Student Advisory Committee Minutes  
Friday, December 16, 2016  
SCHEV Main Conference Room  

Members Present: Amber Ange (Richard Bland College), Olivia Baker (Mountain Empire Community College), Michael Bamisile (Christopher Newport University), Noah Butler (Old Dominion University), Hannah Carse (George Mason University), Isaiah Harvin (Virginia Commonwealth University), Kyle Mummau (Central Virginia Community College), Matt Mueller (James Madison University), Sharmae Stringfield (University of Virginia’s College at Wise)  

SCH EV Staff Present: Marianna Abraham, Peter Blake, Beverly Covington, Wendy Kang, James Morton, Paula Robinson, Charlotte Shields  

☐ Paula Robinson (SCHEV) brought the meeting to order at 10:00 am.  
☐ SCHEV Director Peter Blake welcomed the student members, discussed the role of SCHEV as a policy body, and shared the history of the Student Advisory Committee.  
☐ SAC members introduced themselves and the university they represent.  
☐ Wendy Kang discussed The Virginia Plan for Higher Education and its priorities while sharing Virginia’s 2014 census data on postsecondary education and recognizing the important role of institutions in developing a robust workforce. She then facilitated a discussion on what factors students should consider before choosing to enroll in an institution of higher education.  
☐ Kyle Mummau (Central Virginia Community College) considerations: Community colleges’ Guaranteed Admissions Agreements with major state schools.  
☐ Olivia Baker (Mountain Empire Community College) considerations: Scholarships.  
☐ Noah Butler (Old Dominion University) considerations: Career and personality tests prepare students early for options post-college.  
☐ Sharmae Stringfield (University of Virginia’s College at Wise) considerations: On-site admissions. High school students could benefit from early exposure to potential careers through internship opportunities.  
☐ Isaiah Harvin (Virginia Commonwealth University) considerations: Exploratory learning provides opportunities to identify academic interests and career goals.  
☐ Hannah Carse (George Mason University) considerations: Discussions about postsecondary opportunities should start as early as 9th grade.  
☐ SAC members shared the student concerns at their respective colleges.  
☐ Hannah Carse (George Mason University) concerns: George Mason University is one of the largest public universities in Virginia, but receives very little funding. Meal plans are extremely expensive.  
☐ Kyle Mummau (Central Virginia Community College) concerns: Advising. Students are often encouraged to pursue academic tracks that they might not be fully prepared for. Quality and availability of food effects student presence, and involvement on campus when students look for meal options off campus. Safety hazards are a concern, particularly in older buildings.  
☐ Sharmae Stringfield (University of Virginia’s College at Wise): Often, when students are given guidance on academic majors there is no discussion of how the major will influence the student’s future career opportunities. Campus safety and food/nutrition offerings are a concern. Budget cuts negatively affect productivity of student groups and departments.  
☐ Noah Butler (Old Dominion University) concerns: The University is expanding quickly causing financial concerns.  
☐ Matt Mueller (James Madison University) concerns: University endowment is not as
large as it could be, as the university is struggling with securing donations from alumni. Many students feel university-wide diversity initiatives have not been effective. There is an ongoing initiative to establish a smoke-free campus.

- Isaiah Harvin (Virginia Commonwealth University) concerns: Diversity is strong, but University could improve upon inclusion. Student government is working towards ensuring a smoke-free campus. Meal plans are not cost effective.
- Olivia Baker (Mountain Empire Community College) concerns: There are no food offerings on campus, which works against student involvement and campus community building. Recent campus-wide schedule change has further reduced the amount of time students are on campus.
- Michael Bamisile (Christopher Newport University) concerns: For the most part, students are happy. However, student and faculty diversity and inclusion could be enhanced.
- Amber Ange (Richard Bland College) concerns: There are communication challenges between the administration and their wide array of students.
- Paula Robinson facilitated an exercise where SAC members shared the story of their educational journey.
- Committee enjoyed lunch while sharing college experiences, specifically on student government structure, activities and overall campus engagement.
- At 12:30, lunch ended and Paula Robinson initiated the election process to determine the SAC Chair and Vice Chair. The four candidates, Michael Bamisile, Sharmae Stringfield, Matt Mueller, and Hannah Carse, gave short speeches.
- Voting commenced.
- Paula Robinson led an activity and discussion on college access.
- Votes were cast again because not all instructions were followed.
- Charlotte Shields, SCHEV Compliance Specialist, shared information on the student complaint process. Charlotte asked SAC members to review their Universities’ student complaint process to ensure that it notes when SCHEV becomes involved.
- The election resulted in a two-way tie between Matt Mueller and Michael Bamisile, so votes were cast to break the tie.
- Paula Robinson posed a question about military student engagement and military friendly campus activities and services.
- Noah Butler (Old Dominion University) shared that military members and veterans had a strong presence on campus, with their own culture, services and reserved seat in student government.
- Kyle Mummau (Central Virginia Community College) shared that their student veterans association was probably the most active student group on campus.
- Beverly Covington discussed OER.
- Students generally responded by saying that they were aware of OER and that they knew that different academic departments and institution leadership were looking into how resources could be used or created to improve accessibility and affordability.
- James Morton shared information on Virginia21.
- A general interest in the committee being more engaged, having more consistency in membership spanning academic years and having more communication was shared by students.
- Paula Robinson reminded the group that SAC is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). More information will be shared on FOIA.
- The group also expressed an interest in creating a student membership structure that would lend to stronger Committee stability and engagement that would increase the value of the Committee’s role to SCHEV and the representing student body/institution.
- Paula Robinson announced the final election results: Chair: Michael Bamisile (CNU), Vice Chair: Matt Mueller (JMU).
- Next meetings: It was agreed that Fridays were good days to meet. A Doodle poll will be distributed for a meeting either on February 3rd or February 10th and the second meeting of the Spring semester for either April 7th or the 14th, 10-2 or 12-4.
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm.