

## Student Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes- January 6, 2005

SCHEV Office – James Monroe Building

**Members Present:** JR Slosson (University of Virginia), Pierce Blue (College of William and Mary), Gina Greco (Richard Bland College), Mario Lorello (George Mason University), Daniel Causey (Tidewater Community College), and Mehreen Farooq (Christopher Newport University). Jennifer Allman (Virginia Community College System) was present as a guest.

**SCHEV Staff Present:** Kathleen Kincheloe, Monica Osei, Jennifer Spraggins, and Elizabeth Wallace (For brevity, after first reference, only first names are used below)

Kathleen Kincheloe opened the meeting and welcomed members, stating that the primary agenda item was to decide what issues would be presented to legislators at the General Assembly. First, Kathleen called on Jennifer Spraggins to read the minutes from the November 10<sup>th</sup> Student Advisory Committee. After the minutes were read, they were unanimously approved by members.

Kathleen introduced Elizabeth Wallace who spoke to members about preparing a message for legislators based on existing resources, including SCHEV's budget recommendations, the Governor's proposed budget, and upcoming legislative bills. Elizabeth talked about the upcoming SAC visit to the General Assembly, which is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2006. She introduced the "Summary of the Governor's Introduced Budget for the 2006-08 Biennium" and the "SCHEV Long List" and encouraged members to browse the bills and see if there were any items that interested them.

Jennifer Spraggins mentioned undergraduate and graduate financial aid as possible topics of interest. Jennifer noted that there were other items in the Governor's proposed budget that were slated to receive higher funding than financial aid even though she hears of many students, especially those in graduate programs, who pay for most of their education through loans. Elizabeth pointed out that the amount proposed for graduate and undergraduate financial aid is greater this year than it has been in the past. She also noted that that new calculations of need are based on the Partnership Model, which was introduced by SCHEV because of its greater sensitivity to student debt and tuition increases. Members were asked if this was a topic of interest, and the majority voted yes. Several SAC members associated financial aid with base adequacy, which they also elected to mention to legislators as a topic of great interest to students.

A third topic that representatives found important was increasing faculty salaries. Representative Pierce Blue mentioned an action taken several years ago by the student government at the College of William and Mary to provide better salaries for selected faculty members. He emphasized that many students still felt that their institutions were losing talented faculty members to out-of-state institutions. Members of the Student Advisory Committee agreed that this was an equally important topic to discuss with legislators, and they voted to include a statement showing their support for legislators who seek to continue increasing the salary of faculty at Virginia institutions.

Finally, representatives agreed to indicate to legislators how important their support for the research initiative is to students. The group discussed how such action would benefit not just the students and their institutions, but would help the economic development of all Virginia citizens, as well.

Representatives also asked questions about other proposed legislation including HB 49, a bill that would relieve SCHEV of the responsibility of regulating the Virginia Scholars Program, and HB 50, a bill that would relieve SCHEV of the responsibility of regulating the Virginia Work- Study Program. (Both programs are now administered by individual institutions.) Members also discussed HB 57, a bill that would help students transferring from two-year community colleges to four-year public colleges. Elizabeth Wallace and Jennifer Allman of the Virginia Community College System both stated that their understanding was that most of the components of the proposal were already in place at this time. Members discussed HB 154, a bill that would require public and private institutions to report any deaths or alleged rapes committed on campus to local law enforcements. Though they believed campus safety to be an important issue, the majority of representatives felt that this was not a message they wanted to expressly pass along to legislators during their January 24 visit.

Lastly, Elizabeth shared with the group that Del. Rust was carrying HB 310, which would allow representatives of the Student Advisory Committee to elect new members to serve as Chair by removing the restriction that the representative must have served for a year.

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Spraggins

**Next Meeting Date:** January 24, 2006

**Location:** SCHEV Offices and General Assembly building