faculty committees. During the meeting, the 13 faculty teaching data science courses determined to hold a vote to decide their course of action. The result was unanimous to propose establishing a new department. The proposed new department would provide necessary autonomy for data science education at the university and, provide an academic and administrative "home" for the faculty overseeing data science education at William & Mary.

<u>Oversight</u>
When the faculty of the Data Science Program met in August 2024, they discussed how the establishment of a new department would ensure appropriate oversight for budgetary authority and fiscal management of the Data Science Program. Currently, the chairperson of the Department of Computer Science maintains final oversight authority of all budgetary and fiscal decisions in the department. Given the department chairperson is selected among the computer science faculty, there is a risk that budgetary decisions affecting the Data Science Program may in the future not reflect the interests of the data science faculty. The proposed organizational change to establish a standalone department for data science would ensure the faculty dedicated to data science have appropriate oversight over all of the resources supporting data science faculty, education, and initiatives.

<u>Organizational Consistency</u>
Historically at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, single disciplinary areas with dedicated faculty and a degree program are maintained in a standalone academic unit. The only occasion in which the faculty and the degree program they oversee are located in the Office of the Dean or an existing academic unit is if the degree program utilizes resources from two (2) or more disciplines.

Academic Units
The proposed organizational change will impact an existing department that is currently located in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The Department of Computer Science will have a change in the resources in the department as all resources supporting the existing Data Science Program will be reallocated to the proposed new department. No changes will occur to other departments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The proposed organizational change will not impact the three (3) departments in the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics, or other academic units at the university. No changes will occur to other departments or schools at the university as a result of the proposed organizational change to establish a new department.

Academic Programs
The proposed organizational change will impact academic programs administered in the Department of Computer Science. An existing degree program and one other academic program are administered by the Data Science Program located in the

department. The degree program and the other academic program would be relocated to the proposed new department. No changes will be made to the academic programs as a result of the move to the proposed new department.

The following degree program and other academic programs will reside in the proposed new department.

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Data Science
Data Science, Minor

The proposed new department will co-administer with the Department of Computer Science one (1) academic program.

Graduate Certificate in Data and Computer Sciences

Administration

A Department Chairperson position will be created for the proposed department. The chairperson will be a faculty member in the department who reports to the Dean of the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics. The chairperson will be responsible for the daily functions (e.g., course scheduling, internal and external communications), the budget, and all personnel matters (supervising faculty and staff).

The department chairperson will have (6) staff and 19 faculty as direct reports by year three of operation. Upon establishment, the proposed new department will have (1) administrative coordinator, (1) fiscal coordinator, (1) research scientist, and 3) post-doctoral fellows.

The cost for administrative staff will be $753,388 in year one rising to $798,413 by year three. The total cost will be $2,327,371 for the first three (3) years of operation.

Resources

The proposed new department would be established utilizing funding from three sources. All of the resources from the existing Data Science Program located in the Department of Computer Sciences would be reallocated to the proposed new department. The Data Science Program has a budget of $3,835,489. The Office of the Dean of the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics will be responsible for the department's budget and will allocate $5,000 in additional money in year one (1) for publicity and promotion of the proposed new department.

The Office of the Provost will provide financial support to the proposed new department. The William & Mary Office of the Provost and the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics, Office of the Dean manage $1,270,000 in dedicated data science funds provided by the Virginia General Assembly and now included in Education & General (E&G) funds as part of the permanent operating budget. The funds include one-time expenses (e.g. faculty recruitment, start-up packages) and ongoing expenses including faculty salaries and administrative support. The funds allocated by the Virginia General Assembly can and will only be used on data science education, activities, and initiatives at William & Mary.

William & Mary plans to hire three new faculty in the first year of operation. One assistant professor, tenure-track and two assistant professors, non-tenure eligible would be hired. In year one, the cost for the assist professor, tenure-track faculty will be $173,000 plus the one-time start-up package of $250,000, for a cost of $423,000. The cost for the two other new hires will be $245,000. The total cost for salaries of all existing and new faculty will be $8,012,363 for the first three (3) years of operation.

The proposed new department will have 25 graduate assistant positions in year one of operation remaining constant for the first three years of operation. The Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) and Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) positions currently located in and funded by the Department of Computer Science will be reallocated to the proposed new department. The Office of the Dean will provide funding for graduate assistant positions. The total cost for all graduate assistants will be $1,003,520 in year one, rising to $1,064,630 in year three of operation. The total cost for all graduate assistants will be $3,101,816 8 in the first three years of operation.

The reallocation of funds to establish and operate the proposed new department will have a minimal impact on the budget of the Department of Computer Sciences. William & Mary indicates the budget for the Department of Computer Science is sufficient to adequately and appropriately support the remaining degree programs and other academic program in the department. William and Mary attest that the reallocated resources to support the establishment and operation of the proposed new department will not negatively impact existing departments in the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics or other academic units at the university.

William & Mary affirms no new resources will be requested from the state to establish or operate the proposed new department or implement the proposed organizational change.

New Academic Unit - Proposed Name: Department of Data Science

Expenditure Category	HDCT	Proposed Budget 20_25_ - 20_26_	20_26_ - 20_27_	20_27_ - 20_28_
Personnel Salary				
Position Title: Department Chairperson	1	$154,200	$158,526	$162,982
Fringe Benefits		$61,680	$63,410	$65,193
Position Title: Administrative Coordinator	1	$54,500	$56,135	$57,819
Fringe Benefits		$21,800	$22,454	$23,128
Position Title: Fiscal Coordinator	1	$54,500	$56,135	$57,819
Fringe Benefits		$21,800	$22,454	$23,128
Other Personnel (specify in text): Research Scientist (1)/Post-doctoral	4	$274,936	$283,184	$291,676
Fringe Benefits		$109,972	$113,272	$116,668
Administration Subtotal	7	$753,388	$775,570	$798,413
Faculty	19	$1,896,214	$1,949,085	$2,003,459
Fringe Benefits		$699,874	$720,991	$742,740
Faculty Subtotal	19	$2,596,088	$2,670,076	$2,746,199
Student Support				
Student Workers	5	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000
Graduate Teaching Assistant	10	$393,590	$405,400	$417,560
Graduate Research Assistant	15	$609,930	$628,230	$647,070
Student Support Subtotal	30	$1,023,520	$1,053,630	$1,084,630
Operating Expenses				
Office Supplies		$2,500	$2,575	$2,652
Instructional Supplies		$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Travel		$4,500	$7,500	$9,000
Marketing		$5,000	$5,000	$5,000
Conference/Professional Development		$23,000	$23,690	$24,401
Other Costs (specify in text)		$278,000	$0	$0
Operating Expenses Subtotal		$314,000	$39,765	$42,053
Total	56	$4,686,996	$4,539,041	$4,671,295

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: I.E. – Academic Affairs Committee – Action on a Proposed Private Postsecondary Institution Certification

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Presenter: Ms. Sandra Freeman
Director of Private Postsecondary Education
sandrafreeman@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☒ No previous Council review/action
☐ Previous review/action
    Date:
    Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to present for review and action an application for certification to operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a postsecondary educational institution, in accord with *Code of Virginia* §23.1-219.A.:

> Without obtaining the certification of the Council or a determination that the activity or program is exempt from such certification requirements, no postsecondary school subject to the provisions of this article shall: (1) Use the term "college" or "university" or abbreviations or words of similar meaning in its name or in any manner in connection with its academic affairs or business; (2) Enroll students; (3) Offer degrees, courses for degree credit, programs of study leading to a degree, or courses for nondegree credit, either at a site or via a distance learning modality; or (4) Initiate other programs for degree credit or award degrees or certificates at a new or additional level.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
Virginia Christian College (VCC, formally Virginia Bible College) is a private, non-profit institution of higher education established in 2011 and currently operating in Virginia as a religious-exempt institution.

The institution seeks certification from Council, which is a prerequisite for VCC to expand its offerings to include non-religious programs. Virginia Christian College is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). The institution has submitted the required certification fee, and SCHEV staff present the application for review and approval.

Materials Provided:
A summary of the institution's application begins on the next page.

Financial Impact:
Virginia Christian College has submitted the required certification fee to operate as a postsecondary educational institution in Virginia.

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:
Council's consideration of new postsecondary institutions for certification supports two strategies outlined in *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

- Strategy 1: Expand postsecondary opportunities and awareness to Virginians who may not view higher education as an option.
- Strategy 9: Improve the alignment between postsecondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A

Resolution:
Staff presents the proposed certification of **Virginia Christian College** to operate in Virginia to the Academic Affairs Committee.

The Committee may vote to approve, disapprove, approve with condition, or table for future action. If approved, adopt the following resolution and transmit it to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies Virginia Christian College to operate as a degree-granting postsecondary educational institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective May 13, 2025.

Virginia Christian College
Application Summary

School Overview
Virginia Christian College (formally Virginia Bible College) is a private, non-profit institution of higher education established in 2011 and currently operating in Virginia as a religious-exempt institution. The institution seeks certification as the prerequisite to expanding its offerings to include non-religious programs. Virginia Christian College is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).

School Officers
President – Dr. Courtney McBath
VP of Academic and Student Affairs – Dr. Shennell January
Chief Financial Officer – Anna Hines

School Mission Statement
Virginia Christian College's mission statement is as follows:

> *To equip students with biblical truth, spiritual discipline, and practical knowledge to effectively serve and lead in the church and/or marketplace.*

Proposed Educational Programs and Credentials
Virginia Christian College will offer the following programs:
- Certificate in Biblical and Theological Studies
- Certificate in Ministry
- Bachelor of Biblical and Theological Studies
- Master of Ministry
- Doctor of Ministry

Proposed Location
Virginia Christian College will operate from the following two locations in Virginia:
- 17100 Van Buren Road Dumfries, VA 22025
- 5833 Poplar Hall Drive Norfolk, VA 23502

Financial Stability Indicator
SCHEV staff calculated Virginia Christian College's financial composite score as 3.0 out of a possible 3.0, which indicates the institution demonstrates overall financial health, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.

Guaranty Instrument
Virginia Christian College has submitted a surety for each site in Virginia as follows: $422,000 for the Dumfries location and $149,000 for the Norfolk location. These are adequate to provide refunds to all Virginia students for the unearned non-Title IV portion of tuition and fees for the first year of enrollment in the event of school closure, pursuant to Virginia Administrative Code section 8VAC40-31-160(I).

