

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016  
MINUTES**

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in Salons 1 and 2, Student Commons, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. Council members present: Ken Ampy, Heywood Fralin, Dan Gundersen, Henry Light, Gene Lockhart, G. Gilmer Minor, III, Pamela Moran, William Murray, Carlyle Ramsey, Minnis Ridenour, and Tom Slater.

**Marge Connelly participated by phone.**

Council member absent: Katharine Webb.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Beverly Covington, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Dan Hix, Wendy Kang, Jean Mottley, Sylvia Rosa-Casanova, Lee Ann Rung, Paul Smith, Greg Weatherford, and Yan Zheng. Al Wilson from the Office of the Attorney General was also in attendance.

**RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Minor reported that there were no requests for public comment. He invited comments from those in attendance but no one came forward.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Ampy, the minutes from the July 19, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously.

**REMARKS FROM MICHAEL RAO PRESIDENT, VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY (VCU)**

President Rao welcomed the Council and thanked them for their support of higher education. He spoke about the meaning of public policy for public education and indicated the need for a robust conversation about what is needed to shape society and the population of Virginia in the future. He said there should be a focus on the economic impact of higher education. In that vein, VCU has commissioned a report that will examine the specific economic impact from higher education that will allow citizens to live culturally and socially productive lives. President Rao indicated that a deeper conversation is needed to map out how to achieve these results, but he assured the Council that VCU will do its part.

President Rao informed members that after participating in several student events recently, he was inspired to find that this generation of students displays enthusiasm,

excitement, and a love for life like he has not seen before. He suggested that SCHEV strive to bring this energy into the conversation and said that he looks forward to working with the Council on these important issues.

## **REMARKS FROM BARRY DUVAL, PRESIDENT, VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Mr. Minor introduced Mr. DuVal and read his biography. Mr. DuVal introduced his team:

Ryan Fierst - Public Policy Director and Legislative Counsel

Paul Logan - Communications Director

Mark Barrett - Membership Development and Marketing Manager

Mr. DuVal spoke about the state of the Commonwealth, Virginia's economic profile, and explained the Chamber's role in these areas. He also reviewed SCHEV's purpose and told members that higher education is critical and can deliver the greatest impact on the state's economic development efforts.

He described the work of the Chamber as a non-partisan advocacy group and said its vision is to be the voice of the Virginia business community, as well as the most influential business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth. The Virginia Chamber has been recognized by the Southern Political Report as Top Government Affairs Association in Virginia.

Mr. DuVal described this as a time of transition as the Commonwealth. By 2022, approximately 500,000 new jobs will be created in Virginia but over 930,000 workers will be needed to replace Virginia's retiring workforce. He shared information from the Blueprint Virginia, including state rankings in business, workforce, and education.

Mr. DuVal reported that every successful region has a vibrant higher education system and noted the five keys to economic success:

- Connected to the outside world
- Competent workforce
- Intellectual Capacity
- Investment in Infrastructure
- Pro Business Environment/ Entrepreneurship

Mr. DuVal answered questions from members and noted that on December 2 the Chamber will kick off Blueprint Virginia 2025. In response to a question from Mr. Slater, Mr. DuVal affirmed that during the upcoming legislative session, Council could count on the Chamber to work together with the General Assembly to stress the need to provide additional state support for higher education.

## **REPORT OF THE AGENCY DIRECTOR**

Mr. Blake highlighted the following items from his distributed report:

Secretary of Education: Dietra Trent replaced former Secretary Anne Holton in August.

New board member orientation: Mr. Blake reported that SCHEV is finalizing the agenda for the 2016 orientation. As information about the session becomes available, it will be posted on the SCHEV website. He encouraged members to attend.

Virginia Research Investment Fund and Committee (VRIC): Mr. Blake reminded members that he chairs this committee, which includes five ex-officio members and four others named by the Governor and the General Assembly. Dr. Edwards has been leading SCHEV's work on this assignment and he hopes to announce soon a new SCHEV staff member who will provide dedicated support to the committee.

New College Institute: On behalf of NCI's board, SCHEV staff is currently engaged in a review of the Institute to examine the options for the future direction of NCI. This review will include pros and cons of each option, and a rank-order of the options, if appropriate.

