



State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

An Overview of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

An Overview of SCHEV

The Code of Virginia specifies that SCHEV must “provide, in consultation with public institutions of higher education and members of their governing boards, educational programs for the governing boards of such institutions. New members of such governing boards may participate in the programs, which shall be designed to address the roles, duties and responsibilities of the governing boards and may include in-service programs on current issues in higher education.”

SCHEV’s Mission:

Promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education.

SCHEV’s Vision:

Be the recognized source for accurate information, meaningful innovation, and informed leadership in higher education.

SCHEV’s History:

Established in 1956, the State Council of Higher Education is the Commonwealth’s coordinating board for its system of over 100 colleges and universities.

- The Council originally consisted of 8 gubernatorial appointments with the Superintendent of Public Instruction as an *ex officio* member.
- In 1970, Council membership changed to 11 and the Superintendent of Public Instruction requirement was dropped.
- The Council was later designated as the planning and coordinating agency for health professions and occupations.
- The 1974 General Assembly session substantially amended the Council’s duties, giving the agency more responsibilities in many areas, specifically with regard to the budget process.

- The 1975 General Assembly assigned to the Council the responsibility for administering federal grants for academic facilities for the land grant institutions (Virginia Tech and VSU).
- In 1980, the General Assembly significantly strengthened the state statutes pertaining to the approval of in-state, private and out-of-state institutions, making the Council responsible for approving the operations of these institutions.

SCHEV's Role in Virginia Higher Education:

- Provide coordination for the public and private colleges and universities that make up the system. SCHEV respects the distinctive missions of each institution, yet works to bring them together to meet common systemwide challenges so higher education can effectively serve the Commonwealth. Such challenges include: critical shortage areas, access, and student success.
- Present policy guidance and recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and the institutions. SCHEV advises on such key areas as systemwide operating and capital budget planning, and student financial aid.
- Serve as a catalyst for change, progress, and systemwide improvements. SCHEV produces reports, studies, and analysis on timely and emerging issues, such as the affordability of Virginia's public and private institutions, institutional assessment, higher education funding, research at Virginia colleges and universities, and the affect of an aging population on the of the Commonwealth.
- Be a reliable resource for accurate information and policy expertise. SCHEV is a reliable resource for accurate information and policy expertise for: institutions, legislators, the Governor's Office, national organizations, media, and the public.
- Administer about \$70 million in grants and appropriations.

SCHEV's current roles and responsibilities can be categorized in 3 distinct ways:

- Ongoing duties specified in the Code of Virginia, including
 - Develop statewide strategic plan
 - Review and approve changes in "statement of mission" at public institutions

Evaluate proposals to change degree-granting levels
Review and approve enrollment projections
Review and approve all new academic programs
Review and require discontinuance of academic programs that are unproductive or unnecessarily duplicative
Review and approve organizational changes above the department level
Develop guidelines for the assessment of student achievement
Review and approve changes to the inventory of educational and general (E&G space)
Provide advisory services to accredited, nonprofit private institutions
Require the development of articulation, transfer, and dual enrollment admission agreements
Provide updates of base adequacy funding guidelines
Monitor and report on tuition and fees
Administer the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program for Virginia residents attending in-state, nonprofit, independent institutions
Administer various state-level student aid programs
Certify public institutions under the Restructuring Act (Institutional Performance Standards)
Regulate proprietary schools, for-profit institutions, and out-of-state institutions operating in Virginia
Administer federal programs, such as GEAR UP & the higher education component of No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
Determine eligibility for domicile status
Oversee the Outstanding Faculty Awards program

- One-time or short-term mandates and responsibilities specified in budget language, joint resolutions, or legislative requests

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Budget Item 475.50

Central Appropriations, ARRA of 2009, requires SCHEV and the Director of DPB to inform the BOV's regarding the requirements of Title XIV and then report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the money committees on the tuition and E&G fee increases. October 1, 2009

HJ678

Requests SCHEV and VCCS to study the shortage of classroom teachers in the Commonwealth, and specifically explore methods to attract students to the Virginia Community College System for the first two years of a teacher preparation program.

November 30, 2009

HJR91

SCHEV presented before the Joint Subcommittee to Study Ways in Which the Commonwealth May Work More Closely with Virginia's Private, Nonprofit Colleges to Meet State Higher Education Needs

Degree Oversight

At the request of the chairman of the House of Appropriations Committee, SCHEV provided an explanation of degree-granting oversight at public institutions in Virginia

- Routine (non-codified) activities necessary to SCHEV's mission. Such responsibilities include:

Responding to Constituent letters

Serving as an unbiased information resource for the media and elected officials

Tracking higher education-related legislation

Providing testimony during the general assembly session

Serving on external committees, such as the Secretary of Education's P-16 Council

Examples of 2009 Legislation Affecting SCHEV

HB1663

Permits SCHEV to appoint students enrolled at accredited private institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth to the student advisory committee (SAC).

HB1664 SCHEV

Eliminates the requirement that SCHEV develop and revise a model institutional crisis and emergency management plan for public and private institutions. This charge was completed in 2008. Language will remain requiring VDEM to consult with SCHEV before updates are made.

SB1547

Provides that students who have successfully completed a program of home-school instruction and certain persons who have been excused from school attendance are eligible to participate in and are eligible for all state-supported financial aid programs. Amended to allow SCHEV to promulgate regulations which should be completed in summer of 2009.

An Overview of Governing Boards in Virginia

The governing boards for the public institutions of higher education in Virginia were created in the code sections of each individual institution. The language for Radford University is typical of this language and appears below.

§ 23-155.1. Corporation composed of board of visitors created; style.

The corporation composed of the board of visitors of Radford College, heretofore established by law, is continued as the board of visitors of Radford University under the style of "The Visitors of Radford University" in this chapter hereinafter referred to as the board. All laws relating to Radford College or the board of visitors of Radford College shall be construed as relating to Radford University or the board.

(1964, c. 50; 1979, cc. 136, 145.)

General Information:

- There are 14 institutional governing boards in the Commonwealth.
- State Board of Community Colleges governs the Virginia Community College System's 23 community colleges.
- The Board of Visitors at the College of William and Mary has authority over both the College and Richard Bland College.
- The Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia has authority over both the University and the University of Virginia's College at Wise.
- The College of William and Mary, University of Virginia, Virginia Military Institute, and Virginia Tech were the first institutional boards to be codified in 1919.
- The University of Mary Washington and George Mason University boards, both established in 1972, are the newest boards in Virginia.

Generally, institutional governing boards:

- Set institutional mission and purpose
- Control the funds of the institution and any appropriation provided, to include the salaries of the president, professors, teachers, and agents
- Serve as the final institutional authority
- Provide general policy direction and management oversight
- Select, monitor the performance of, and support, the president of the institution
- Monitor and assess the institution's performance
- Establish faculty personnel policies
- Establish policies for, and sometimes set, tuition and fees
- Set admission policies for the institution
- Regulate the government and discipline of students
- Care for, preserve, and improve property belonging to the institution
- Ensure an ongoing strategic planning process

- Preserve institutional independence
- Serve occasionally as a court of appeals

Examples of 2009 Legislation Affecting Governing Boards in Virginia

HB1810

Provides that the governing boards of each public institution of higher education must implement policies for the awarding of course credit to students who are called to active military duty during an academic semester.

HR39

Encourages the public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth to fully support the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs and provide the maximum recognition of ROTC courses for credits toward graduation.