Evidence of Compliance

Virginia Administrative Code Citation	Area of Compliance
8 VAC 40-31-30	Advertising/Publications
8 VAC 40-31-160 (E) (5)	Maintenance of Student Records
8 VAC 40-31-140 and 150	Faculty Qualifications
8 VAC 40-31-160	Student Services
8 VAC 40-31-160 (M)	Library Resources and Services
8 VAC 40-31-160 (E)	Student Admissions Standards

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: I.F. – Academic Affairs – Update on Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC)

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Kirstin Pantazis
Associate for Academic Affairs
kirstinpantazis@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☐ No previous Council review/action
☒ Previous review/action
   Date: September 13, 2021
   Review/Action: The Academic Affairs Committee received a presentation on the Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC) and discussed how OVAC could contribute to the statewide strategic plan for higher education.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to inform the Academic Affairs Committee on the work of the Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC) and to afford members an opportunity to provide input into how OVAC can best contribute to current and future state and Council priorities.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
OVAC is the primary advisory committee to SCHEV on issues related to learning technologies in general and open education resources in particular, as per budget language that has continued since 2006, last instantiated in the 2024-26 biennial budget, Item 132.F:

> The Executive Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, may appoint an advisory committee to assist the council with technology-enriched learning initiatives. The advisory committee may assist the council in (i) developing innovative, cost-effective, technology-enriched teaching and learning initiatives, including distance and distributed learning initiatives; (ii) improving cooperation among and between the public and private institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth; (iii) improving efficiency and expand the availability of technology-enriched courses; and (iv) facilitating the sharing of research and experience to improve student learning.

OVAC consists of experts on open-education resources from all public institutions. The committee has been active in developing guidelines for institutions, and it

sponsored well-attended professional development webinars throughout the period of the pandemic. OVAC serves to assist the agency and the Council regarding initiatives and policies that may facilitate the adoption of open educational resources by the public institutions.

Materials Provided: None enclosed; a slideshow presentation will be provided at the meeting.

Financial Impact: N/A

Timetable for Further Review: N/A

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

The work of OVAC supports the following three strategies in *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education:*
- Strategy 5: Cultivate affordable postsecondary education pathways for traditional, non- traditional and returning students.
- Strategy 7: Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.
- Strategy 9: Improve the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

Resolution: N/A

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: I.G. – Academic Affairs Committee – Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning
joedefilippo@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☒ No previous Council review/action
☐ Previous review/action
  Date:
  Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
Staff activities report.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
N/A

Materials Provided:
"Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee," by Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo.

Financial Impact:
N/A

Relationship to the Goals of _The Virginia Plan for Higher Education_:
N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
N/A

Resolution:
N/A

Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee, May 12, 2025

Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning

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2025 Private Postsecondary Summit
- Approximately 125 institutional representatives from private postsecondary schools and colleges across Virginia attended SCHEV's Private Postsecondary Education (PPE) Summit in Richmond on April 1, 2025. Attendees enjoyed a keynote session on Aligning Today's Training with Tomorrow's Jobs presented by Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Chief Deputy Commissioner at the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement. Keynote panelists included Andy Armstrong, Associate Superintendent of Programs at the Virginia Department of Education, and Rachel O'Brien, Interim Director for the Virginia Office of Education Economics.

  The 2025 PPE Summit included a moderated discussion about Artificial Intelligence (AI) use and breakout sessions with representatives from other state regulatory agencies, such as the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Department of Professional Occupational Regulation (DPOR). Additional topics included recertification, program review procedures, and compliance audits.

  PPE hosts a biennial in-person conference to provide updates to the more than 250 certified schools it serves and to facilitate greater interaction between Virginia regulators and institutions operating in the Commonwealth.

Orientation Session for Schools Seeking Certification
- PPE staff virtually convened a group of prospective school owners on April 22. This orientation is the first step in the application process for entities seeking certification to operate a postsecondary school in Virginia. Staff presented participants with an overview of the laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of a private postsecondary school and a summary of the certification process. The orientation also included detailed instructions on how to complete the certification application. There were seven participants from degree-granting and 18 vocational school representatives in attendance.

Open Virginia Advisory Committee
- The Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC) met March 21, 2025, and April 18, 2025. The committee includes representatives from public two- and four-year institutions. The agendas included discussion on the new Open Education Resource Impact Award funded by the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA), the impact of Inclusive Access programs on the use of Open Education resources, and progress of subcommittees to fulfill the charge of informing council on initiatives and policies that may facilitate the adoption of open education resources. The OVAC is scheduled to reconvene in May 2025.

State Committee on Transfer

- The State Committee on Transfer (SCT) met April 11, 2025, at Christopher Newport University. The SCT includes representatives from all public two- and four-year institutions. The agenda focused on a presentation on the Passport and Uniform Certificate of General Studies (UCGS) programs policy and implementation. The presentation was followed with an institution case study and discussion. The SCT will reconvene in the fall.

Staff Activities and Recognition

Jodi Fisler
- Participated in VA250's planning conference, "A Common Cause for All," in Williamsburg, March 24-26.
- Spoke about the landscape for K-16 history and civics education as part of a plenary panel at the American Historical Association's Virginia Conference on Introductory History Courses, held in Richmond, March 28-29.

Sandra Freeman
- Presented on a panel at the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board Executive Summit held April 3-4, in Scottsdale, AZ. The panel discussed strategies for effective collaboration between massage regulators and state education agencies to support strong massage education standards.
- Attended the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools (NASASPS) Annual Conference April 27-30 in St. Louis, MO, focused on the theme "Gateway to Excellence in Higher Ed Regulation," where the latest developments, insights, and strategies for improving educational program quality and compliance were discussed.

Emily Muniz
- Attended the NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education 2025 annual conference in New Orleans, LA, March 16–19 for professional development.
- Attended and presented at the Virginia Community College System's (VCCS) New Horizons conference at Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia, April 2 – 4. Ms. Muniz presented about the Passport and Uniform Certificate of General Studies (UCGS) programs and Transfer Virginia.
- Attended and presented to the State Committee on Transfer (SCT) at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia on April 11. The presentation and meeting focused on the Passport and Uniform Certificate of General Studies (UCGS) programs.

Academic Affairs Staff:

Public Sector Academic Affairs
    Ms. Karen Banks, Academic Affairs Support Specialist
    Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo, Director, Academic Affairs & Planning
    Ms. Darlene Derricott, Senior Coordinator, Academic Services
    Ms. Alexis Gravely, Associate for Academic Affairs
    Dr. Jodi Fisler, Senior Associate for Assessment Policy & Analysis
    Ms. Emily Hils, Academic Programs and Services Specialist
    Ms. Emily Muniz, Associate for Transfer and Talent Pathways
    Dr. Monica Osei, Associate Director for Academic Programs & Instructional Sites
    Dr. Kirstin Pantazis, Associate for Academic Affairs
    Dr. Paul Smith, Senior Associate for Student Mobility Policy & Research

Private Postsecondary Education
    Mr. Richard Cole, Compliance Specialist
    Ms. Sandra Freeman, Director, Private Postsecondary Education
    Mr. Ryan Hannifin, Associate for Academic Quality and Student Protections
    Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Associate for Academic Quality and Student Protections
    Ms. Kathleen Kincheloe, Associate for Academic Quality and Student Protections
    Ms. Monica Lewis, Fiscal Specialist
    Ms. Sylvia Rosa-Casanova, Senior Associate for Private Postsecondary Education
    Ms. Stephanie Shelton, Administrative Assistant
    Mr. Alfonso Wells, Compliance Investigator

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: II.B. – Resources and Planning Committee – Action on Designated Institutions' Progress Regarding Institutional Performance Standards

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Presenter: Grace Khattar
Assistant Director of Finance Policy & Government Relations
GraceKhattar@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☐ No previous Council review/action
☒ Previous review/action
    Date: September 16, 2024
    Action: Council certified the performance of 13 public institutions for FY2025 and FY2026. Council requested (by May 2025) remediation plan updates from three institutions – Longwood, Old Dominion, and UVA Wise – for review toward approval for FY2026.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
In § 23.1-206, the *Code of Virginia* assigns Council the responsibility to assess public institutions' performance on certain educational, financial and administrative metrics, known commonly as the Institutional Performance Standards. § 23.1-1001 and the state budget outline the specific standards.

In the multi-faceted review process, the roles of Council are to: (i) assess performance on the education-related measures; (ii) review recommendations made by the Department of Planning and Budget and the Finance Secretariat on the financial and administrative standards; and (iii) then certify whether institutions are eligible to receive the financial benefits as authorized in § 23.1-1002.

In October 2024, Council received from staff the institutional results on the education and fiscal-related measures for institutions' performance in 2021-22 and 2022-23. Council certified 13 institutions' performance. Staff advised that three institutions (LU, ODU, and UVa-W) had not met three or more performance standards and recommended that these institutions submit a remediation plan and provide an update in May 2025. Council concurred with this recommendation.

In early May 2025, each of the seven institutions submitted an update to its remediation plan.

Staff recommends, based on its review of the remediation plans, that Council certify the remaining three institutions for FY2026.

Materials Provided:
SCHEV Assessment of Institutional Performance Standards (Performance Period 2019-2021)

Financial Impact:
Certified institutions are eligible to receive certain associated financial benefits, as authorized and detailed in § 23.1-1002. For FY2025 and FY2026, the benefits total approximately $22.6 million system-wide each year.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
The next IPS review must be completed by October 1, 2026.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, consistent with § 23.1-206, *Code of Virginia*, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies for FY2026 that Longwood University, Old Dominion University, and University of Virginia's College at Wise, have satisfactorily met the performance standards of the *Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act* and the *Appropriation Act*.

SCHEV Assessment of Institutional Performance Standards
(Performance Period 2019-2021)

Background

The state began assessing institutional performance standards beginning with the *Higher Education Restructuring Act* in 2005. The standards were further refined through the *Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011* (Top Jobs Act or TJ21) and related *Code of Virginia* amendments. SCHEV is responsible for administering these assessments and certifying whether institutions have met the standards. In return, institutions are eligible to receive additional financial benefits, including interest earnings, and credit card rebates earned during the fiscal year (approximately $22.6 million for each year).

The *Appropriation Acts* of 2024-26 (state budget) outlines the assessment process and lists the six education-related measures and the financial and administrative standards by which the Council shall base its assessment and certification. The full text is available online. Specifically, the following text relates to SCHEV's responsibilities:

> *In general, institutions are expected to achieve all performance measures in order to be certified by SCHEV, but it is understood that there can be circumstances beyond an institution's control that may prevent achieving one or more performance measures. The Council shall consider, in consultation with each institution, such factors in its review: (1) institutions meeting all performance measures will be certified by the Council and recommended to receive the financial benefits, (2) institutions that do not meet all performance measures will be evaluated by the Council and the Council may take one or more of the following actions: (a) request the institution provide a remediation plan and recommend that the Governor withhold release of financial benefits until Council review of the remediation plan or (b) recommend that the Governor withhold all or part of financial benefits.*

> *Further, the State Council shall have broad authority to certify institutions as having met the standards on education-related measures. The State Council shall likewise have the authority to exempt institutions from certification on education-related measures that the State Council deems unrelated to an institution's mission or unnecessary given the institution's level of performance.*

> *The State Council may develop, adopt, and publish standards for granting exemptions and ongoing modifications to the certification process.*

Institutions that meet certification criteria are eligible to receive financial benefits from the state. § 23.1-1002 contains the details about these financial benefits. The benefits include approximately $22.6 million for the biennium. Institutions certified by SCHEV during this current assessment process will be eligible to receive benefits for FY2025 and FY2026.

