

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
July 15, 2025**

DRAFT MINUTES

Ms. Miles called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. in the Event Space on the first floor of the Woodrow W. Bolick Building at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Council members present: Walter Curt, Eric Chewning, Jason El Koubi, Lindsay Fryer, Charlie King, Delceno Miles, Jennifer Montague, Cheryl Oldham, John Olsen, Doug Straley and Steven Taylor.

Council members attending virtually: John Jumper.

Council members absent: William Harvey.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Alisha Bazemore, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Jodi Fisler, Grace Khattar, Tod Massa, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon and Kristin Whelan.

Notable attendees: Zach Jacobs, Deputy Secretary of Education and Deb Love from the Office of Attorney General.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Curt and seconded by Mr. Olsen, the minutes of the May 12, 2025, Private College Advisory Board meeting and the May 13, 2025, Council meeting were approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT GOALS OF THE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. Salmon presented an update on the draft goals of the strategic plan. She reviewed the work the Council has done with the project earlier this year.

Mr. El Koubi asked Ms. Salmon to discuss other agencies in the Commonwealth that create strategic plans. He also asked if there are any other state-required education plans in code.

Ms. Salmon reviewed the goal concepts and related themes and shared updates. She noted that the order of the goals changed. They are now ready, responsive and relevant. She also noted that the draft vision statement added the words "brightest talent."

Ms. Salmon shared slides for each goal with the latest changes highlighted. Ms. Salmon pointed out that the strategies have been updated to include research and innovation.

She also pointed out the addition of scholarship information and support of non-traditional pathways toward credential completion.

Mr. El Koubi suggested that the goal of alignment be stated more explicitly in the document.

Ms. Salmon concluded by stating that the final plan will be presented to Council in September for Council's endorsement. After the September meeting, staff will write and publish the plan.

REMARKS FROM PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT JEAN RUNYON

Ms. Miles introduced Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) President Jean Runyon.

Dr. Runyon joined the meeting and thanked the Council for holding the meetings at PVCC. She mentioned that she read the agenda and appreciates the goals as presented in the Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

Dr. Runyon shared her biography and her path to becoming president of Piedmont Virginia Community College. She lauded the role of community colleges in enhancing readiness, responsiveness and relevance to student success in the Commonwealth.

President Runyon introduced Brian Emerson, an employee at PVCC who shared his path to working at PVCC. After a false start in college and working for a while, he decided that he wanted to attend UVA. He began at PVCC to show his commitment to attending UVA. After interning for a year post-graduation, Brian now works as the PVCC federal work study coordinator.

Ms. Miles introduced a resolution to allow General Jumper to participate in the meeting virtually as he was located more than 60 miles from the meeting. On a motion from Dr. Taylor, that was seconded by Ms. Fryer, all members located at the meeting voted unanimously to approve General Jumper's remote participation.

REPORT FROM AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Fleming briefly described the Items Delegated to Staff. These items are included at the end of this document. He shared that the operating environment for higher education has changed and that the Council and staff must adapt.

Mr. Fleming briefly discussed the new responsibilities that SCHEV staff are working on. He stated that the staff are tasked with an expanded and expanding list of responsibilities. Mr. Fleming noted that higher education is at a crossroads, and Council and staff will need to make deliberate decisions to maintain Virginia's status as one of the best educated states.

The full Executive Director's report is available on page 104 of the July 2025 agenda book.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report from the Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Taylor shared a report of the Academic Affairs committee.

The committee discussed modifications to SCHEV's program productivity policy. Dr. DeFilippo will report on the changes in September to the committee and present a new policy to the full Council for approval in October.

The committee also discussed SCHEV's responsibilities in relation to Virginia's workforce needs. The committee discussed the need to align SCHEV strategies to help fill Virginia workforce gaps.

Report from the Resources and Planning Committee

Mr. Olsen described the committee's discussions.

The committee discussed the preparations for the 2026 General Assembly Session. The discussion included a discussion of institutional operations, capital outlay, financial aid and SCHEV's budget.

The committee heard an update from Mr. Massa on the current enrollment projections as reported by the institutions.

The committee discussed the institutional performance standards and full cost calculations. The committee discussed creating a task force that will include two council members to address possible changes to the institutional performance standards.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2026 SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ms. Osberger introduced the proposed 2026 schedule and location for the Council meetings. She requested that Council members review the following proposed dates and location in preparation for a vote in September.

PROPOSED 2026 SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS:

- **January 13, 2026** – Virtual
- **March 16-17, 2026** – Norfolk State University (Norfolk)
- **May 11-12, 2026** (with Private College Advisory Board) – Hampden-Sydney College (Hampden Sydney)
- **July 21, 2026** – Blue Ridge Community College (Weyers Cave)
- **September 21-22, 2026** (with Council of Presidents) – Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond)

ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS FOR DEPARTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council voted and approved on bloc resolutions recognizing the three departing Council members – Micah Edmond, Jennie O'Holleran and Carlyle Ramsey.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was voiced.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Fryer read into the record the following statement on behalf of the Council regarding effective governance and oversight of all institutions of higher education. The statement was issued by SCHEV staff to its distribution list on July 15, 2024.

“Recent events at several Virginia universities underscore the importance of effective governance and oversight across all institutions of higher education. Boards of Visitors (BOVs) play a critical role in ensuring their institutions comply with federal and state laws—including those related to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity—and fulfill their missions with integrity.

SCHEV takes seriously its statutory responsibility to train BOV members to promote strong governance, responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, and full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies at all Virginia colleges and universities.

These topics will be addressed directly at SCHEV's upcoming BOV orientation and training on November 12–13. As a reminder, attendance is mandatory for new appointees within their first two years of service. In light of recent developments, we strongly encourage all BOV members to attend to ensure these critical issues are discussed and understood by those charged with shaping institutional policy.

We look forward to continuing annual trainings, as required by law, that will address these and any other emerging policy issues head on and help equip all BOV members with the tools and knowledge needed to support a vibrant and safe campus environment—one that is free from discrimination, grounded in merit, and rich with opportunity for all students across Virginia's higher education system.”

Dr. Taylor asked Ms. Fryer for details on which issues SCHEV should be highlighting at the board orientation. Ms. Fryer stated that SCHEV should cover all current pressing issues in state and federal higher education policy. She also mentioned that she discussed the statement with the Governor's office. General Jumper stated that he would like to concentrate on issues related to demographics and funding.

Dr. Taylor motioned for Council to approve the statement; Mr. Olsen seconded the motion. Mr. El Koubi questioned how the statement will be distributed and after a brief discussion, the Council voted unanimously to affirm the statement.

Action on October 2025 Council Meeting Date Change

Mr. Fleming described the October meeting change to a one-day meeting on October 21, instead of a two-day meeting October 20-21. Ms. Miles asked for a vote to affirm the meeting change. The Council voted unanimously to approve.

Action on Antisemitism Resolution

Ms. Miles called for a motion to approve the Antisemitism Resolution as presented in the agenda book. Mr. Olson motioned, and Ms. Fryer seconded. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Action on Title IV Resolution

Ms. Fryer read the following action on Title IV, including and her recommended updates, into the record. The updated resolution is included below. Ms. Fryer noted that she had conferred with the Governor's office on the changes to this resolution.

Ms. Miles asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Fryer motioned, and Mr. Straley seconded. Dr. Taylor suggested adding a few words reaffirming the importance of free speech on campus. Council members voted unanimously to affirm the updates and the resolution. Dr. Taylor made a suggested substitute motion, Mr. Olsen seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to pass the following amended resolution.

WHEREAS, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is by law the designated coordinating body for higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, SCHEV is committed to full compliance with all applicable laws, including the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other federal and state civil rights statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia reaffirms its commitment to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity and shall continue to observe and comply with all applicable laws and statutes in administering its responsibilities, including but not limited to the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other relevant federal and state civil rights laws.

Be it further resolved that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia affirms its statutory responsibility to train Boards of Visitors (BOV) appointees to promote effective governance, responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, and full compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and policies—including those related to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and protection of free speech—at all Virginia public colleges and universities. Virginia is a leader in higher education governance efforts, as it is one of only 10 states that require trustee training by law and one of only three states that provide training on how board members have a duty to the citizens of their state when appointed.

SCHEV commits to addressing any relevant and emerging policy issues at its annual BOV trainings. These trainings help equip all BOV members with the knowledge and tools necessary to support a vibrant and safe campus environment—one that is free from discrimination, grounded in merit, and rich with opportunity for all students across Virginia's higher education system.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment had been requested, and none was provided spontaneously.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Miles read a resolution to approve the convening of the Council in a closed session to discuss personnel matters. A rollcall vote was taken and was approved unanimously.

At the conclusion of the closed session, Ms. Miles read a resolution asking each member to affirm that no business other than what was stated in the convening resolution was discussed during the closed session. A roll call vote and no member stated a departure from the approved discussion.

