

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2004  
MINUTES NO. 492**

Dr. Carl Kelly called the Council meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. in the Webb University Center BOV conference room at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Council members present: Mimi Elrod, Carl Kelly, Delceno Miles, Christine Milliken, Bittle Porterfield, Alan Wurtzel. Staff present: Nancy Cooley, Alan Edwards, Chuck Steenburgh, Lee Ann Rung

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as amended. Dr. Kelly requested that the items requiring approval be handled first while the quorum was present. Ms. Miles could not stay for the entire meeting. There were no requests for public comment and the Executive Committee was not held because that committee did not have a quorum. Also, in lieu of the Outreach Committee, Ms. Miles decided to provide a report to the full Council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 20, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

**REPORT FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

*Action on Programs at Public Institutions*

Ms. Milliken presented brief information about the programs for approval from three two-year public institutions and three four-year public institutions and the following resolutions were unanimously approved by the Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to James Madison University to initiate a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Nursing (CIP: 51.1603), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (B.A./B.S.) degree program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CIP: 30.0501), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program in Arts Management (CIP: 50.0704), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program in Philosophy (CIP: 38.0101), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program in Neuroscience (CIP: 30.2401), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program in Physical Sciences (CIP: 40.0101), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Virginia Commonwealth University to initiate a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Bioinformatics (CIP: 26.1103), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Virginia Commonwealth University to initiate a Master of Science/Master of Bioinformatics (M.S./M.Bioinf) degree program in Bioinformatics (CIP: 26.1103), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Virginia Commonwealth University to initiate a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program in Rehabilitation and Movement Science (CIP: 26.0908), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Danville Community College to initiate an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Health Science (Practical Nursing Specialization) (CIP: 51.0000), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College to initiate an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Emergency Medical Services—Paramedic (CIP: 51.0904), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Paul D. Camp Community College to initiate an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Nursing (CIP: 51.1601), effective fall 2004.

*Action on Program Productivity/Viability Review*

Ms. Milliken provided a brief discussion of the results of the productivity/viability review and the following resolutions were unanimously approved by the Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the following program actions:

**A. Continue without stipulations:**

- 1. Norfolk State University  
Master of Music (MMUS) Program (CIP: 50.0903)**
- 2. Norfolk State University  
Master of Science (MS) in Material Science Program (CIP: 40.0802)**
- 3. University of Virginia  
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Comparative Literature Program  
(CIP: 23.0301)**
- 4. Virginia Tech  
Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy Program (CIP: 38.0101)**

**B. Continue with stipulation that the program will be considered for inactive status or discontinuance if it fails to meet productivity standards during a follow-up evaluation in three years:**

- 1. College of William and Mary  
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in American Studies Program (CIP: 5.0102)**
- 2. Norfolk State University  
Master of Fine Arts/Master of Arts (MFA/MA) in Visual Studies  
Program (CIP: 50.0101)**
- 3. University of Virginia  
Master of Science (MS) in Statistics Program (CIP: 27.0501)**
- 4. University of Virginia  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Statistics Program (CIP: 27.0501)**

*Action on Strategic Plan for Nursing*

Ms. Milliken reminded the Council that this strategic plan is the final phase of the nursing project. She also said the Academic Affairs Committee commended the participants for their role in this collaborative effort. The following resolution was unanimously approved by the Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia adopts the report “Strategic Plan to Ensure an Adequate Supply of Nurses in Virginia.” This adoption is contingent upon staff making all revisions requested by Council in the course of its consideration of action on this plan.

*Action on Institutional Certification Process and Audits*

Ms. Milliken explained that the Committee recommended that the Executive Director be delegated the authority to act on Council’s behalf in certain instances of

institutional non-compliance and the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia delegates to its Executive Director the authority to act on its behalf in certain instances of non-compliance with Virginia's institutional certification standards. This delegation is restricted to those instances of non-compliance that Council has hereby deemed appropriate for staff action and restricts the Director's authority on such matters to imposition of either no action or probationary action(s).