As discussed at the October meeting, two areas are measured. The six general education-related performance measures comprise one area. The financial and administrative standards comprise the second area. Additional information that contains the six general education-related measures and the financial and administrative standards is available on the SCHEV website.

Findings

<u>Education-Related Performance Measures:</u>

The six education-related measures are:

1. **HEADCOUNT** - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for in-state undergraduate headcount enrollment.

2. **DEGREE AWARDS** - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council approved biennial projections for the number of in-state associate and bachelor degree awards.

3. **STEM-H DEGREE AWARDS** - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state STEM-H (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Health professions) associate and bachelor degree awards.

4. **PROGRESSION AND RETENTION** - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state, upper level - sophomore level for two-year institutions and junior and senior level for four-year institutions - program-placed, full-time equivalent students.

5. **DEGREES FOR UNDER-REPRESENTED STUDENTS** - Maintain or increase the number of in-state associate and bachelor degrees awarded to students from underrepresented populations.

6. **TWO-YEAR TRANSFERS** - Maintain or increase the number of in-state two-year transfers to four-year institutions. (Please note VMI has a different measure - the commissioning rate.)

Staff provided updated data for these measures for the three institutions being considered. The years under review for the 2024 Biennial Assessment are 2021-22 and 2022-23. The updated data presents 2023-2024 data as shown in Table I, below.

TABLE 1
BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS BY INSTITUTION AND MEASURE
(Using 2023-2024 Projections)
May 2025

Institution	PM 1		PM 2		PM 3		PM 4		PM 5	PM 6
	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	Biennium	Biennium
LU	88	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	91	P	N/A	N/A
UVA-W	88	P	92	P	88	P	89	P	N/A	N/A
VSU	P	N/A	84	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A

Results indicate that neither of the three institutions are out of compliance with the six measures. For performance measures 5 & 6, the biennium data could not be updated because SCHEV is still processing 2024-25, given the timing of graduations and ending of the academic year.

In November 2024, staff worked with the institutions to discuss the survey results and obtain feedback on their deficiencies in the remediation plans. Reasons provided for deficiencies include: inaccurate enrollment and degree projections and, regarding transfer students, a smaller pool of those students from the Virginia Community College System.

The three institutions submitted progress updates on the remediation plans on May 1. Following review of the progress updates, staff find that the institutions have made progress on IPS measures related to enrollment, increasing graduation rates, and transfer engagement. Efforts include but are not limited to the following topics: promotion and academic support around a series of campus programs for retention and first-year experience; a comprehensive review of and adjustments to transfer agreements with VCCS; and using technology to enhance timely access to degree completion.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: II.C. – Resources and Planning Committee – Update on the Six-Year Planning Process

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Presenter: Grace Khattar
Assistant Director of Finance Policy & Government Relations
GraceKhattar@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☐ No previous Council review/action
☒ Previous review/action
    Date: January 7, 2025
    Action/Review: The committee received an update from staff on the process for public institutions' preparation and submission to state reviewers of six-year operating plans.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to update the committee on the six-year-planning process via summarization of activities and developments since the January meeting.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

Statutory Requirements: As prescribed in the *Code of Virginia* § 23.1-306, the governing board of each public institution of higher education is required to develop and adopt a six-year (academic, financial and enrollment) plan for its institution. The statute vests responsibility largely with SCHEV for facilitating the process at the state level.

As specified in the statute, institutions' draft plans are reviewed by a six-member group referred to informally as Op-Six, which includes the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Education, the Staff Director of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the Director of SCHEV. The statute stipulates that the plans "shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the Council." Following review by Op-Six and potential revisions in response to that review, each board adopts its institution's six-year plan.

Via their boards, the public institutions develop their six-year plans in each odd-numbered year, such as this year, in conjunction with the state's preparations for the next biennial budget. In even-numbered years, the boards affirm or update the plans, if/as necessary.

Process: In recent years, the templates provided to the institutions for their plans have contained two parts. Part I has been an Excel workbook; Part II, a narrative document. Part I includes five spreadsheets to capture the following data:

1. *In-state Undergraduate Tuition and Fee Plan*. In this section, the institution provides any planned annual increases in in-state undergraduate tuition and mandatory Educational and General (E&G) fees and mandatory non-E&G fees for the biennium.

2. *Tuition and Other Nongeneral Fund (NGF) Revenue*. Based on assumptions of no new general fund, enrollment changes and other institution-specific conditions, the institution provides total collected or projected-to-collect revenues (after discounts and waivers) by student level and domicile (including tuition revenue used for financial aid), and other NGF revenue for E&G programs; and mandatory non-E&G fee revenues from in-state undergraduates and other students, as well as the total auxiliary revenue.

3. *Academic-Financial Plan*. This section captures the academic, financial, and support-service strategies that the institution intends to employ in meeting state needs/goals. Traditionally, institutions have been advised to use a planning assumption of no new general fund to support the strategies.

4. *General Fund (GF) Request*. Each institution provides information here about items for which it anticipates making a request for state general fund support in the upcoming biennium. The item can be a supplement to a strategy or an item from the academic and financial plan, or it can be a free-standing request for which no tuition revenue would be used.

5. *Financial Aid*. In this section, the institution provides a breakdown of the projected source and distribution of tuition and fee revenue redirected to financial aid.

Part II contains more-detailed information about the data provided in Part I, as well as about additional topics such as enrollment projections, new academic programs, major capital outlay projects, status update of previous plans' strategies, suggestions for improving efficiencies and economic development efforts.

The regular schedule for the six-year plan process is:

- May 1 – SCHEV sends templates and instructions to institutions.
- July 1 – Institutions submit plans.
- August – Op-Six meets individually with each public institution to discuss its plan and for OpSix to ask questions and offer general feedback.
- September 1 – SCHEV sends to the institutions OpSix's general (all institutions) and institution-specific comments.
- October 1 – Institutions submit responses and final copies of the plans.
- December 1 – SCHEV posts copies of the final plans on its website. Institutions submit copies of final plans to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems.

At the time of staff's preparation of this agenda item, templates were scheduled to be sent May 5th and included additional components to capture information on new academic degree program proposals and capital outlay projects for the upcoming biennium.

Materials Provided:
See the Background/Summary section above for an update on the 2025 process. To review the most recent six-year plans (2024 updates to 2023 plans) see: https://www.schev.edu/institutions/planning-performance/six-year-plans

Financial Impact: None

Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:
Since 2015, institutions have organized their six-year plans around the goals of the statewide strategic plan. In that year, joint resolutions (HJR 555 and SJ 228) required that the mission, vision, goals and strategies expressed in *The Virginia Plan* should guide the public institutions' development of their six-year plans.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
Staff will update the committee on the process at subsequent meetings through 2025.

Resolution: NA

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: II.D. – Resources and Planning Committee – Update on Higher Education Budget from the 2025 General Assembly

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Presenter: Lee Andes
                 Director of Finance Policy & Innovation
                 leeandes@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☐   No previous Council review/action
☒   Previous review/action
    Date: January 7, 2025
    Action: Council reviewed the Governor's introduced budget for higher education in the 2024-26 biennium.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to update the committee on the 2025 Virginia General Assembly's budget amendments regarding funding for higher education.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
The 2025 Virginia General Assembly completed its review of the Governor's introductory budget amendments for the 2024-26 biennium and submitted the combined conference budget amendments on February 20, 2025.

In early April, the General Assembly acted on Governor Youngkin's vetos and amendments for all legislative bills, including the budget. The budget is in now its final stages as Governor Youngkin considers it in its updated form following the April 2 session. The amended biennial budget, once signed, will take effect on July 1, 2025.

Materials Provided:
A summary of the signed budget will be provided at the May Council meeting.

Financial Impact: TBD

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: The next steps are for implementation of the budget once signed and to begin work on Council's recommendations for the 2026-28 biennial budget.

Resolution: N/A

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State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: II.E. – Resources and Planning Committee – Update on the Annual Report for the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program for FY 2024

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

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Presenter: Theresa Thompson, MS CTE
               Senior Research Associate, Policy Analytics
               Workforce Credential Grant Program Manager
               theresathompson@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
Previous review/action
        Date: March 28, 2024
        Review: The committee reviewed the annual report for FY2023.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to update the Committee on the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant (WCG) program, which SCHEV administers. The *Code of Virginia* requires reports on the program annually; this report is for activities related to fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024).

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
The legislature and governor established the New Economy Workforce Grant (WCG) program in 2016. SCHEV serves as the grant administrator and reports annually on the progress of the program.

The WCG program employs a pay-for-performance model, whereby grants are offered by community colleges, the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, and New College Institute to students to fund noncredit workforce training that leads to an industry-based credential in a high demand field.

The grant carries a requirement that the student must complete their training to avoid paying additional costs. If a student completes the training and earns a credential, then that student pays only one-third (1/3) of the cost of the program, up to $2,000. In addition, institutions are reimbursed for up to two-thirds of the cost for each student completion and credential earned.

A summary of findings from the FY2024 annual report appears below. The full report, including disaggregated data on enrollment, completion, certifications and costs, is available on the websites of SCHEV and of Legislative Services.

Observations from FY2024 include:

- Institutions offered training in 12 high-demand occupational fields.

- Collectively, institutions reported 15,753 enrollments in FY 2024, a 17% increase from FY2023 and the most since the inception of the program.

- Of the 15,753 enrollments included in this report, 14,864 completed training.

- Among program completers, 10,887 reported earning a credential. The rates of completions and credentials remained relatively stable at 94% and 69% respectively.

- All racial and ethnic groups share high program completion rates, but gaps exist in credential completion: 63% of Hispanic enrollees earned their credential, 6 points below the program average of 69%. Whereas the credentialing rate among all Black or African American students was 10 percentage points below the average at 59%.

- Success rates by race/ethnicity are correlational and could be explained by other factors such as program selection.

- The average tuition paid by students was $882. The average state cost per credential attained was $1,968.

