



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia
Advancing Virginia through Higher Education

Student Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – November 29, 2006
SCHEV Office, James Monroe Building

Members Present: Nathan Alleman (College of William and Mary), Molly Buckley (CNU), Todd Eley (University of Virginia), Toney Gates (John Tyler Community College), Anshita Kumar (Old Dominion University), Martin Mash (Radford University), Nicole May (Norfolk State University), Maggie O'Brien (Virginia Commonwealth University), and Matthew Sullivan (Southwest Virginia Community College).

SCHEV Staff Present: Kathleen Kincheloe, Jennifer Spraggins, Craig Herndon, and Dr. Monica Osei. (For brevity, after first reference, only first names are used below)

- The Student Advisory Committee met on November 29, 2006 to update students on current projects at SCHEV and to hold elections for Student Advisory Committee officers. Kathleen Kincheloe opened the meeting and welcomed members. Kathleen then introduced Craig Herndon, SCHEV Associate for Academic Affairs and Research Policy Analyst, to explain articulation agreements and the transfer process for students in Virginia.
- Craig presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled **Transfer in the Commonwealth: Initiatives to Enhance the Efficiency of Virginia's System of Higher Education**. (Click here to [link to the presentation](#).) The presentation outlines how Virginia's students and educators can use transfer and articulation agreements to ensure that various courses taken primarily during a student's education at a two-year institution are able to transfer smoothly to a four-year institution, as well as how such agreements impact current students at each type of institution.
- Representatives asked many questions during the presentation. Todd Eley (UVA) asked how students gain access to information on transfer and articulation agreements. Craig responded that most of the information is distributed to students in two-year institutions, and that information should also be distributed to high school students nearing graduation. Todd also asked if there was a time-limit that students had to meet when using articulation agreements. Craig responded that HB 57 states that student are allowed four years to graduate from an institution and they have 18 months to enroll in another institution. The bill also ensures that if requirements change after a student enrolls, that students are held to the agreement in place during the time they enrolled.
- Toney Gates (JTCC) asked if private institutions were included in the articulation agreements. Craig responded that private institutions do have articulation agreements with

two-year institutions, but that much of the focus has turned to the four-year public institutions due to the Restructuring Act.

- Maggie O'Brien (VCU) commented that standardized programs might be an effective way of aiding transfer from two-year institutions to four-year institutions. Craig commented that, in many ways, VCCS has taken steps to make their system more consistent than many four-year institutions. Currently, VCCS institutions share course names across the system. He commented that the Florida's higher education system tried more stringent standardization, but critics argued that it drained the individuality and autonomy from participating institutions. He further stated that in Virginia each institution has unique goals and diverse missions, which strengthens our system of higher education.
- Molly Buckley (CNU) asked who is responsible for forming the articulation and transfer agreements with two-year institutions. Craig stated that a list of those people responsible for forming articulation and transfer agreements is available on the SCHEV website. (To find out who is responsible for forming agreements with your institution, go to <http://www.schev.edu/AdminFaculty/SCThome.asp>.)
- Nathan Alleman (CWM) asked if there were any limits or targets regarding the number of transfer students a four-year institution admits, and specifically whether there is a concern that transfer students are going through the "back door" when applying to an institution through transfer admissions. Craig stated that, although there may be talk of inequality, he has not heard these concerns from the educators he meets with. He also stated that four-year institutions still predominately rely on traditional methods of admitting students into their institution.
- Kathleen asked members to nominate a member for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Student Advisory Committee. The candidates for Chair were Toney Gates and Molly Buckley. The candidates for Vice-Chair were Todd Eley and Maggie O'Brien. SAC members voted by secret ballot and Molly Buckley and Maggie O'Brien were elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.
- Kathleen then discussed the upcoming strategic planning meetings for higher education in Virginia. She stated that SCHEV has created an advisory committee to review the 2002-2010 strategic plan, and that Toney and Nathan have agreed to serve as the two student representatives to the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee. The full committee will meet on December 8, and Nathan and Toney will update SAC members at the next meeting.
- Kathleen then introduced Anshita Kumar (ODU) to discuss health insurance for students. An ODU survey on the topic found that students at ODU were interested in investigating the possibility of a joint health insurance plan that students throughout the Commonwealth could join. Anshita explained that ODU's Student Government Association was interested in finding out if students wanted a common health insurance plan offered at their institutions. Members agreed to bring up the topic at their institutions if appropriate. They will send any questions or comments from students on their campus to Anshita before the next meeting.

Additional Topics of Discussion

Maggie asked if other members attended or publicized the meetings of their campuses' Board of Visitors. Several SAC members mentioned that there were student representatives who served on their Boards. Molly asked about the restrictions of non-voting members.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

With no other business, the meeting adjourned 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Jennifer Spraggins, SCHEV Liaison