### **APPROVAL OF MAY AGENDA**

The following agenda was approved for May 2004:

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
Monday, May 17, 2004**

**Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia**

### **AGENDA**

#### **Executive Committee**

**4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**(University Commons, Room 345)**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes (March 16, 2004) Tab E1
3. Liaison Report
4. Action on SCHEV Operating Budget Tab E2
5. Approval of July 20, 2004 Agenda
6. Discussion of Council Meeting Travel Schedule 2005
7. Discussion of Potential Agency Budget Items

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**  
**Tuesday, May 18, 2004**

**Washington and Lee University**  
**Lexington, Virginia**

**AGENDA**

**Resources Committee**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**(University Commons, Room 345)**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes (March 16, 2004) Tab R1
3. Liaison Report
4. Action on Utilization Study Tab R2
5. Action on Annual Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program (CGEP) Tab R3
6. Update on General Assembly Budget Actions for Colleges and Universities Tab R4
7. Discussion of Resources Agenda for Next Meeting

**Academic Affairs Committee**

**8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**(University Commons, Theater)**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes (March 16, 2004) Tab A1
3. Liaison Report
4. Action on Programs at Public Institutions Tab A2
5. Action on Emergency Regulations, if any Tab A3
6. Discussion of Competency Forum
7. Discussion of Student Advisory Committee Recommendations
8. Panel Discussion of Distance Learning/Technology
9. Discussion of Academic Affairs Issues/Agenda for next meeting

**Council Meeting**  
**(University Commons, Theater)**

**10:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes (March 16, 2004) Tab 1
3. Acting Director's Report
4. Delegated Items by Director/Staff Tab 2
5. Public Comment Period
6. Technology Presentation from Washington and Lee
7. Discussion of General Assembly Session Recap
8. Presentation on Academic Common Market
9. Report from Executive Committee
10. Report from Resources Committee
11. Report from Academic Affairs Committee
12. Report from Outreach Committee

**REPORT FROM OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

*Discussion of Session Recap*

There was nothing to report because the conferees were still meeting at the time of the Council meeting.

*Discussion of Educational Outreach Plan*

Ms. Miles shared the information that Mr. Steenburgh provided with regard to the educational outreach campaign initiative. Mr. Steenburgh's proposal was that "funds be allocated to hire a graduate student in marketing to assemble any and all data from available sources and begin the process of outlining a larger research effort in support of the proposed campaign."

**REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT RUNTE**

Dr. Runte welcomed the Council and provided information about the ODU campus and some of the ongoing initiatives being planned for the university. She also cited examples of innovating teaching and research efforts underway at ODU's main campus as well as in its off-campus centers. Dr. Runte provided statistics on Teletechnet, indicating that a total of 30 complete degree programs are offered at the undergraduate and graduate level. She also provided information on ODU's world-class research programs and how ODU is working to enhance the region's economic future. She requested assistance from the Council by reassessing how graduation rates are calculated by counting degrees awarded per FTE students during each academic year. Dr. Runte ended her discussion by reviewing ODU's strategic plan for 2005-2009 as well as the master plan.

## **ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

New SCHEV Duties Without Resources. Dr. Cooley distributed a list of new duties assigned to SCHEV this session without additional resources and without eliminating any current duties. She stressed that this will present challenges in light of the current staffing situation and is not a viable long-term strategy; a solution will need to be developed before the November 2004 deadline for the first set of new deliverables.

Virginia College Access Network Funding. As a result of the joint meeting sponsored by SCHEV, the VA Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the ECMC Foundation, the Jack Kent Cook Foundation has committed \$300,000 over the next two years to establish the Virginia College Access Network.

Governor's Early College Scholars "Virtual Counselor"/On-line Transfer Advising Tool in Beta Version. SCHEV recently took the lead in developing an on-line advising tool for secondary students to determine how they can receive college course credit for courses taken while they attended high school. This transfer advising tool and other information from the Governor's Early College Scholars program will be incorporated into the VirginiaMentor website, which will complete Phase I of the transfer advising tool. SCHEV will continue to build Phase II – the advising tool for transfer of courses among 2- and 4-year institutions – onto the VirginiaMentor website.