- The program with the highest enrollments was Commercial Driver's License, with more than 19% of enrollments. Medical Assistant had the second highest enrollments, accounting for 5% of all enrollments in FY2024.

- Since WCG launched in 2017, median annual wages for program participants have by increased $10,551, or 50%, in the 12 months following program completion.

- Two-thirds of FY2024 enrollments were by first-time postsecondary students. The median age among participants was 32 years old.

Materials Provided: See the Background/Summary section above. The full FY2024 report is available on the Reports and Publications section of the SCHEV website here: https://www.schev.edu/home/showpublisheddocument/4296/638772044990670000

Financial Impact: N/A

Relationship to the Goals of _The Virginia Plan for Higher Education_:
The statewide strategic plan sets a target of 70% of working-age Virginians having earned a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030. The New Economy Workforce Credential Grant program is the state's primary means of supporting and achieving the credential portion of that target.

<u>Timetable for Further Review/Action</u>: N/A

<u>Resolution</u>: N/A

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State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: II.F.– Resources and Planning Committee – Update on Major Projects Impacting the Resources and Planning Committee in 2025

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Presenter: Lee Andes
Director of Finance Policy and Innovation
leeandes@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☐ **No previous Council review/action**
☒ **Previous review/action**
   Date: Various
   Review/Action: Council consideration of reports and projects

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item to provide the committee with an overview of various reports scheduled to be made to Council over the next year. Staff also informs Council of other ad hoc workgroups and projects, as appropriate.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
Below is a summary of scheduled reports and projects that are routinely slated for Council consideration.

Annual/Biennial Projects

- Statewide strategic plan
    - On-going through the year: review, research, and stakeholder engagement in preparation to update the state's higher education strategic plan.
    - Completion targeted for late 2025.

- Institutions' six-year plans – new plans submitted on odd-numbered years.
    - For details and schedule, please see Item II.C of this Agenda Book.
    - May/June – On-site visits at many public institutions.
    - June 30 – Institution submission of six-year plans.
    - August – Meetings between the OpSix and individual institutions.

- Institutional Performance Standards (IPS) – reviewed on even-numbered years
    - **May 2025 Council meeting**: Certification of institutions that were only certified for one year at the September 2024 certification. **(Item II.B.)**

- o Completion and release of institutional fact packs.
- o Next full review is scheduled for 2026.

- Budget and policy recommendations – 2026-28 biennial budget
  - o Spring through summer: staff research and planning
  - o July 2025 Council meeting: Discussion of Council priorities
  - o September 2025 Council meeting: Discussion of draft recommendations
  - o **October 2025 Council meeting**: Adoption of recommendations to the governor and legislature on budgetary and/or policy matters. **(action item)**

- Enrollment projections - annual
  - o **September/October 2025 Council meeting**. **(action item)**

Staff participation in statewide studies:

Agency staff are routinely called upon to staff, support, or otherwise assist various executive- and legislative-branch committees and studies:

- Joint Subcommittee on Higher Education Funding Policies:
  - o Scheduled to convene after December 1, 2024, a joint subcommittee of eight legislators was authorized to review public higher education funding policies and make recommendations to their respective committees.
  - o The subcommittee shall: "(i) prioritize the review of funding related to operations and financial aid; (ii) provide recommendations to improve funding models; and (iii) develop a short- and long-term plan for phased implementation of any recommendations. As part of its review, the Joint Subcommittee shall consider the recommendations provided in reports related to higher education funding, including recent Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission reports and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's report on Cost and Funding Needs."
  - o The subcommittee will seek support from SCHEV staff.

- JLARC study on capital assets:
  Staff of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission are reviewing the Commonwealth's approach to planning, maintaining, and funding capital assets at state agencies and higher education institutions.

New and/or Expanded SCHEV Responsibilities from the 2025 Legislative Session

The following will impact various sections of SCHEV, pending project assignments.

Duty	Passed or Pending	Bill/Budget Item	Description	Deadline
Campus Food Insecurity Grant Program	Passed	HB2240/ Item 132 #3c	This amendment provides $500,000 from the general fund the first year to establish a Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry grant program administered by SCHEV.	Report due July 1, 2027
Public Institutions of Higher Education; Policies for Establishing Eligibility for Accommodations; report	Passed	HB1805	The bill directs SCHEV to study and make recommendations in a report on improving and standardizing the quality and consistency of IEPs or sections of IEPs developed and implemented for students with disabilities dedicated to postsecondary transition planning and services for students with disabilities by public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.	Report due November 1, 2025
Distribution of VMSDEP Waiver Allocation	Pending budget approval	Item 130	SCHEV shall disburse funds based on the amount of tuition and fees waived at each institution in that fiscal year to offset costs associated with the VMSDEP Waiver. SCHEV shall also report on the status of VMSDEP programs by November 1 of each year.	Report due November 1, 2025
VMSDEP Enrollment and Eligibility Data; report	Passed	HB1694	Directs SCHEV, in coordination with the Department of Veterans Services, to submit to the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations by November 1 of each year a report on (i) the number of individuals who are qualified survivors and dependents but are not yet admitted to a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth and (ii) the best available estimate of the total number of qualified survivors and dependents who are participating in the Program and enrolled in the fall semester at each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth.	Report due November 1, 2025
Innovative Internship Fund and Program	Pending budget approval	Item 132 #2c; Item 113 #1c	The Council shall establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) to transition the employer-focused outreach and engagement components of the Program to those entities in accordance with Item 113.T. The MOU shall be reported to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees no later than June 30, 2025.	Effective July 1, 2025

Common Curriculum; LPN to RN	Passed	SB953/ HB2548	Requires the Virginia Community College System, in consultation with SCHEV, the Board of Nursing, and representatives from public two-year institutions that offer nursing programs, to develop a common curriculum for practical nursing programs that shall be implemented at each community college in the System that offers a practical nursing program.	Effective July 1, 2026
Tech Talent Award Methodology	Pending budget approval	Item 473 #1c	Directs SCHEV to lead a review of award reduction methodology and submit recommendations to the General Assembly.	Effective July 1, 2025
Noncredit Course of Instruction; report	Passed	HB1995	Directs SCHEV to evaluate and make recommendations on exempting certain noncredit courses of instruction operated by private and out-of-state postsecondary institutions from requirements related to obtaining and maintaining certification to operate in the Commonwealth.	Report due November 1, 2025
Livestreaming Board of Visitors Meeting	Passed	HB2452	Requires SCHEV, in consultation with the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council and a representative from the Library of Virginia, to work with the public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth and with technology experts to develop minimal uniform standards, to the extent practicable, for (i) providing the public with real-time access to the meetings of governing boards of public institutions of higher education and the meetings of committees of such boards, (ii) archiving the recordings of such meetings, and (iii) taking minutes at such meetings.	Effective July 1, 2026

External Workgroups and/or Studies
- SHEEO - Multi-state learning community to support state-level implementation of prison education programs (PEPs)
- SHEEO - Multi-state Noncredit Mobility Academy, hosted by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association & ESG (Education Strategy Group).
- ESG - Multi-state Credentials of Value, Return on Investment Community of Practice organized by Arnold Ventures & ESG.
- Proposal under review: NGA – Data and Non-degree Credentials Learning Community

Periodic Updates:
In addition to the above responsibilities, the R&P Committee may receive periodic updates, as necessary, on the following activities over the next year (sample non-comprehensive list):

- Tuition and Fee Report – annual (August release).

- o Report on tuition and fees charges at public institutions.
- Full cost requirement for out-of-state students – annual (July – updated based on 2025-26 tuition and fees).
    - o Report on whether the public institutions are charging out-of-state students at least 100% of the cost of education, per budget item 4-2.01.b.2.b.
- Pell initiative update – annual.
    - o July: Reports on the annual review of funded activities and report on new programs funded in 2025.
- Workforce Credential Grant annual report – annual.
    - o Annual report to be released early 2025.
    - o March 2025: Council presentation.
- Office of the Qualified Loan Ombudsman Annual Report.
    - o January release.

On-going advisory groups (sample list)
- General Professional Advisory Committee (GPAC) – monthly with public institutions' chief executive officers
- Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) – four to six times per year with public institutions' primary finance officers
- Student Advisory Committee (SAC) – at least twice per year with current student leaders nominated by their institutions.
- Military Education Advisory Committee (MEAC) – as needed, convene institutions' military education experts

Materials Provided: See the Background/Summary section immediately above.

Financial Impact: NA

Relationship to the Goals of _The Virginia Plan for Higher Education_: NA

Timetable for Further Review/Action: NA

Resolution: NA

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

General Jumper called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Turman room of the Preston Library at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.

Council members present: Walter Curt (remote), Micah Edmond, Jason El Koubi, John Jumper, Delceno Miles (remote), Jennie O'Holleran (remote), Cheryl Oldham, John Olsen, Carlyle Ramsey (remote), Doug Straley, Steven Taylor.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Melissa Benavidez, Taylor Clark, Grace Covello Khattar, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Scott Fleming, Alexis Gravely, Anne Lowe, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Monica Osei, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner, Kristin Whelan.

Notable Guests: Deb Love from the Office of the Attorney General, Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera and Deputy Secretary of Education Zach Jacobs.

Members of the Student Advisory Committee present:
Colin McAulay, George Mason University
Grace Ashbrook, Longwood University
Ethan Crutchfield, Tidewater Community College
Daryl Davis, Newport News Apprenticeship School
Meridith Foster, Longwood University
Abigail Green, Radford University
Zayd Hamid, George Mason University
Mckenzie Hurley, Christopher Newport University
Brielle Lacroix, James Madison University
Stephany Lindo, Christopher Newport University
Adam McAninley, Mary Washington University
Chineme Onukwughara, Virginia Commonwealth University
Amira Said, Mary Washington University
Kiera Schneiderman, Virginia Tech
Shaana Thomas, The Apprentice School
Meridythe Witt, Radford University

General Jumper called for a vote on a resolution to allow the remote participation of four Council members. Walter Curt and Carlyle Ramsey stated they were participating remotely for health reasons. Delceno Miles and Jennie O'Holleran stated they were joining the meeting remotely as they were located more than 60 miles away from the meeting location. The remaining Council members created the required quorum in the room and voted unanimously to allow their remote participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Without comment General Jumper asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Olson motioned and Mr. Straley seconded. The motion to approve the minutes without changes passed unanimously.

REMARKS FROM MAJOR GENERAL CEDRIC WINS, SUPERINTENDENT, VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

General Jumper welcomed Superintendent Cedric Wins.

General Wins apologized for missing dinner and expressed his appreciation for SCHEV's visit. He also thanked SCHEV for supporting VMI.

He spoke about the future of VMI and the changes he has made.