Tuition and Fee report: Overall, 97% of in-state undergraduate students attending Virginia public institutions will have tuition increases that are 3% or less. A summary of the report SCHEV submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly was attached to Mr. Blake's report in the agenda materials.

Mr. Ridenour asked if SCHEV should be prepared to take a policy position prior to the 2017 legislative session that would address the institutions' use of unrestricted funds and the flexibility institutions need to manage themselves when state resources are limited or reduced. Dr. Murray suggested that staff provide a draft for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Slater seconded Dr. Murray's recommendation. Dr. Ramsey suggested that there also be a conversation about this issue at the boards of visitors orientation. Staff agreed to draft a resolution for the Council to consider in October that affirms Council's position on the flexibility and autonomy necessary for the institutions in managing their finances.

Mr. Fralin cautioned that while institutions continue to build their endowments to supplement the lack of state funding, there must be clarification on the use of donor funds for public business.

The chairman called for a break at 10:30. The meeting resumed at 10:45 a.m.

### **UPDATE ON THE VIRGINIA PLAN**

Ms. Kang provided an update on each initiative and reviewed the items that have been completed to date. At the last meeting, Council suggested that a special meeting be scheduled to focus on the Virginia Plan. This meeting will be scheduled prior to the October committee meetings.

Mr. Lockhart suggested that SCHEV request endorsement of the Virginia Plan for Higher Education from organizations such as the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and others and request that it be referenced on their websites.

## **REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES**

### **Report from Executive Committee**

Mr. Minor reported that no actions were taken in the Committee meeting. The proposed bylaws changes were discussed and will be forwarded for action at the October meeting. He reviewed the slight changes that were proposed and noted that the Committee inquired about the appointment rather than election of the Council secretary. This position is referenced in the Code of Virginia as an appointed position and therefore, will remain as such.

Mr. Blake reviewed the legislative proposals that have been submitted to the Governor's office.

The Committee received information from staff regarding potential budget reductions and learned that agencies including SCHEV are required to submit budget reductions of 5%. The agency's plan has been submitted and staff expects to have additional information from the Governor's office in October.

The Committee received an update on initiative 5 of the Virginia Plan which focuses on communications and development of a consistent message. Mr. Minor complimented Ms. Kang and Mr. Weatherford for their efforts to improve internal and external communications.

### **Report from Academic Affairs Committee**

Mr. Lockhart reported on the following items from the Academic Affairs Committee meeting:

#### *Action on Contingency Plan for Continuing Authorization of ACICS Institutions Operating in Virginia*

Mr. Lockhart asked Dr. DeFilippo to provide information about this item. Dr. DeFilippo explained the reason for the contingency plan in the event that the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) ceases to be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal is to avoid abrupt and simultaneous loss of authorization for multiple institutions and to protect their students who receive federal financial aid. He indicated that staff will continue to work with the Office of the Attorney General on details of the contingency plan. Mr. Mark Singer, Executive Director, Virginia Career College Association, was present and was invited to provide comments. Mr. Singer said this was a difficult time for the institutions he represents but expressed appreciation for the time SCHEV staff has spent with him on the issue. He said the closure of ITT Technical Institute has become a national crisis and was

precipitated in 2-3 weeks with no adjudication or ability to appeal. All sectors are working to assist students and he expressed his support for the contingency plan. Dr. Shurtz and Dr. Flackard from Stratford were present and expressed their support as well. Mr. Lockhart emphasized Council's obligation to ensure that student records are maintained. He assured the Council that the agency is out front on this issue.

The Committee's recommendation was seconded by Mr. Slater and the following resolution was approved unanimously:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves and adopts the "Contingency Plan for Continuing Authorization of ACICS Institutions Operating in Virginia," and all of its constituent provisions, effective immediately.**

#### Report from Resources and Planning Committee

Mr. Light said the Committee took action on three items and received public comment from Dr. Tiffany Franks, President, Averett University. He summarized Dr. Franks' presentation which focused on the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG). Dr. Franks spoke on behalf of the private colleges in Virginia in requesting that SCHEV consider recommending an increase in TAG from \$3200 to \$3400 for 2017-18.