Ms. Miles read a resolution announcing the decision to authorize the Chair to meet with the Director to discuss his performance. After a roll call vote, the resolution was passed unanimously.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. Miles adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Delceno Miles
Council Vice Chair

Kristin Whelan
Coordinator of Board and Executive
Operations

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," the following items approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

Academic Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Christopher Newport University	Undergraduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainability (30.3301)	Fall 2025
Danville Community College	Certificate Programs Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airframe Maintenance (47.0607)• Powerplant Maintenance (47.0608)	Summer 2025

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Danville Community College	Facilitated Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate of Applied Science degree program (AAS) in Aviation Maintenance Technology (47.0607) 	Summer 2025
George Mason University	Graduate Certificate Programs Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing (52.1501) • Artificial Intelligence in Health (51.2799) • Marketing (52.1401) 	Fall 2025
George Mason University	Graduate Certificate Program Not Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Justice and Human Rights (05.0212) 	May 16, 2025
Germanna Community College	Program Name Changes Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103) • Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103) 	Summer 2025
Laurel Ridge Community College	Facilitated Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate of Applied Science degree program (AAS) in Physical Therapist Assistant (51.0806) 	Summer 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and Scientific Communication (09.0908) 	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," and the "Framework for Associate Transfer Degree Programs," the following item approved as delegated to staff:

**VCCS Inventory of New Transfer Degree Programs
Effective Date, Summer 2025**

Community College	Degree	Degree Title	CIP Code
Germanna Community College	Associate of Science	Science	30.0101

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," the following items approved as delegated to staff:

Four-Year Publics' Academic Programs Discontinued

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
George Mason University	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Science (MS) degree program in Marketing (52.1401) [Council Approval Date: 08/15/2022]	Fall 2025
George Mason University	Graduate Certificate Programs Discontinuances Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied Behavior Analysis (42.2814) Specialized Reading Instruction for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities (13.1011) 	Fall 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	Program Discontinuances Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Advanced Media Production Technology (10.0304) Master of Education (MEd) degree program in Adult Learning (13.1201) Graduate Certificate in Care Coordination (51.1504) 	Fall 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Graduate Certificate Programs Discontinuances Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Factors of Transportation Safety (30.0000) Leadership for an Aging Society (19.0702) 	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes," the following items approved as delegated to staff:

Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
George Mason University	<p>Rename the School of Computing in the College Engineering and Computing to the Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong School of Computing. The school has been renamed to recognize a \$20 million gift from the Kimmy Duong Foundation. The financial gift is to provide scholarships to "undergraduate students" enrolled in degree programs offered in the school and "for undergraduate majoring in journalism, education, and nursing" at George Mason University.</p> <p>The university will also be responsible for fulfilling the gift agreement which stipulates: "If the School of Computing ceases to exist, an appropriate marker will be displayed on campus in commemoration, and the University will transfer the name to another area of equal prestige, value, and purpose in consultation with the donor."</p>	July 15, 2025
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	<p>Rename the Department of Kinesiology to the Department of Health Sciences. William & Mary indicates the name change is to "remove reference to a degree program" no longer offered by the department or at the institution. The name "health sciences" will "highlight the degree programs and other academic programs" located in the department."</p>	July 15, 2025
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	<p>Rename the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to the College of Arts and Sciences. William & Mary indicates the name change will remove a word that focuses on one group in the unit and utilizes a word that "ensures the name of unit is inclusive" of all stakeholders in the unit. The name will also "bring William & Mary's nomenclature into alignment with terminology used by the SCHEV designated peer institutions."</p>	July 15, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
University of Mary Washington	Rename the Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion to the Department of Cultural and Philosophical Inquiry . The Department is in the College of Arts and Sciences. Given that all the resources, including the faculty in anthropology and art history, have been relocated to the department, the department needs to be renamed to “succinctly capture the five (5) disciplines” in the department. The new name will “reflect the focus of the disciplines,” and “the core areas of overlap between the five (5) disciplines.”	August 25, 2025
University of Mary Washington	<p>Create the School of the Arts. The School will reside in the College of Arts and Sciences. Four departments will be in the school: 1) the Department of Historic Preservation, 2) the Department of Music, 3) the Department of Studio Art, and 4) the Department of Theatre and Dance.</p> <p>The establishment of a school in the college “will improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of the dean of the college.” The dean will have “one direct report instead of four department chairpersons.”</p>	July 1, 2025
University of Mary Washington	<p>Create the School of Science. The School will reside in the College of Arts and Sciences. Three departments will be in the school: 1) the Department of Biology, 2) the Department of Chemistry and Physics, and 3) the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.</p> <p>The establishment of a school in the college “will improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of the dean of the college.” The dean will have “one direct report instead of three department chairpersons.”</p>	July 1, 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Reorganize the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and close the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management . All resources in the department, including the existing budget of \$3,098,422, will be reallocated and moved to the School of Design. The department	July 1, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	<p>closure will “allow the faculty to join other faculty with similar scholarly interests.” The university will have “all resources” dedicated to the area of “design in the same academic unit” and in the same college.</p> <p>The department closure will also allow the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences to create a clear identity for the college.</p>	

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 23.1-213 to 230 and 8VAC-40-31-90 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*, the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

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

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Bedford County School of Practical Nursing	Bedford, VA	05/19/2025
NextUp Solutions Training	Arlington, VA	04/17/2025
NOVA Dental Assisting Institute	Woodbridge, VA	05/29/2025

Institutions of Higher Education Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia—Approval of Additional Location

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Eastern Virginia Career College	Glen Allen, VA	5/7/2025