The honor code, class, regimental systems, and academic programs help prepare men and women to serve the nation; VMI provides opportunities to meet and learn with thought leaders. Free speech is the cornerstone of campus life, whether it is speech the leaders agree with or not. At the beginning of his term, the board directed General Wins to appoint a chief DEI officer. VMI has also made gains in accepting and supporting Pell students.

General Wins observed that politics has now taken over board decision-making, pitting cadets, faculty, and staff against against each other and negativity impacting education. He stated that higher education institutions should not be used as political footballs.

VMI's new strategic plan plots a new way forward. After the pandemic, VMI modernized the admissions and retainment programs and has grown and diversified the student body. Financial aid at VMI is sufficient to meet the financial need of 100% of in-state students and 60% of out-state -students. Retainment goals are achieved through support on campus and small class size. There continues to be concern about the deficits of incoming high school graduates, especially in math and writing. He urged the education department to commit to improving these scores.

General Wins closed his remarks by noting that 96% of cadets are employed within six months of graduation. VMI provides a robust education grounded in integrity to provide the Commonwealth with critical thinkers.

General Jumper asked how VMI determines a student has a math deficit. General Wins discussed math placement tests cadets entering STEM majors are required to take and summer immersion programs VMI offers to bring cadets up where they need to be to keep up with college math. A grant provided by SCHEV allows students to attend the programs without having to pay. Ms. Oldham asked if issues with underprepared students were present before COVID. Representatives from VMI said that the math has worsened since the pandemic. Secretary Guidera encouraged all higher education leadership to speak out about the issues in k-12.

Mr. Curt asked whether VMI had created and added any degree programs to attract students. General Wins pointed out that the enrollment goal for the new class seated in August 2025 will be 515. The goals in the two years prior were 420 and 450. A new track in computer sciences and exercise science are possible attractors.

CONVERSATION WITH STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: CRITICAL ISSUES IMPACTING STUDENTS

Ms. Robinson provided some background on the Student Advisory Council (SAC). She thanked the current students for their involvement and leadership.

Ms. Lowe introduced the 2024-2025 SAC priorities: mental health; student finances; and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). She described the process through which the SAC developed its priorities. She noted that in addition to the committee work, the SAC played a large role in the planning and implementation of Virginia Intern Day.

Ms. Lowe introduced the students attending the meeting.

SAC Co-Chair Zayd Hamid introduced himself and spoke briefly on the student experience at GMU. Mr. Hamid then spoke as the chair of the mental health committee and the experiences of being a student at GMU. He urged SCHEV to create a mental health workgroup to examine the best ways to tackle the issues.

Colin McAulay from the student finances subcommittee discussed students' financial concerns and some of the solutions the subcommittee is proposing.
- Connect students with social services that they may already qualify for but are not aware of, such as SNAP benefits.
- Negotiate stronger contracts with vendors to reduce dining costs for students.
- Support student chapters of the Food Delivery Network, which work to reduce food waste and increase access to affordable food.
- Provide discounted or free-of-charge hardware such as cell phones and laptops to students through grants, loaner programs and corporate partnerships.
- Address student housing insecurity by expanding residence housing work positions that cover the cost of housing and creating emergency housing funds.

The subcommittee concluded by advising that Council should encourage the continued teaching of financial literacy beyond the K-12 years. They pointed out that with college financing, financial management issues become more complicated for college students.

Amira Said from the DEI subcommittee spoke about the importance of DEI programs on campus. She stressed that the programs create a sense of belonging on campus. She stated the students feel that decisions about DEI programming are being made without their input. Other representatives from the SAC shared the programming on their campus, which encompasses much more than the common talking points. The committee asked that DEI be integrated into standard BOV Orientation training. They also asked the Council to convene a workgroup to create a universal definition of DEI.

Ms. Lowe asked for questions and comments from additional SAC members and Council. The Virginia Tech representative spoke about the contentious nature of DEI. The SAC student from Christopher Newport University pointed out that DEI supports systems support first-generation students, Pell-eligible students, and veterans, among others. General Jumper commented about the toxicity of the DEI vocabulary, especially the word equity. SAC students and Council members briefly discussed the meaning of

DEI and the best ways to deal with the changes the students see on their campuses. Dr. Tayler spoke for a few minutes, suggesting that the word opportunity be used in place of equity.

The discussion continued with the mental health subcommittee. General Jumper asked the students to consider services on campus to help them prevent mental health challenges rather than deal with them after a crisis. Finally, the group moved on to discussing student finances.

Mr. El Koubi asked about career readiness conversations that SAC had while preparing for Virginia Intern Day.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT GOALS OF THE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. Salmon outlined staff's activities in support of Council's development of the next statewide strategic plan for higher education.

This plan is statewide, not a SCHEV plan. Through surveys completed by Council members and a separate survey delivered broadly to the citizenry, staff was able to identify the overarching theme of student talent development and identify how those fit within the goals concepts.

- Goal concept one– themes related to student preparedness.
- Goal concept two – themes related to higher education pertinence and value.
- Goal concept three – themes related to institutions' responsiveness and resilience.

Ms. Salmon discussed the next steps with Council and shared the scheduled input sessions. The input sessions will further flesh out the goal concepts and will outline the following:
1. Broad desired outcomes.
2. Anything that may have been overlooked.
3. What needs further discussion.
4. Significant adjustments that are needed.
5. Ideas for goal concept renumeration.

General Jumper asked Council members to continue to offer feedback on this process. Ms. Salmon summarized what Council can expect at the May meeting. She assured members that no concept is locked in yet, and there is still time to edit over the summer. Secretary Guidera suggested that explaining the value of public higher education is essential in working on these goals. She suggested that staff look back at the Governor's guiding principles.

Mr. Curt expressed concern that we are not looking at how the enrollment drop will impact higher education. He suggested that the federal government may further impact the enrollment numbers by disallowing foreign national students.

UPDATE ON 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Dr. Khattar updated Council on potential new or expanded statutory duties, as passed by the 2025 General Assembly. These responsibilities are tentative, pending the Governor's signing or vetoing, as well as the legislature's reconvene session on April 2.

Dr. Khattar also discussed a recent legislation that could impact SCHEV indirectly, and she shared a list of relevant amendments from the conference budget.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Fleming highlighted the following items from the Director's report. He thanked VMI for hosting SCHEV. Mr. Fleming also thanked the SAC for attending and contributing their work to our discussion. The full report is available on page 55 of the March agenda book.

Mr. Fleming stressed the goals of maintaining Virginia status as the best place for business and higher education, considering new challenges in enrollment and federal policy. Secretary Guidera and Council members encouraged SCHEV to be proactive and comply with the laws. She suggested that documentation coming from the federal government should be read over and followed closely. Mr. Curt suggested that the agency monitor institutions' compliance.

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

In Ms. Oldham's absence, Dr. Taylor reported on the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. The committee heard from Dr. DeFilippo on five proposed Education Licensure Degree Programs in Shortage Areas. Mr. Taylor pointed out that details of the proposed programs are found beginning on page 7 of the agenda book. These programs are being brought forward in response to an initiative to expand Virginia public institutions' capacity to produce licensed education professionals via direct pathways.

General Jumper asked SCHEV staff to study whether teachers are being placed in the most needed areas. Other members asked for information on whether teachers who hold graduate degrees improve student outcomes more.

On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Dr. Taylor presented the following resolution for Council's consideration:

> ***BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to the four institutions listed below to implement the specified degree programs in education licensure shortage areas, effective fall 2025.***

On a motion from Mr. Olsen and seconded Mr. Straley, the resolution passed unanimously.

The Academic Affairs Committee also heard from Dr. DeFilippo on proposed changes to the Organizational Change Policy. The information is presented in fulfillment of Council's statutory duty to:

> *review and approve or disapprove the establishment of any department, school, college, branch, division, or extension of any public institution of higher education that such institution proposes to establish, whether located on or off the main campus of such institution (Code of Virginia, §23.1-203 (7)).*

The changes are presented in response to the discussion at the January council meeting and at General Jumper's request. The change will ensure that the Boards of Visitors know and approve all organizational changes before they are proposed to SCHEV.

On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Dr. Taylor presented the following resolution for Council's consideration:

> **BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the following modification to "Organizational Changes at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes," to take effect April 1, 2025:**
>
> All requests for organizational changes **must be approved** by the institution's Board of Visitors (BOV). ~~All requests that require governing board approval must be~~ and formally submitted to SCHEV **within one (1) year of that approval**. If SCHEV approves the organizational change, the change must be implemented **within one (1) year of the effective date** as indicated in the SCHEV approval letter. Organizational changes not implemented within one year must be submitted as a new request. (p.8)

On a motion, from Ms. Miles and seconded by Ms. Lindsey, the resolution passed unanimously.

The Academic Affairs committee then heard from Dr. DeFilippo on proposed changes to the New Degree-Program Approval Policy. Dr. DeFilippo noted that this project goes back several months in response to a request by Scott Flemming and in partnership with the Secretary of Education and VOEE. The changes presented went through an iterative process involving the institutions and other stakeholders and are designed to respond to the new degree program approval process being more nimble, primarily through lowering the threshold for new degree programs. Council can expect a related proposal raising the threshold for program productivity review at a future meeting.

> The New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document is a self-contained policy document for new degree programs only. The reforms embodied in the guidance doc include eliminating program announcements, eliminating learning outcomes, eliminating job ad requirements, and reducing duplication requirements. Two additions are included in the reforms: first, a VOEE report on employment demand, and second, information on expected return on investment.

On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Dr. Taylor presented the following resolution for Council's consideration:

> **BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the "New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document," effective immediately or as soon thereafter as proves practicable.**
>
> **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director, or his delegate, may adopt such practices and procedures as he deems necessary to achieve a smooth transition to the Guidance Document's provisions.**
>
> On a motion from Mr. Edmond, seconded by Mr. Taylor, the resolution passed 8 to 1, with Mr. Curt voting against it.

The Academic Affairs committee concluded the meeting with an update from Dr. DeFilippo on the work of the Academic Affairs staff. Staff continue to represent the Commonwealth at various regional and national events.

