

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COLA SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
October 26, 2010
DRAFT MINUTES

Mr. Dyke called the meeting to order at 12:15 in the SCHEV main conference room, 101 N. 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia. Council members present: Jim Dyke, Jake Lutz, Susan Magill, and Gil Minor. Staff present: Jim Alessio, Dan Hix, Andy Fogarty, Lee Ann Rung, and Yan Zheng.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 14, 2010 meeting were distributed. On motion by Mr. Minor and seconded by Ms. Magill the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Mr. Dyke indicated that the item for discussion was how to move forward with the issues as discussed at the last meeting and as they relate to the 60th percentile goal for faculty salaries. He suggested that the staff work with institutions that employ full-time faculty in Northern Virginia to develop a plan to incorporate a cost of living adjustment (COLA) into the 60th percentile goal and convene a meeting of the subcommittee after the next General Assembly session. Given the current economic situation, Mr. Dyke felt that this was not an issue to move on immediately. However, he felt it was important to have an agreed-upon approach to allow the Council to move as quickly as possible when the economic climate improves. He requested input from the other members in order to have a recommendation to send to the full Council at the October 26 meeting.

Mr. Minor agreed that reaching the 60th percentile for faculty salaries is critical and he expressed his hope that a recommendation regarding this issue will be made by the Commission. While recognizing that Northern Virginia is especially in need of some help in this regard, Mr. Minor indicated that timing and availability of funds cannot be ignored.

Mr. Lutz said that it is a given that the cost of living is higher in Northern Virginia, but he reiterated that it is not the only factor. He felt that the process should be inclusive.

Ms. Magill said that with the higher education commission still vigorously engaged in its work and with the bleak budget news in general, this issue would best be dealt with at a later time. She said that all of the subcommittee members acknowledge that cost of living is a significant issue in Northern Virginia, but said there are other items in play. Because there are a number of Council members who have not been involved in the process from the beginning, there should be an educational process for members to understand how the formulas work and what the consultant study showed in order to move forward with a common base of knowledge. She suggested that the subcommittee consider how to inform the full Council as we move forward.

Although not a formal resolution, it was agreed that Mr. Dyke would report the following to the full Council:

The subcommittee suggests that the staff work with institutions employing full-time faculty in Northern Virginia in an effort to develop a plan that would include the importance of a COLA as the Commonwealth strives to achieve the 60th percentile goal for faculty salaries.

It was further agreed that while the economic climate does not warrant moving forward with a recommendation at this time, the issue of COLA as well as other factors that affect faculty salaries should be considered now so that a plan will be ready and can move forward once the economic environment improves.

A meeting will be scheduled after the General Assembly session to allow new Council members an opportunity to be well informed about the issue.

Betty Jolly from George Mason expressed appreciation to the Council for endorsing the 60th percentile goal. Mr. Dyke was also thanked for his role in advocating for the COLA not just for George Mason but for other institutions as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25.

Lee Ann Rung
Manager for Executive and Council Affairs