#### *Action on Measures of Institutional Performance*

Mr. Light provided a brief overview and the Committee's recommendation was seconded by Dr. Murray. The following resolution was approved unanimously:

**BE IT RESOLVED that consistent with §23-9.6:1.01, Code of Virginia, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 that all public institutions have satisfactorily met the performance standards of the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act and Appropriation Act.**

#### *Action on Workforce Credential Regulations Based on Regulatory Review*

Mr. Light provided a review of the item and the Committee's recommendation was seconded by Mr. Slater. Ms. Kang and Mr. Andes were congratulated for their work in developing the regulations. The following resolution was approved unanimously:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the proposed regulations for Workforce Credential Grant Program and directs to staff to incorporate any necessary technical changes that may arise subsequent to further executive or legal review.**

#### *Action on Additional Amendments to Guidelines for Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program*

Mr. Light briefly reviewed this item. Mr. Minor said he and Mr. Andes attended a cybersecurity summit at Longwood University and he invited Ms. Emily O’Brion from Longwood to speak about the event. She indicated that the summit was a success and has created much enthusiasm for this increasingly demanding discipline. Mr. Andes provided a brief summary of the scholarship program. The following resolution was seconded by Mr. Slater and approved unanimously:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the proposed amended policies, application, and promissory note for the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship program.**

Mr. Light informed the Council that the Committee also reviewed the options for the 2016-18 systemwide operating budget amendments. Final recommendations will come before the Council for action at the October meeting.

Ms. Connelly disconnected at 11:40 a.m.

**RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF**

Mr. Blake noted the categories of recent actions taken by staff as delegated by the Council. As required, a copy of these actions is attached to the minutes.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Blake reminded members that they requested dedicated time in the morning of October 24 to discuss The Virginia Plan. Staff will send details on the logistics of this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Lockhart and seconded by Mr. Ridenour, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Minnis Ridenour  
Secretary

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Lee Ann Rung  
Director, Executive and Board Affairs

### Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section 23-9:6:1 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items were approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

#### Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
John Tyler Community College	<b>Revised Conferral Date:</b> Change the Associate of Applied Science degree program in Electrical Engineering Technology (46.0302) conferral date from spring 2019 to spring 2018.	July 11, 2016
Tidewater Community College	<b>Revised Conferral Date:</b> Change the conferral date of the Associate of Applied Science degree program in Diesel Technology (47.0605) from fall 2015 to summer 2015. This program was originally approved by SCHEV on March 6, 2015.	August 22, 2016
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>Substantial Modification Approval:</b> Modify the credit hours and change the name/title of the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling (51.2310) with 48 credit hours to a Master of Science in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (51.2310) with 60 credit hours.	Fall 2016
Virginia Tech	<b>Title Change Approval:</b> Change the title from a Graduate Certificate in International Research and Development (45.0901) to a Graduate Certificate in Multidisciplinary Research in International Development (45.0901) [Conferral: Spring 2017]	Spring 2017
Virginia Western Community College	<b>Revised Conferral Date:</b> Change conferral date of the Associate of Applied Science degree program in Medical Laboratory Technology (51.1004) from fall 2015 to summer 2015. This program was originally approved by SCHEV on December 15, 2014.	August 22, 2016

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section 23-9:6:1 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following item was reported:

**Certificate Programs**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Degree/Program/CIP</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Virginia Tech	Discontinue the Graduate Certificate in Critical Design Thinking (50.0404) [SCHEV acknowledgment date: 2/14/2014]	Spring 2016

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section 23-9:6:1 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes*," the following item was approved as delegated to staff:

**Organizational Change Approvals**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Change / Site</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Old Dominion University	Rename the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to the <b>Department of World Languages and Cultures</b> . The Department has been re-named to more precisely reflect both the pedagogical approach and scholarly research of the department.	August 21, 2016

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section 23-9.14:3 and Council's "*Commonwealth of Virginia Policy on the Reciprocal Authorization of Distance Education and Related Activities*," the following item was approved as delegated to staff:

**National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) Approvals**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
University of Virginia College at Wise	August 10, 2016

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section 23-276 and section 8VAC-40-31-90 of the Virginia Administrative Code, the following item was approved as delegated to staff:

**Postsecondary, Non-Degree Institutions Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Cedar Run Ranch	Cumberland, VA	August 11, 2016

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016  
MINUTES**

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in Salon 4, Student Commons, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. Committee members present: Marge Connelly, Heywood Fralin, Gene Lockhart, G. Gilmer Minor, III, and Minnis Ridenour.