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

No public comment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

General Jumper asked for a motion for adjournment. Mr. Taylor moved the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Edmond. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

_____

John Jumper
Council Chair

_____

Kristin Whelan
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
College of William and Mary in Virginia	**Facilitated Staff Approval:** • Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Coastal and Marine Sciences (30.3201)	Fall 2025
Danville Community College	**Program Name Change Approved:** • Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103)	Summer 2025
Norfolk State University	**Graduate Certificate Program Approved:** • Addictions and Trauma (51.1501)	Spring 2025
Norfolk State University	**Undergraduate Certificate Program Approved:** • African American Studies (05.0201)	Spring 2025
Old Dominion University	**Graduate Certificate Programs Approved:** • Artificial Intelligence in Cyber Defense (29.0207) • Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare (51.0707) • Artificial Intelligence in Supply Chain Operations (11.9999)	Fall 2025
Rappahannock Community College	**Program Name Change Approved:** • Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103)	Summer 2025
University of Virginia	**Graduate Certificate Program Approved:** • Hispanic Linguistics (16.0908)	Summer 2025
University of Virginia	**Program Modifications Approved:** • Add an online delivery format to the Graduate Certificate in Public Leadership (44.0599) • Add an online delivery format to the Graduate Certificate in Public Policy (44.0501)	Fall 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	**Program Modification Approved:** • Modify the credit hours of the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (MIS) degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies	Fall 2025

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
	(30.9999) with 36 credit hours to 30 credit hours	
Virginia Commonwealth University	**Undergraduate Certificate Program Approved:** • Aging Studies (30.1101)	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	**Program Discontinuance Approved:** • Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Kinesiology (31.0501) [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	Summer 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	**Program Discontinuance Approved:** • Master of Arts (MA) degree program in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics (27.0601) [Council Approval Date: October 27, 2015]	Fall 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
Radford University	Reorganize and close the Department of Geospatial Science and the Department of Geology to establish the **Department of Geospatial and Earth Sciences**. The Department will reside in the Artis College of Sciences and Technology. The establishment of one academic unit will allow consolidation of "courses offered by two separate departments. The organizational change will also result in a cost savings of "approximately $8,000" and establish one "resourcefully sound department."	March 10, 2025
Radford University	Create the **Department of Graduate Nursing**. The Department will reside in	February 1, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	the College of Nursing. The new department "is needed to establish an academic unit to administer and manage the varied graduate degree programs in nursing" at the university.	
Radford University	Create the **Department of Undergraduate Nursing.** The Department will reside in the College of Nursing. A department is needed "to establish an academic unit to administer and manage the large undergraduate degree program in nursing" at the university.	February 1, 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	Reorganize and close the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Department of Human and Molecular Genetics, and the Department of Physiology and Biophysics to establish the **Department of Cellular, Molecular, and Genetic Medicine**. The Department will be located in the School of Medicine. The establishment of one academic unit will "eliminate the silos that exist among the three (3) existing departments" and "ensure faculty members use more collaborative approaches in the research conducted." The organizational change will also result in a cost savings of "approximately $2,000,000" and "improved administrative efficiency within the School of Medicine."	February 3, 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section § 23.1-211 and Council's *"Commonwealth of Virginia Policy on the Reciprocal Authorization of Distance Education and Related Activities,"* the following item approved as delegated to staff:

National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) Approvals

Institution	Effective Date
Agora University	January 13, 2025

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
CloudSpace Academy	Manassas, VA	December 26, 2024
OceanPointe Dental Assisting Academy of Vienna	Vienna, VA	January 22, 2025
Premier Dental Academy	Virginia Beach, VA	January 31, 2025

Robert R. Lindgren has served as Randolph-Macon College's fifteenth president since February 1, 2006. During his tenure, Randolph-Macon has focused on increasing enrollment, revitalizing RMC's campus, creating new academic and co-curricular programs, and increasing private support of the College. New student enrollment has increased by 50% and 15 new majors have been created in this period. The College completed 11 new buildings, having also completed major renovations on 6 facilities, all totaling more than $110 million in construction expenditures. Private support of Randolph-Macon has reached an all-time high and the College completed a $125 million comprehensive campaign during his tenure. Since 2016, the College has consistently ranked in the top 30 among all colleges and universities in alumni giving participation.

President Lindgren came to Randolph-Macon from The Johns Hopkins Institutions in Baltimore, Maryland, where he served as Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations for both the University and health system for nearly twelve years and led two of the largest and most successful campaigns in American higher education. Prior to Johns Hopkins, he served as vice president for Developmental and Alumni Affairs for six years and the chief development officer at the University of Florida for a total of ten years and held prior positions at UF as Assistant to the President and Assistant Dean in the College of Law.

President Lindgren has been actively engaged in the business and academic communities related to Randolph-Macon. He served on the Virginia Governor's Higher Education Commission in 2010-11 and as the only private college president on the Commonwealth's Higher Education Advisory Committee (2011-14).

Lindgren also served on the Division III Presidents Council of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, on the executive committee and as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Council of Independent Colleges, and as a member of the executive committee and Treasurer of the Annapolis Group, an organization of more than 125 leading national liberal arts colleges across the United States.

Locally, his service has included time on the boards of directors of the Richmond Forum, ChamberRVA, and the World Affairs Council of Richmond, and as a member of Richmond's Future Council of Advisors and on the advisory board of Virginians for High Speed Rail.

Lindgren also previously served as vice chair and a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, and as chair of the Council of Independent Colleges of Virginia, where he led the group of 29 private colleges and universities in the Commonwealth. He is also past chair of the Virginia United Methodist Conference's Association of Educational Institutions, representing five United Methodist Colleges and one secondary school in the Commonwealth. He also served as a member of the board of the Richmond-based Partnership for the Future.

A native of Muskegon, Michigan, President Lindgren earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida in 1976 and 1981, respectively, and a Master of Philosophy degree in management studies from Oxford University in England in 1978, where he was the recipient of a Rotary Fellowship. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Florida in August 2012.

President Lindgren and his wife, Cheryl, have three children, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, and are actively engaged with the Ashland community.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: IV.D. – Council – Continued Discussion of Draft Goals of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Virginia Higher Education

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2025

Presenters: Scott Fleming
SCHEV Director
scottfleming@schev.edu

Emily Salmon
Assistant Director of Strategic Planning and Policy Studies
emilysalmon@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☐ **No previous Council review/action**
☒ **Previous review/action:**
    Date: March 18, 2025
    Action: Council provided initial feedback on draft goal concepts.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to provide a summary of the process used to develop and refine draft goal concepts and, more importantly, to facilitate Council's continued discussion of and feedback on refined draft goal concepts and supporting strategies. Feedback generated from the discussion will further shape the goal concepts presented during subsequent public input sessions across the Commonwealth. Refined goal concepts will serve as the foundation for the creation of other elements of the new *Virginia Plan* framework (i.e. vision, objectives, strategies, and measures).

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
Per statute, Council is responsible for developing the Commonwealth's state-level strategic plan for higher education (*The Virginia Plan*) and reviewing that plan at least every six years to ensure its relevance in addressing critical issues. SCHEV is charged with developing a plan that: (i) reflects statutory goals for higher education in the Commonwealth (§ 23.1-1002); (ii) identifies a coordinated approach to such state and regional goals; and (iii) emphasizes the future needs for higher education in Virginia.

January 2025 marked the fifth year of the plan's most-recent iteration, "*Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education,*" and at the behest of the agency director and Council chair, the start of a year-long process to develop the next *Virginia Plan for Higher Education*.

Since Council's March meeting and discussion, staff have completed the following activities:

1. Facilitated seven input sessions (one virtual, six in-person [two each] at Virginia State University, Hampton University and Louisa County High School) - over 250 registrants.
2. Initiated the registration process for additional public-input sessions around the state and online.
3. Refined the draft goal concepts and potential strategies, reflecting ideas and common themes from input-session participants.

Materials Provided: A set of draft goal concepts and supporting strategies are provided behind these cover pages.

Financial Impact: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
In July, Council will receive and provide feedback on the further-refined goal language, objectives, draft strategies and vision. At the September meeting, staff will seek Council endorsement of the vision/goals/objectives/strategies, with a target of producing the new plan by late December or early January.

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:
This discussion will inform the next iteration of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*.

Resolution: N/A

<u>Council's Statutory Responsibility</u>

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

Reflects	Identifies	Emphasizes
statutory goals for higher education in the Commonwealth (§ 23.1-1002).	a coordinated approach to such state and regional goals.	the future needs for higher education in Virginia.

<u>Council Survey Responses - Emergent Themes</u>

Critical issues/themes identified and ranked from prior Council survey responses include:

Virginia Higher Education Issues	Virginia Issues
Talent development and retention (e.g. work-based learning, employer engagement, alternative student pathways).	Talent development and retention (e.g. outmigration, graduate preparedness, barriers to participation).
Relevance of higher education and return on investment (relevance to high school graduates, employers' talent needs, research/innovation as an economic engine).	Economy (jobs, inflation, federal policy and funding changes)
Affordability and access (tuition and fees, student educational pathways).	Societal and cultural dynamics (e.g., mental health, political polarization, declining confidence in institutions).
Declining enrollment (demographic cliff, business model of higher education).	Technological innovation and disruption (e.g. artificial intelligence advancements).
Higher education funding (federal, state and institutional funding models).	
Civil discourse, civic education and civic engagement.	

Note: Highlighted text = Leading issue (from Council and stakeholder survey responses) which higher education can play a significant role in addressing.

Draft Goal Concepts, Objectives and Strategies
The below reflect Council's input in March and subsequent stakeholder ideas from strategic plan input sessions.

GOALS = What the statewide strategic plan for Virginia Higher Ed is trying to achieve broadly in the long term.
OBJECTIVES = Specific targets that help achieve those goals.
STRATEGIES = How/Broad methods and overall approaches to reach those objectives and ultimately the goals.

TALENT......Vision.....tbd	
Virginia Higher Ed Goal Concept & Objectives	Potential Strategies
Goal 1: Ready Objectives related to students' readiness: 1. To learn (college readiness) 2. To work (career readiness) 3. To contribute (civil discourse, civic engagement) 4. To lead (civic leadership, workplace leadership, innovation)	1.1. Establish formal feedback loops between SCHEV, institutions and VDOE regarding college readiness. Topics include math, reading, soft skills, life skills, career exploration and how SOLs relate to work/careers. 1.2. Increase collaboration between Virginia K-12 schools, higher education institutions and employers to improve alignment, eliminate disjointed pathways and enhance career-focused education and work-based learning (e.g., apprenticeships, internships, and certifications in high-demand fields). 1.3. Incorporate service-learning opportunities, civic education, and leadership development into the Virginia college experience - what it means to be part of a community and what it means to lead a group of diverse individuals with a shared mission/objective.