Inaugural Academic Common Market (ACM) Coordinators Meeting. On March 5, for the first time in the history of the program, SCHEV convened a meeting of Virginia's institutional ACM coordinators to review state impact data of the program and promote statewide coordination. Stephen Scott, the SCHEV staff member responsible for ACM, has also presented the impact data to the presidents and chief academic officers, and he will make a presentation to Council in May.

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) Awards. SCHEV won a special award for performance on the CVC campaign -- for increasing the amount raised by 76% and increasing agency participation by 211%. The award is proudly displayed in the reception area of the agency. Sumi Shahid was recognized for her excellent work as this year's CVC coordinator.

Ministry of Education visit. SCHEV was host to a delegation from Singapore's Ministry of Education on February 12. The purpose of the visit was to review best practices with regard to university funding as well as explore ways in which students finance their education. Several SCHEV staff members shared Virginia's policies and practices, which resulted in a very productive and interesting exchange of ideas.

Employee Recognition. Larry Mahon, Senior Research Analyst at SCHEV, was recognized during this Session for his 30 years of service to the Commonwealth.

Research. Lloyd Edwards has been hired as an analyst to replace retiring staff member, Larry Mahon, in the Institutional Research section. He began on Monday, March 8.

Work-Study Students. There are now six college work-study students working in the agency, five paid 100% by the Veterans Administration, all performing valuable agency work. Dr. Cooley thanked Rick Patterson for his work in securing these work-study students.

Distinguished Scholar. On March 13th, Dr. Alan Edwards received the "Distinguished Scholar" award for 2004 from the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association. The Seabees (or C.B.s for Construction Battalions) are the U.S. Navy's engineering and construction divisions. Dr. Edwards received a Seabee scholarship while he was an undergraduate (his father was a Navy Seabee in Vietnam). This year, based on his professional and scholarly accomplishments since completing his bachelor's degree in 1988, Dr. Edwards was selected from among all nominated previous Seabee scholarship recipients as the association's national "Distinguished Scholar" for 2004.

The Governor's High School Leadership Summit. Nancy Cooley participated in a panel presentation, "Postsecondary Transitions Take Coordinated Efforts", at The Governor's High School Leadership Summit on March 8. The panel included two educators and Secretary of Education, Belle Wheelan.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Dr. Kelly informed the Council that the agency received a request from a Delegate to look into the high cost of textbooks. Dr. Cooley had responded to the Delegate but he has since made a second request for Council's input on the matter. After some discussion, the Council decided to refer the matter to the Resources Committee to see what can be done or what is being done about the problem. The Council felt a response should be sent, but did not feel a study was required.

## **PRESENTATION FROM LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER**

Dr. Kelly introduced Mr. Robert Calloway, Program Manager for Space Access and Exploration Program Office, who provided information on NASA's ongoing priorities. Dr. Kelly thanked Mr. Calloway and indicated that the Council values the partnerships NASA has formed within the community. A copy of Mr. Hathaway's presentation on university programs and research opportunities was also distributed.

## **PRESENTATION ON DISTANCE LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY**

Dr. Edward Ayers from the University of Virginia provided a stimulating presentation about distance learning and shared the latest ways in which technology is being used to enhance the learning experience.

He demonstrated a website he developed to teach history that is used by instructors in grade schools through colleges. Another website he demonstrated is for

chemistry students to conduct experiments without being in a laboratory. There are many forms of distance learning and Dr. Ayers stressed that large investments should not be made in any one form too soon since the standards are constantly changing. He also stressed the need to be flexible and entrepreneurial and let each institution in the Commonwealth do what it does best. In response to a question, Dr. Ayers said that technology is only a tool to learning. If the Commonwealth remains innovative, there is private money available that will keep Virginia on the cutting edge. He answered questions from members and summarized by saying that distance education will pay off by making smart investments and keeping things diversified along the way. He indicated that we should strive to build tools that are self-sufficient instead of using distance learning to duplicate what is already in the classroom.