Other Council members present: Henry Light and Tom Slater.

Staff members present: Peter Blake, Alan Edwards, Wendy Kang, Lee Ann Rung, and Greg Weatherford. Al Wilson from the Office of the Attorney General was also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Fralin and seconded by Ms. Connelly, the minutes from the July 19, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES**

Mr. Light noted a typographical error in the Preface portion of the bylaws. In the first bullet “ever” should be changed to “every” year. In answer to a question raised by one of the members, Mr. Blake explained the reason for appointing the position of Secretary rather than electing this position is that it is stipulated as an appointed position in the Code of Virginia. There were no additional changes to the bylaws. A final version will be brought to the Council for action in October.

**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

Mr. Blake updated members on six SCHEV proposals that have been submitted as a placeholder. The proposals address consumer protection, program closure, data, and economic and workforce development.

Mr. Fralin requested that Mr. Lockhart and the Academic Affairs consider requiring that new independent studies courses be required to report on their students to ensure transparency.

Mr. Blake explained that an additional SCHEV proposal addresses a change to the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) reporting structure. This committee, which is currently in the Code of Virginia, states that it is an advisory committee to the Council. This subjects the SAC to the open meeting requirements. The staff proposal changes SAC to an advisory committee to staff instead of Council directly, which is the way in

which SCHEV's other advisory committees function. This change would permit more student participation and allow more phone participation for those students who find it difficult to meet in Richmond.

Mr. Blake reminded members that the legislative proposals are currently placeholders and will be discussed in more detail with the Secretary of Education prior to the Session. In addition, the Governor has asked SCHEV to draft legislation and develop revisions to the state financial aid program to encourage students to take a sufficient number of credits in order to graduate on time. The Governor has also requested that SCHEV consider a public policy addressing student debt. Ms. Connelly suggested that an interactive tool be considered to calculate student debt, monthly payments, etc., to assist students and families when evaluating college options.

### **DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SCHEV BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

Mr. Blake reported that the Governor has requested state agencies (not colleges and universities) to submit 5% reduction plans. Mr. Blake explained the functions that would be affected by the cuts that SCHEV submitted. He reported that some savings will be derived from turnover and vacancies as well as reducing wage expenditures. Additional information will be forthcoming in early October. At that time the Governor will announce any targeted cuts that may be needed.

### **UPDATE ON INITIATIVE 5 THE VIRGINIA PLAN**

Ms. Kang provided an update to initiative 5 (communications) and indicated that Mr. Weatherford will be meeting with the communications officers from the institutions to roll out the suggestions presented at their meetings. She will provide a status report at next meeting. Ms. Kang reported on the following steps being taken to improve communications:

Tuition and Fee report:

- The report has been reformatted to make the online version more user-friendly.
- Staff coordinated with the Governor on the release of the report.
- Media interviews occurred on radio and TV.

Meetings:

- Staff and Council leadership met with the editorial board in Richmond.
- A meeting with the editorial board in Norfolk is planned for the end of September.
- A meeting with the editorial board in Roanoke is planned for October.
- Staff will plan a meeting with the editorial board at *The Washington Post* before the end of the year.

Newsletters:

- Changed to a new format that will include 3-5 highlights from the staff newsletter and/or Governor's press releases.

- Will add advisory groups to the distribution list, with a goal of reaching all individuals in higher education and allowing anyone who is interested to subscribe.
- Highlighted a “Number of the Week;” this week’s number is 4,000, which is the gender gap in wages.
- 123GO – Virginia’s Three Steps to College (Prepare, Apply and Pay) – staff is looking to grow this initiative by reaching out to targeted schools that have 50% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch. Currently, 93 schools in Virginia qualify. This is a targeted campaign with the Governor and Secretary of Education to create awareness about the program.

Mr. Minor applauded Ms. Kang and Mr. Weatherford for their communication efforts. Mr. Ridenour agreed but suggested that SCHEV consider partnering with the Virginia College Savings Plan to stress the importance of planning early for college rather than waiting until high school.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

On a motion by Mr. Light and seconded by Mr. Lockhart the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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G. Gilmer Minor, III  
Council Chair

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Lee Ann Rung  
Director, Executive & Board Affairs

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016  
MINUTES**

Mr. Lockhart (Chair) called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Committee members present: Ken Ampy, Gene Lockhart, Heywood Fralin, Bill Murray, and Carlyle Ramsey.