Goal 2: Relevant Objectives related to higher education's pertinence and value: 1. To students – sense of belonging/access (e.g. male enrollment, low income and under-represented) 2. To students/families (affordable and alternative pathways) 3. To taxpayers (return on investment)	2.1. Implement communication campaign on the value of Virginia higher ed; expand access programming (i.e., GEAR Up to non-Title 1 schools and Level Up resources including FAFSA completion, college advising and career coaches for K-12 and college students) as well as enhance the college application process for Virginians. 2.2.a. Improve transparency to students and families: Provide cost transparency and more consistent financial aid award information and education earlier in the college decision-making process. Include potential debt vs. Income post-completion. 2.2.b. Emphasize/incentivize non-traditional approaches: Credit for prior learning/experience; stackable credentials as package toward completion; consider 3-year degree pathways and transfer agreements for high school dual enrollment courses. 2.3. Provide scorecards on institutions' college outcomes and return on investment to include: job growth from local graduates and the economic impact of institutions. Consider different metrics for 2-year and 4-year institutions.
Goal 3: Responsive Objectives related to institutions' responsiveness: 1. To industry needs (AI and other technological innovations), alignment to labor market needs and regional economies 2. To student needs (e.g. mental health, basic needs, alternative pathways, etc.) 3. To Virginians' needs (Funding models, organizational efficiencies and accountability, demographic changes) 4. To societal and cultural dynamics (e.g. political polarization and declining confidence in institutions)	3.1.a. Foster sustainable industry partnerships to co-develop training and credentialing programs and integrate AI literacy and ethics courses into all academic programs. 3.1. b. Encourage institution development of agile, responsive, student-centered curriculum policies and audits for faster adaptation to industry shifts. 3.2 Expand mental health training and services as well as basic need supports to students, faculty and staff. 3.3 Create innovative funding options and a "rainy day fund" for financial stability; set tuition locks; funding based on student outcomes; establish tuition promise institutions AND increase outreach and supports to non-traditional students (e.g. adult learners, military, incarcerated, etc.)

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: IV.E. Council – Update on SCHEV Access Initiatives (GEAR UP and Level Up Virginia)

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2025

Presenter: Erin McGrath
  Associate Director of College Access & PK-12 Outreach
  erinmcgrath@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☐ No previous Council review/action
☒ Previous review/action
  Date: May 14, 2024
  Action: Review only

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to update Council on Virginia's postsecondary enrollment and FAFSA completion rates, the current access activities across the state and SCHEV's proposed activities to improve access and completion.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
The Virginia Plan for Higher Education sets the target to make Virginia the best state for education by 2030. The Commonwealth will not reach this goal without increasing the numbers and rates of high school graduates participating in postsecondary education and training, including workforce credentials and traditional degrees.

Enrollment challenges
Virginia's current enrollment trends, inequities among subgroups and low completion rates of the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) are an obstacle to becoming the best state for education. The following data highlight some of the challenges related to access:

- In 2023, about 36% of the graduating high school class did not enroll in postsecondary education within sixteen months. This equates to just over 30,000 high school graduates that did not enroll in postsecondary programs.
- As of April 11th, Virginia's high school senior FAFSA completion rates ranked 20th in the nation. Only 44.3% percent of high school seniors have completed the FAFSA so far during financial aid year.

<u>Current initiatives</u>
Virginia currently engages in several initiatives to support access and FAFSA completion, including:

- **Provide support to specific high-need school divisions:** SCHEV is administering its fourth federal Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP Virginia) grant. These seven-year grants support a cohort of students from middle school through enrollment in postsecondary education in school divisions with higher rates of economically disadvantaged students and low rates of postsecondary enrollment.
    - The total 7-year award amount is $24.7 million.
    - GEAR UP Virginia will serve 8119 students over the course of the grant.
    - Commonwealth Savers (previously VA529) committed $875k annually for four years as a match to the GEAR UP program. We recently received notice that we will receive an additional $975k for a fifth year of funding.

- **Coordinate the Level Up Virginia Initiative to support high school students in the steps to go to college:** These activities includes:
    (1) College Nights in Virginia when high schools host students and parents to learn about postsecondary options;
    (2) Virginia College Application Week when high schools host weeklong activities to help students apply to college;
    (3) FAF$A Next programs through which high schools encourage students to complete the FAFSA;
    (4) Spring Registration Roadshow when community college coaches provide application support to seniors in high school who have not yet applied to postsecondary; and
    (5) Decision Day VA when high schools celebrate students accepting college offers.
  SCHEV coordinates these activities with 130+ high schools each year through materials, webinars and communications to high schools to help run these events for their 35,000+ seniors.

- **Support annual conferences for school counselors and access and financial aid practitioners:** SCHEV supported about 50 scholarships to the Virginia College Access Network (VirginiaCAN) Conference, the Virginia School Counselor Association (VSCA) Conference, and the Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (VASFAA) Conference in 2024-2025.

- **Level Up Virginia communications:** SCHEV's student- and family-facing website, www.levelupvirginia.org, launched in October 2023. The website includes accessible content related to exploring, preparing, applying, financing and deciding on postsecondary pathways. It also includes a college access provider locator and an updated activity calendar. Level Up Virginia has an active social media presence and a quarterly newsletter.

- **Coordinate Campus Visits:** Since 2021, SCHEV has worked with postsecondary institutions to bring middle and high school students from low-

income communities to visit college campuses. Last year, 5,681 students and 297 family members participated in 122 college visits. Participating institutions hosted high interest, age-appropriate activities and tours.

- **Increase FAFSA support:** In addition to the FAF$A Next event each year, in 2024-25 SCHEV hosted the following activities:
    - FAFSA webinars –
        - September 2024 – Focused on the FSA ID, essential for accessing federal student aid resources. Provided step-by-step assistance for creating FSA IDs.
        - October 2024 – Focused on the CSS Profile, necessary for receiving aid from many colleges and universities.
        - November 2024 – Covered the FAFSA itself, determining eligibility for federal, state and institutional aid. The two-part training updated attendees on FAFSA changes.
        - December 2024 – Addressed the VASA Application, designed for students unable to file a FAFSA, including undocumented and DACA recipients.
        - April 2025 – Family-focused webinar "The Financial Aid Offer Walkthrough" provided students and families with information to interpret their financial aid offers.
        - May 2025 – College student webinar "Financial Aid for Current College Students"
        - June 2025 – Family-focused webinar "Summer Steps for Financial Aid"
    - The FAFSA Completion Challenge Pilot gives 10 high schools access to student-level FAFSA completion data to assist with targeting outreach.
    - A FAFSA postcard campaign sent to 29,500 families with seniors in high school and annual incomes of $60,000 or less.
    - The SCHEV/GEAR UP Virginia College Access Advisory Board convenes to address the ongoing challenge of FAFSA completion. This group, comprising members from postsecondary institutions, government agencies and access providers, focuses on identifying strategies to increase FAFSA completions throughout Virginia.
    - A FAFSA helpline, where students and families can text 434-478-4003 and receive a response from a human-powered financial aid expert.

- **Partnership with VDOE:** SCHEV and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) maintain a shared staff position, the Postsecondary Access and Success Specialist, to bridge communication and collaboration between the two agencies.

New initiatives
- In September 2024, SCHEV was awarded a $181,575 AmeriCorps planning grant to study the feasibility of a statewide college advising corps, AdviseVA. SCHEV partnered with the Virginia College Advising Corps (VCAC) and University of Virginia's Center for Survey Research (CSR) to research key

strengths and gaps of the VCAC program, including interviews, focus groups and surveys across five stakeholder groups. SCHEV and VCAC will share CSR's findings with a stakeholder group in June 2025. Findings will inform SCHEV's decision on whether to pursue implementation funding for a statewide advising program.

- o A portion of the planning grant's funding will also support SCHEV's new student and family facing portal, the Pathways Project.

Materials Provided: See Background/Summary section immediately above.

Financial Impact: NA

Timetable for Further Review/Action: NA

Resolution: NA

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: IV.F. – Council – Update on Civic Engagement

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2025

Presenters: Dr. Jodi Fisler
Senior Associate for Assessment Policy and Analysis
jodifisler@schev.edu

Dr. Chapman Rackaway
Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science
Radford University
crackaway@radford.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

☐ No previous Council review/action
☒ Previous review/action
  Date: March and July 2024
  Action: Council received information and updates on civic engagement initiatives.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to provide Council with updated information about civic education in Virginia. Members will learn about the progress of an initiative underway at Radford University to assess the civic awareness of incoming students so that university faculty and staff can design civic learning experiences that better meet students' needs. Council also will receive the results of the Fall 2024 implementation of the Constructive Dialogue Institute's (CDI's) *Perspectives* program at Virginia institutions.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
SCHEV's "Policy on Student Learning Assessment and Quality in Undergraduate Education" requires all public institutions to assess their undergraduate students on six core competencies, one of which is civic engagement. This competency was added to the policy as part of extensive revisions adopted in 2017. The inclusion of civic engagement as a required competency was grounded in the 2014 iteration of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*, which made two specific references to civic engagement.

A presentation at the March 2024 Council meeting introduced members to the initiative, which was being planned by Radford to assess students' "civic inputs." Another presentation in July 2024 provided updated information about SCHEV's

work to promote civil discourse on campuses, particularly through a partnership with the Constructive Dialogue Institute, which began in 2023.

Materials Provided:
- None included; Council will receive a presentation at the meeting.

Financial Impact: N/A

Timetable for Further Review: N/A

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:
Council's consideration of this agenda item supports four strategies outlined in *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:
- Strategy 7: Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.
- Strategy 8: Support experiences that improve students' employment outcomes, income and community engagement.
- Strategy 9: Improve the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.
- Strategy 10: Cultivate a climate of inclusion and innovation through scholarship, research, a diverse faculty and other programming.

Resolution: N/A

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: IV.G**.** – Council – Update on the Changing Federal Landscape

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2025

Presenter: Lee Andes
Director of Finance Policy & Innovation
leeandes@schev.edu

Will Shaffner
Director, Business Development and Government Relations
MOHELA (Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority)
WillS@mohela.com

Most Recent Review/Action:
☒ No previous Council review/action
☐   Previous review/action
    Date:
    Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to provide Council with an insider's view of the proposed and implemented actions taking place at the federal level, with an emphasis on those impacting higher education.

Mr. Will Shaffner is the Director of Business Development and Government Relations for MOHELA (Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority) and also serves as the federal liaison for the Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (VASFAA).

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:
President Donald Trump is implementing his agenda with unprecedented speed. Mr. Shaffner will offer a summary of recent and unfolding events and provide commentary on the potential impact on institutions and the state.

Materials Provided: None enclosed; a slidedeck will be presented at the meeting.

Financial Impact: N/A

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A

Resolution: N/A

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Agenda Item

Item: IV.H. – Council – Report of the Agency Director

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2025

Presenter: A. Scott Fleming
Director
scottfleming@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:
☒ No previous Council review/action
☐ Previous review/action
    Date:
    Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:
The purpose of this item is to inform Council of recent and upcoming work in which staff is involved.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements: N/A

Materials Provided: Director's Report.

