



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

SAC MINUTES

Student Advisory Committee Minutes Thursday, September 23, 2010 SCHEV

Members Present: Emily Van Daniker (Longwood), Katy Dunn (J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College), Jay Greene (Bryant & Stratton), Bo Hart (Virginia Tech), Laura Hershey (Eastern Mennonite), Jett Johnson (Christopher Newport), Yasento Labor-Koroma (Richard Bland), Andrianah Kilgore (Mountain Empire Community College), Kevin Muchiri (Old Dominion University), Andrew Reese (James Madison University), Blake Silver (George Mason University), Jade Traylor (Rappahannock Community College), Scott Tucker (Radford), Kristin Twiford (University of Virginia), Stacy Whitehouse (Mary Washington), Michael Young (William & Mary)

SCHEV Staff Present: Kirsten Nelson, Trish Brumett, and Alan Edwards

- Kirsten Nelson brought the meeting to order at 2:00.
- Nelson questioned the students about their familiarity with SCHEV. Nelson then explained SCHEV's duties including new program review.
- Yasento Labor-Koroma (Richard Bland) asked about the type of programs that must receive program approval from SCHEV, to which Nelson gave some examples.
- Nelson went onto explain the role of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) it's place in the code and the recent addition of proprietary and private schools. Kirsten highlighted the legislative visit and the importance of SAC within the context of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education. Kirsten pointed out a questionnaire asking students to answer the following questions: What, if anything, motivates the students at your institution to graduate with their class or cohort? What are the barriers to graduating with your class or cohort? Questions were collected at the conclusion of the meeting.
- Nelson introduced Dr. Alan Edwards Director of Policy Studies.
- Edwards explained the selection and organization of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education (E09) and its primary charges.
- Edwards noted the October 12th meeting of the commission to frame the annual report.
- Edwards and Kirsten highlighted those who held seats on the commission and called for questions.
- Kevin Muchiri (ODU) asked if the commission was looking at not just out-of-state but international students. Dr. Edwards explained the funding model and that it was the BOV that decides tuition standards for schools but that at this time the commission was not addressing out-of-state funding in that detail but more of the overall model.
- Online learning was discussed with better use in classrooms mixed with on-line course and hybrid courses. Bo Hart (VT) was asked about the Math emporium to which he noted that it was greeted with mixed reviews from students.
- Stacy Whitehouse (Mary Washington) asked about E09 addressing the quality of instruction, especially at smaller schools. Dr. Edwards replied that excellence should drive all of the E09 processes, but at this point E09 discussions are at the macro level. Edwards added that next year E09 would hear more from the college and university presidents.
- Nelson asked Dr. Edwards if E09 is addressing the controversy regarding in-state v. out-of-state enrollment to which Edward's noted there is frustration regarding this subject but SCHEV's purview does not include admission policies.

- Edward's concluded his talk and Kirsten noted that there is a link to EO9 on SCHEV's home page.
- Nelson then went on to address the funding model, explaining that ideally in-state students pay only 33% of the cost of their college education. However this number has grown to 45% due to a series of general fund cuts to higher education in Virginia over the past few years.
- Trish Brumett then called for Chair and Vice Chair nominations for the 2010-2011 SAC terms. Blake Silver (George Mason University) and Emily Van Daniker (Longwood) nominated themselves for Chair. Scott Tucker (Radford) and Katy Dunn (J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College) nominated themselves for Vice Chair.
- The remainder of the meeting students discussed major issues on their campuses. Most students referenced tuition hikes, rising text book costs, and class fees.
- Kevin Muchiri (Old Dominion University) noted that security was a large issue at ODU. Blake Silver (George Mason University) worried about retention. Michael Young (William & Mary) and Scott Tucker (Radford) noted that many professors were leaving due to salary freezes and worried this could be a trend. Bo Hart (Virginia Tech), Stacy Whitehouse (Mary Washington), Kara Noble (Virginia Military Institute) all mentioned issues of over-crowding as more people are being accepted on their campuses.
- Jett Johnson (Christopher Newport University) Bo Hart (Virginia Tech) and Niambi Glover-Redd (Thomas Nelson Community College) all brought up the issue of poor academic advising and lack of information about programs, saying these problems resulted in missed opportunities and delay of timely graduation.
- This brought up a larger discussion of programs used by various schools so that students don't get lost in the shuffle. Jett Johnson (Christopher Newport University) explained the Freshman Crew program in which students are placed in groups and have the same advisor and take core classes together.
- Trish Brumett announced that Blake Silver was voted Chair and Katy Dunn Vice Chair.
- Kirsten made the following announcements: On October 26 there is a SCHEV Council Meeting at the James Monroe Building at 9:00 AM; On October 27 there is an Education Summit with Secretary Robinson at the Virginia Fine Arts Museum featuring the three initiatives of lab schools, virtual schools, and charter schools.
- The next SAC meeting was set for November 11 at 2 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned at approx. 3:40.