Staff members present: Peter Blake, Richard Cole, Beverly Covington, Joseph Crook, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Wendy Kang, Tosha Robinson, Carly Shields, Sylvia Rosa-Casanova, Paul Smith, and Susan Yale.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A correction was made to the July 18, 2016 minutes to reflect that Mr. Ampy had been present at the meeting. On motion by Mr. Fralin, and seconded by Mr. Lockhart, the corrected minutes from the July 18, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

**ACTION ON CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR CONTINUING AUTHORIZATION OF ACICS INSTITUTIONS OPERATING IN VIRGINIA**

Dr. DeFilippo provided a PowerPoint presentation to provide background information on the agenda item. He talked about the abrupt closure and bankruptcy declaration of ITT Tech due to issues raised by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) surrounding program quality and Title IV eligibility. The Department is signalling its seriousness about these quality assurance issues; the situation with ACICS is not isolated, but part of an overall strategy. In Virginia, accreditation by a recognized accreditor is a requirement for certification. According to Title IV regulations, state authorization is required for Title IV eligibility. Therefore, when recognition is withdrawn, those institutions are ineligible to participate. If an institution is authorized in a state, the Department will extend Title IV eligibility by 18 months, but if not, eligibility will be pulled immediately. The final administrative decision about ACICS will rest with the Secretary of Education and that decision could be rendered very soon, and certainly before the end of the Obama administration. ACICS may then file suit against the department but even if such a suit were allowed to proceed, it is not clear they would be granted a stay on the Secretary's decision. When the department imposes stringent new conditions, schools are likely to shut down almost immediately, as ITT did. It would not be logistically desirable to have this happen simultaneously with all the other Virginia institutions that are accredited by ACICS, which is why staff is concerned and is recommending that Council act.

There was a discussion regarding the ITT student records and the process of collecting and retaining student records in general.

Dr. DeFilippo explained the proposed contingency plan. The extension of 18 months mirrors the grace period given by the USED. After consultation with Council, staff will reach out to institutions to explain the plan.

Mr. Lockhart pointed out aspects of bankruptcy law that staff should be aware of in order to ensure that any bankruptcy trustee is aware of claims on a debtor's assets and will make sure there are sufficient funds. A surety bond should be done earlier so that appearance can be made at first trustees meetings. Dr. DeFilippo said that a surety bond would be an aspect of the conditional certification.

Dr. Ramsey asked what options an institution would have to become accredited within the grace period. Dr. DeFilippo said that there are other accreditors that serve these types of schools.

There was a discussion about the role of the community colleges. A difficulty for students of nationally accredited schools trying to go to the community colleges is that often regionally accredited schools, such as Virginia's community colleges, do not readily accept their credits. Another factor is whether the students accept forgiveness of their student loans because if they do, they also have to give up any credits earned.

Mr. Ampy asked whether some schools are more at risk than others. Dr. DeFilippo responded that staff has not subjected this to systematic evaluation but it is reasonable to think that some will close and some will not be able to be accredited.

On motion by Mr. Fralin and seconded by Dr. Ramsey, the following resolution was approved unanimously to be forwarded to the full Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves and adopts the "Contingency Plan for Continuing Authorization of ACICS Institutions Operating in Virginia," and all of its constituent provisions, effective immediately.**

#### **UPDATE ON THE VIRGINIA PLAN INITIATIVES 1 AND 4**

Dr. DeFilippo provided an update on Virginia Plan initiative 1, related to coordination of the development and implementation of programs that align resources from PK12, colleges, universities and other public sources to ensure affordable, efficient and effective pathways for students. Discussion took place regarding the dual enrollment working group and specifically the need for more data to assess the efficacy of dual enrollment. An overview of the status is on page 25 of the agenda.

Dr. DeFilippo provided an update on Virginia Plan initiative 4, regarding measures of the quality of undergraduate education, including civic engagement of graduates. Community colleges and most of the four-years are represented on the Quality Task Force and a report on its progress will be made in October. A Governor's Summit on Civic Engagement is also planned for October at Averett University.