Financial Impact: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A

Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*: N/A

Resolution: N/A

Director's Report
State Council of Higher Education
May 13, 2025

Governor Youngkin Visit: Governor Glenn Youngkin and his team, including Chief of Staff John Littel and Education Secretary Aimee Guidera, visited SCHEV offices on April 22; Council Chair John Jumper attended. Staff presented agency priorities, OKRs, and major initiatives, to which the Governor responded with interest, enthusiasm, and questions. He also posed for a group photo with staff.

OpSix/Public Institutions' Six-Year Plans: SCHEV coordinated an April meeting of the OpSix group (Secretaries of Education and Finance; Directors of SCHEV and DPB; and Staff Directors of the HAC and SFAC) to discuss the templates and timeline for public institutions' six-year operating plans. The agenda also included discussion of relevant recommendations from JLARC, as well as the Tech Talent Investment Program. Staff distributed the plan template to institutions on May 5, with institutions' draft plans due by July 3. The OpSix group will meet with institutions individually in August, and boards will approve the final plans in the fall.

Next Statewide Strategic Plan: Input Sessions: Staff have conducted seven sessions – one virtual and six in-person (two at each of three sites) – to solicit input regarding the next statewide strategic plan for higher education. A virtual session was held on March 20; over 100 individuals participated. Sessions were held on the morning and afternoon of March 25 at Virginia State University; April 18 at Hampton University; and April 23 at Louisa County High School. Council Secretary Doug Straley attended the latter sessions. Additional in-person input sessions are scheduled in June at the University of Mary Washington and the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, and a session is in discussion for either the Virginia Community College System or an individual community college. A final virtual session also is slated for June.

GPAC Meetings: I convened public-institution chief executives as the General Professional Advisory Committee in March and April. The March meeting included discussion of enhancing institutional involvement with the Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee, as well as of the results of the latest (January 2025) Commonwealth Poll, which included questions on higher ed's value, cost, and HBCU funding. The April meeting included discussion of proposed and implemented changes at the federal level, as well as presentations on critical student issues from members of our Student Advisory Committee.

FAC Meeting: In April, the Finance Policy and Innovation section convened public institutions' chief finance officers as the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC). The meeting included discussion of the six-year-planning process; development of the statewide strategic plan; the VMSDEP program; and impacts of federal executive orders.

IPAC Meetings: The Academic Affairs and Planning section convened public-institution chief academic officers as the Instructional Programs Advisory Committee in April and early May. The April convening was a special meeting focused solely on reviewing the main features of SCHEV's new degree-program guidance document (and form). The May agenda included discussion of program productivity; institutional policies on hazing; development of the statewide strategic plan; and the six-year-planning process.

PPE Summit: In April, the Private Postsecondary Education unit held its biennial summit; 125 representatives of proprietary schools participated. DWDA Chief Deputy Commissioner Angela Kelly-Wiecek provided a keynote on aligning training with future jobs. Keynote panelists included VOEE Interim Director Rachel O'Brien and VDOE Associate Superintendent Andy Armstrong. In addition to topics related to SCHEV recertification and compliance audits, attendees received information on other state regulatory matters from relevant Virginia agencies.

Educational Attainment: In March, SCHEV published a finding that Virginia ranks seventh in the nation for adults aged 25-64 with degrees or short-term credentials of value. Based on the Lumina Foundation's "Stronger Nation and a Brighter Future" report, SCHEV's analysis indicates that 49.2% of the Commonwealth's workforce possess a post-high-school credential and are earning 15% or higher than the national median wage for a high school graduate. Currently, 44.1% of the national labor force have a post-high-school credential and are earning at or above the wage benchmark.

Internships: April was National Internship Awareness Month. On April 1, SCHEV and V-TOP recognized a record 215 Virginia organizations as "Top Employers for Interns" for providing high-quality work-based learning opportunities to college students. Over 80% of this year's awardees provide paid internship experiences, mostly in the summer. On April 11, SCHEV reported that, during the 2023-24 academic year, 24,092 credit-bearing internships were completed by Virginia college students, representing a 4.3% increase year-over-year and an almost 24% increase since the first year of data collection (AY 2019-20). Not surprisingly, about half of all credit-internship completers were undergraduates in their senior year. We continue to seek ways to better document non-credit internships.

Out and About: Since Council's March meeting, I have completed multiple projects for, and participated in several day-long sessions of, the Commonwealth Leadership Academy (CLA). I also served as a moderator and a panelist at the ASU+GSV Summit in San Diego, CA. I spoke at the National Pathways Summit in Washington, DC and at the annual conference of the College and University Auditors of Virginia (CUAV) in Harrisonburg. I held another retreat with the agency executive leadership team, and I visited Virginia Tech and Radford University.

<u>Items Delegated to Director/Staff</u>

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
Brightpoint Community College	**CIP Code Change Approved:** • Associate of Science (AS) degree program in Teacher Education from 13.1202 to 13.0101	Summer 2025
George Mason University	**CIP Code Changes Approved:** • Master of Arts (MA) degree program in Economics from (45.0601) to (45.0603) • Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Economics from (45.0601) to (45.0603)	Fall 2025
George Mason University	**Facilitated Approval:** • Master of Science (MS) degree program in Artificial Intelligence (11.0102)	Fall 2025
George Mason University	**Facilitated Not Approved:** • Master of Science (MS) degree program in Behavior Analysis (42.2814)	February 27, 2025
Old Dominion University	**Undergraduate Certificate Programs Approved:** • Cultural Competency Leadership (30.0000) • Spanish for Health Professionals (16.0905) • Uncrewed Aerial Systems Engineering (14.0299)	Fall 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	**CIP Code Change Not Approved:** • Change the CIP code of the Master of Accounting and Information Systems (MACIS) degree program in Accounting and Information Systems from 52.0301 to 27.0305	April 8, 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	**Graduate Certificate Program Approved:** • Publishing (09.1001)	Fall 2025

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

VCCS Inventory of New Transfer Degree Programs
Effective Date, Summer 2025

Community College	Degree	Degree Title	CIP Code
Blue Ridge	Associate of Science	Health Sciences	51.0000
Paul D. Camp	Associate of Science	Education	13.0101
Paul D. Camp	Associate of Science	Science	30.0101
Central Virginia	Associate of Science	Business Administration	52.0201
Central Virginia	Associate of Science	Education	13.0101
Central Virginia	Associate of Science	General Studies	24.0102
Central Virginia	Associate of Science	Science	30.0101
Danville	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
Danville	Associate of Science	Business Administration	52.0201
Danville	Associate of Science	Science	30.0101
Germanna	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
Germanna	Associate of Science	Business Administration	52.0201
Germanna	Associate of Science	Computer Science	11.0701
Germanna	Associate of Science	Education	13.0101
Germanna	Associate of Science	General Studies	24.0102
Germanna	Associate of Science	Health Sciences	51.0000
Germanna	Associate of Science	Social Sciences	45.0101
Rappahannock	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
Rappahannock	Associate of Science	Science	30.0101
Southside Virginia	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts	24.0103
Southside Virginia	Associate of Science	Business Administration	52.0201
Southside Virginia	Associate of Science	Education	13.0101
Southside Virginia	Associate of Science	General Studies	24.0102
Southside Virginia	Associate of Science	Science	30.0101
Southside Virginia	Associate of Science	Social Sciences	45.0101
Southwest Virginia	Associate of Science	Computer Science	11.0701
Southwest Virginia	Associate of Science	Information Technology	11.0103
Virginia Peninsula	Associate of Science	Education	13.0101

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:

Four-Year Publics Programs Discontinued

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Longwood University	**Program Discontinuance Approved:** • Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Early Childhood Education (13.1210) [Council Approval Date: 05/19/2020]	Fall 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	**Program Discontinuance Approved:** • Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Systems Biology (26.1104) [Council Approval Date: 03/16/2015]	Fall 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	**Program Discontinuance Approved:** • Graduate Certificate in Economic Risk and Global Inequality (44.0504)	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:

VCCS Inventory of Discontinued Programs

Community College	Award/Program Name	CIP Code	Termination Date
Central Virginia	AAS, Communication Design [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	50.0401	Spring 2024
Central Virginia	AAS, Fire Science Technology [Council Approval Date: 07/24/2017]	43.0203	Spring 2025
Mountain Gateway	Certificate, Administrative Support Technology	52.0499	Spring 2028
New River	AA&S, Liberal Arts & Sciences [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	24.0101	Spring 2026
Northern Virginia	AA, Music [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	50.0101	Spring 2027
Northern Virginia	AAA, Music [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	50.0101	Spring 2027
Northern Virginia	AAS, Fire Science Technology [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	43.0203	Spring 2024
Northern Virginia	AAS, Marketing [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	52.0299	Spring 2024
Northern Virginia	Certificate, Graphic Design: Multimedia Design	52.0299	Spring 2024
Northern Virginia	Certificate, Hospitality Management	52.0901	Spring 2024

Community College	Award/Program Name	CIP Code	Termination Date
Patrick & Henry	AA&S, Liberal Arts & Sciences [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	24.0101	Spring 2026
Patrick & Henry	Certificate, Bookkeeping	52.0399	Spring 2026
Patrick & Henry	Certificate, Computer Aided Drafting and Design	15.1302	Spring 2027
J. Sargeant Reynolds	Certificate, Diesel Mechanic Technology	47.0605	Spring 2028
J. Sargeant Reynolds	Certificate, Practical Nursing	51.3901	Spring 2025
Southside Virginia	Certificate, Diesel Mechanics	47.0605	Spring 2020
Southside Virginia	Certificate, Electronics Technology	15.0303	Spring 2017
Southside Virginia	Certificate, Fire Science Technology	43.0203	Spring 2018
Southside Virginia	Certificate, Motorcycle Maintenance	47.0611	Spring 2011
Southside Virginia	Certificate, Truck Driving	49.0299	Spring 2017
Tidewater	AAS, Civil Engineering Technology [Council Approval Date: 01/19/1999]	15.0201	Spring 2026
Tidewater	AAS, Electronics Technology [Council Approval Date: Unknown]	47.0105	Spring 2026
Tidewater	AAS Industrial Technology [Council Approval Date: 05/09/1980]	15.0699	Spring 2026
Tidewater	AAS, Mechanical Engineering Technology [Council Approval Date: 02/02/2017]	15.0899	Spring 2026
Tidewater	Certificate, Electronics Engineering Technology	15.0303	Spring 2028
Virginia Peninsula	Certificate, Dental Assisting	51.0601	Spring 2025
Virginia Peninsula	Certificate, Industrial Management	15.0699	Spring 2016

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

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

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Hampton Roads Cosmetology Training Center	Chesapeake, VA	4/17/2025
MD Technical School	Newport News, VA	4/16/2025