

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 9, 2009
DRAFT MINUTES NO. 535**

Mr. Clement called the Council meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in the Richmond Omni Hotel, Richmond, Virginia. Council members present: Bob Ashby, Gilbert Bland, Whittington Clement, Mary Haddad, Eva Hardy, Christine Milliken, and Alan Wurtzel.

Council Members absent: Jim Dyke, Mimi Elrod, Margaret Lewis, Susan Magill

Staff members present: Jim Alessio, Tom Daley, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Dan Hix, Daniel LaVista, Tod Massa, Kirsten Nelson, Lee Ann Rung. Jake Belue from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) was also present.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Clement announced that the Council had one item of business to address as a follow-up to its meeting of June 8. He recognized Gil Bland who offered an addendum to the June 8 certification resolution. Mr. Bland read the amendment to the members and Ms. Hardy seconded the following motion which was unanimously approved (7-0) by the Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that upon further examination of Virginia State University (VSU) certification data by Council staff and VSU staff, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia hereby fully certifies VSU for 2009-10 and removes requirements and recommendations contained in the State Council's June 8, 2009 certification resolution pertaining to VSU. In all other respects, the Council hereby re-affirms its June 8, 2009 resolution.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Clement welcomed the attendees and indicated that this inaugural event with the public college presidents was much like the yearly meeting the Council holds with the private college presidents. Mr. Clement expressed his hope that this will be the first of many future events with the public college presidents.

The format for panel discussions was reviewed and the topics of each group was announced. Audience participation was encouraged.

Group 1 panelists included Eddie Moore (Virginia State University), J. H. Binford Peay (Virginia Military Institute), Taylor Reveley (College of William and Mary), and Robert Templin (Northern Virginia Community College). The topic covered by this panel was "The Value of Higher Education."

Ms. Hardy served as moderator for panel 1 and each panelist provided his perspective related to the benefits of higher education and suggestions for stabilizing state support for higher education.

Ms. Hardy summarized the themes that emerged from the panel discussions, which included the importance of maintaining a diverse system of higher education and allowing the institutions flexibility to address funding issues.

Panelists also provided suggestions on possible strategies for ensuring the value of higher education. These included stronger advocacy from SCHEV and from the institutions' Boards of Visitors; funding flexibility to distribute funding to institutions with the least capacity to raise nongeneral funds while allowing institutions with the ability to raise nongeneral funds the flexibility to set tuition; and a reconsideration of the base-adequacy funding model.

Dr. LaVista invited audience members to comment on the panel discussion and several comments were received. Mr. Maggio, House Appropriations Committee staff, commented that rather than focusing on finding a new funding model, more emphasis should be placed on how to better use the tools already in place.

Mr. Clement called for a break at 10:30 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:40 a.m.

Group 2 panelists included John Casteen (University of Virginia), Eugene Trani (Virginia Commonwealth University), Patricia Cormier (Longwood University), and Penelope Kyle (Radford University). The topic covered by this panel was "Restructuring, Then and Now."

Mr. Casteen provided a brief overview of the history of the Restructured Higher Educational Financial and Administrative Operations Act of 2005 and each panelist provided his/her perspective on how the Restructuring Act has impacted his/her institution.

Mr. Clement served as moderator and summarized the strategies that were suggested for ways in which to improve restructuring. Suggestions from the panelists included better communication and an open dialogue between institutions and the state; more focus on making the process more transparent; and better guidance for all who are involved in the process.

Mr. Clement asked presidents to inform the Council of ways in which they can play a more active role in assisting the institutions in the restructuring process.

Dr. LaVista summarized the comments and thanked the participants for the information that was shared by the panel discussions. He said the Council and staff stand ready to work with the institutions on the shared task of addressing costs and ensuring accountability without sacrificing quality in order to preserve and strengthen Virginia's system of higher education.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Whittington Clement
Chairman

Lee Ann Rung
Council Secretary