### **DELEGATED ACTIONS BY THE DIRECTOR/STAFF**

Dr. Cooley reported that since December 2003, staff has approved requests for “simple” internal organizational changes from two public institutions:

- Virginia Commonwealth University sought and was granted approval to reorganize its School of Education from a divisional structure to a departmental structure.
- Virginia Tech sought and was granted approval to restructure its College of Architecture and Urban Studies and to rename various departments in other colleges.

Because these requests fit the criteria for simple, internal changes, i.e., they are being undertaken solely for the purposes of internal management and do not involve significant modifications to institutional mission, curricular offerings, or budget, they were approved by the Acting Executive Director and are being reported as part of these minutes as requested by Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

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Carl N. Kelly  
Chairman

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Lee Ann Rung  
Council Secretary

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 16, 2004  
MINUTES NO. 17**

Ms. Milliken called the Academic Affairs Committee meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. in the BOV Conference Room, Webb University Center, at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. Council members present: Mimi Elrod, Carl Kelly, Delceno Miles, Christine Milliken (Chair), and Alan Wurtzel. Staff present: Nancy Cooley, Darlene Derricott, Alan Edwards, Frederick "Rick" Patterson and Kimberly Waid.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Dr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Miles, the committee unanimously approved the agenda as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Dr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Miles, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of January 20, 2004, as submitted.

**LIAISON REPORT**

Dr. Cooley informed the Committee that most items would be reported in the Director's Report at full Council. The committee was provided an original and a revised copy of the Academic Affairs work plan. Dr. Cooley explained the highlighted changes made as a result of legislative actions, pending future decisions by the Governor and General Assembly. Updated work plans will be distributed to the committee as additional items are added.

**ACTION ON PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

- James Madison University
  - Master of Science (MS) in Nursing
- George Mason University
  - Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) in Conflict Analysis and Resolution
  - Master of Arts (MA) in Arts Management
  - Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy
  - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Neuroscience
  - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Physical Sciences

- Virginia Commonwealth University
  - Bachelor of Science (BS); Master of Science (MS); Master of Bioinformatics (MBioinf) in Bioinformatics
  - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Rehabilitation and Movement Science
- Danville Community College
  - Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Health Science (Practical Nursing Specialization)
- J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
  - Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Emergency Medical Services (Paramedic)
- Paul D. Camp Community College
  - Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Nursing

Ms. Milliken informed the committee of the numerous degree programs submitted for approval and asked if anyone had any particular concerns. Dr. Peter Stearns, provost at George Mason University (GMU), addressed a resource question from Dr. Kelly regarding GMU's proposed Master of Arts degree in Philosophy; the additional resources would be to hire one faculty member next year and the second faculty member in 2-3 years. In response to a question from Dr. Elrod, Dr. Stearns also noted that a formal thesis would not be a prerequisite of the Philosophy degree and that research papers would be fully acceptable, thus not limiting serviceable options to students as a terminal degree. On a motion made by Ms. Miles to approve as a block consent and seconded, the committee unanimously approved the following resolutions and forwarded them to full Council:

**Resolutions:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to James Madison University to initiate a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Nursing (CIP: 51.1603), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (B.A./B.S.) degree program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CIP: 30.0501), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program in Arts Management (CIP: 50.0704), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to initiate a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program in Philosophy (CIP: 38.0101), effective fall 2004.

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**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Danville Community College to initiate an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Health Science (Practical Nursing Specialization) (CIP: 51.0000), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College to initiate an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Emergency Medical Services—Paramedic (CIP: 51.0904), effective fall 2004.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Paul D. Camp Community College to initiate an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Nursing (CIP: 51.1601), effective fall 2004.