## **LIAISON REPORT**

Dr. DeFilippo informed members the report is available on page 15 of the agenda book. The report highlighted various activities that staff engaged in over the summer as well as upcoming meetings.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lockhart adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

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Gene Lockhart  
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

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Beverly Covington  
Staff, Academic Affairs

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016  
MINUTES**

Ms. Connelly called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in Salon 4, Student Commons, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. Committee members present: Marge Connelly, Henry Light, Dan Gundersen, Bill Murray, Tom Slater, and Minnis Ridenour. Chairman G. Gilmer Minor, III was also in attendance.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Alan Edwards, Dan Hix, Wendy Kang, Tod Massa, Jean Mottley, Lee Ann Rung, and Yan Zheng.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Connelly welcomed President Tiffany Franks from Averett University. On behalf of the private colleges and universities as well as the students they serve, she expressed gratitude for SCHEV's support of the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) in the last General Assembly session. She provided a recap of the program and recommended that SCHEV consider supporting an increase from \$3200 to \$3400 for 2017-18. Dr. Franks indicated that this additional support would impact 23,000 students across Virginia. She reported that private colleges enroll 72% of underrepresented students compared to 53% enrolled at the public four year colleges. President Franks distributed a copy of the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV) report and answered questions from members. Mr. Lambeth, President of CICV, reminded members that private colleges are very focused on assisting the Council in implementing the goals of the Virginia Plan for Higher Education.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Slater the minutes from the July 19, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously.

**ACTION ON MEASURES OF INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE**

Dr. Mottley provided a recap of the report on the six general education-related measures and Level II measures that was reviewed at the July meeting and answered questions from members. Systemwide, all six of the general education-related performance measures were achieved. She directed members to the summary on page 7 and indicated that assessment results by institution are available on the SCHEV website.

Dr. Mottley informed members that the Department of Planning and Budget reported that all institutions met the Financial and Administrative Standards with passing scores of at least 80%.

On a motion by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Slater the following resolution was approved unanimously to be forwarded to the full Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that consistent with §23-9.6:1.01, Code of Virginia, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 that all public institutions have satisfactorily met the performance standards of the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act and Appropriation Act.

**ACTION ON WORKFORCE CREDENTIAL REGULATIONS BASED ON REGULATORY REVIEW**

Ms. Kang reminded members that the regulations were approved at the July meeting. However, technical changes were made based on regulatory review. Upon advice by legal counsel, the changes were brought to the Council for approval. On a motion by Mr. Slater and seconded by Dr. Murray the following resolution was approved unanimously:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the proposed regulations for Workforce Credential Grant Program and directs to staff to incorporate any necessary technical changes that may arise subsequent to further executive or legal review.

**ACTION ON ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO GUIDELINES FOR CYBERSECURITY PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Mr. Andes reminded members that in July the Council approved the initial policies and procedures for the program. Following that meeting, several changes were requested by the executive branch and staff identified other changes needed to clarify the policies. He distributed a tracked changes version of the amendments and briefly discussed the guidelines.

Mr. Minor informed members that he and Mr. Andes recently attended a panel discussion at Longwood University on cybersecurity, where these documents were discussed. Longwood University has taken a big step forward for the Commonwealth in the cybersecurity arena. Mr. Andes reported that the program is currently in place and 80 applications have been received to date. On a motion by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Gundersen the following resolution was approved unanimously to be forwarded to the full Council:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the proposed amended policies, application, and promissory note for the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship program.

## **DISCUSSION OF 2016-18 SYSTEMWIDE OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Blake reminded members that the proposed amendments are discussed in September, with Council action in October. Mr. Hix chronicled the erosion of funding, reviewed the charts, and answered questions from members. Mr. Slater said the chart showing Virginia's ranking on public higher education support per student was a dramatic portrayal of how far Virginia lags other states. Ms. Connelly asked staff to provide Virginia's rankings in 2001.

## **UPDATE ON INITIATIVES 2, 3, and 6 OF THE VIRGINIA PLAN**

Mr. Blake explained that staff continues to stress these initiatives when meeting with legislators and others. Staff will strive to preserve the funding for research that was provided in the last General Assembly session.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

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Marge Connelly  
Committee Chair

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Lee Ann Rung  
Director, Executive & Board Affairs