## **ACTION ON PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY/VIABILITY REVIEW**

Ms. Milliken explained the results of the productivity/viability review. After a brief discussion, members recommended that the process be amended to look at enrollment/graduation on a statewide basis and to include the implications on resources of program proliferation as a foundation for duplication. Dr. Edwards (staff) noted his perception that masters-level programs (rather than programs in a specific academic discipline) were disproportionately represented in this year's identified programs, perhaps because the five-year averages used in the analysis included years when the economy was very strong and fewer students were choosing graduate school. Members suggested staff seek assistance from IPAC (Instructional Programs Advisory Committee) and begin a more formal process to modify the approach. A motion was made by Dr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Milliken to commend staff for a job well done in the second round of the process.

On a motion made and seconded, the committee voted unanimously to approve the following resolution and forward to the full Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the following program actions:**

**A. Continue without stipulations:**

- 1. Norfolk State University  
Master of Music (MMUS) Program (CIP: 50.0903)**
- 2. Norfolk State University  
Master of Science (MS) in Material Science Program (CIP: 40.0802)**
- 3. University of Virginia  
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Comparative Literature Program  
(CIP: 23.0301)**
- 4. Virginia Tech  
Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy Program (CIP: 38.0101)**

**B. Continue with stipulation that the program will be considered for inactive status or discontinuance if it fails to meet productivity standards during a follow-up evaluation in three years:**

- 1. College of William and Mary  
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in American Studies Program (CIP: 5.0102)**
- 2. Norfolk State University  
Master of Fine Arts/Master of Arts (MFA/MA) in Visual Studies**

**Program (CIP: 50.0101)**

- 3. University of Virginia  
Master of Science (MS) in Statistics Program (CIP: 27.0501)**
- 4. University of Virginia  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Statistics Program (CIP: 27.0501)**

### **ACTION ON STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NURSING**

Ms. Milliken provided background and stated that this plan is the final phase of SCHEV's nursing project. The first phase, a result of 2003 legislation (House Bill 2818), was the report on the Condition of Nursing and Nursing Education in the Commonwealth. The follow-up phase is the recommendations outlined in the draft document, Strategic Plan to Ensure an Adequate Supply of Nurses in Virginia. Dr. Waid (staff), who led this effort on behalf of Council, informed the committee of the completion and the dissemination of the Condition of Nursing and Nursing Education in the Commonwealth report.

Regarding the draft strategic plan, staff was directed to clarify in the recommendations that: (1) even with the recommended removal of the limitation on tuition and fees, a nursing program's new tuition and fees should not exceed the cost of educating a student in that program; and (2) the state supported life-emergency loan fund is needed to preserve our investment by allowing students in a critical shortage area to complete their education. Dr. Waid informed the committee that practical nursing was included in the overall project and that the plan's proposed increase for faculty salaries (as previously reported by the Board of Nursing) should read \$2.0 million for five years, rather than \$4.1 million figure in the draft document. Because of the extraordinary work on this project and its sensitivity, the committee directed staff to contact Council to begin making arrangements for a point person at the General Assembly.

On a motion by Dr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Miles, the committee voted unanimously to commend the participants of this collaborative project and for volunteering their efforts across the board. Dr. P.J. Maddox was presented with a gift for her leading role in this effort and for demonstrating the effective leveraging of resources during tough economic times.

On a motion made and seconded, the committee unanimously approved the following resolution and forwarded it to full Council.

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia adopts the report "Strategic Plan to Ensure an Adequate Supply of Nurses in Virginia." This adoption is contingent upon staff making all revisions requested by Council in the course of its consideration of action on this plan.**

## **ACTION ON INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND AUDITS**

Staff requested that the Committee recommend to the full Council that the executive director be delegated the authority to act on Council's behalf in those instances of institutional non-compliance to Virginia's certification standards that would result in the imposition of either no action or probationary action(s). In response to a question from Mr. Wurtzel, Dr. Cooley informed the committee that the executive director's delegated actions are reported at each meeting of the full Council. On a motion made and seconded, the committee unanimously approved the following resolution and forwarded it to the full Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia delegates to its Executive Director the authority to act on its behalf in certain instances of non-compliance with Virginia's institutional certification standards. This delegation is restricted to those instances of non-compliance that Council has hereby deemed appropriate for staff action and restricts the Director's authority on such matters to imposition of either no action or probationary action(s).**

The committee tabled the three action items listed under institutional audits (Tab A5b) for consideration by staff. The reports of audit included the University of Fairfax, Rockwell University and Virginia International University.

## **UPDATE FROM STATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER**

Ms. Milliken attended the March 12, 2004, State Committee on Transfer (SCT) meeting at James Madison University. The SCT co-chairs were asked to provide a brief update. Dr. Elizabeth "Sissy" Crowther provided the history of state policy on transfer and the SCT, and she expressed the members' excitement at reconvening after being inactive for the past few years. Dr. Teresa Gonzalez shared information pertaining to legislative mandates, transfer guides, articulation agreements, and dual admissions. It was suggested that the transfer issue is a priority -- one that requires inter-institutional resolution; the focus should be on addressing difficult problems, regardless of whether the plan is a 2+2 plan or one that involves the transfer of all courses to any institution. Ms. Milliken thanked Drs. Crowther and Gonzalez for an excellent job.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION OF DISTANCE LEARNING/TECHNOLOGY**

Ms. Milliken explained that the committee is looking for recommendations for a distance learning/technology draft to be released later this year. The panelists briefed the committee on the following:

Carole Schultz, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Instructional Technology and Distance Education (ITDE), Virginia Community College System, emphasized the need for a good infrastructure, especially for management of content. Distance learning provides for a richer curriculum and it is cost effective. Partnerships, faculty development and content are all critical in advancing distance learning.

Anne Savage, Vice Provost for Distance Learning, Old Dominion University, provided history of distance learning and SCHEV's initial request in 1992, which led to the development of TeleTechNet. Dr. Savage highlighted some of the things ODU does best and some of the things it is doing increasingly well with distance education. Its strengths include paying close attention to quality standards, faculty training, institutional partnerships and assessments. Information about the Navy College model and the Community College model was shared. ODU is doing increasingly well at four things, including but not limited to: developing SCORM compliance (standardized information can be shared among institutions), the portal system, an open architectural system (digital archives to allow access around the state) and developing instructional designs of blended courses.

Teresa Walker, Director of the Academic Technology Mall at Hampton University, provided the history of distance education at HU beginning as early as 1991. Currently, HU faculty are required to utilize Blackboard and continue to receive training. Based on high demand for its Religious Studies program and in response to a task force for addressing Virginia's nurse and teacher shortages, Hampton University is enhancing its degree programs in these areas with electronic delivery/availability options and/or on-campus technologies, beginning fall 2004.

Steve Gilbert, President, TLT Group, commented on the effective use of a webpage that reflected engagement of people with ideas and demonstrated how quickly a page can be created. Dr. Gilbert emphasized that we are now in the time of challenges and opportunities, and urged the committee to keep in mind -- regardless of advocacy -- the conveniences and inconveniences of distance education and learning. He noted that, when considering whether delivery or engagement is the primary motivation, additional factors that will either impede or support the results of this decision include rapid change, rising expectations and financial resources. Professional development is another area of high need and when formulating calculate on total staff time (count everyone!) Since student learning styles and pedagogies are changing so rapidly, the committee should also recognize the significant growth in hybrid or blended technology (i.e. asynchronous, synchronous and/or face to face or a mixture of all three.) Assessment should also be considered, as the results will likely aid in making better decisions. The committee should be observant and judgmental and get some direct experience so that members can understand and relate to the demands of the users. All the panelists were thanked for their recommendations and presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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Christine Milliken  
Chair

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Lee Ann Rung  
Council Secretary