

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL OF (PUBLIC INSTITUTION) PRESIDENTS
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016
MINUTES**

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. in Salons 1 and 2, Student Commons, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. Council members present: Ken Ampy, Marge Connelly, Heywood Fralin, Dan Gundersen, Henry Light, Gene Lockhart, G. Gilmer Minor, III, Pamela Moran, William Murray, Carlyle Ramsey, Minnis Ridenour, and Tom Slater.

Council member absent: Katharine Webb.

SCHEV staff present: Peter Blake, Beverly Covington, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Dan Hix, Wendy Kang, Tod Massa, and Lee Ann Rung.

A list of other attendees is attached.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Reveley reviewed priorities that the Council of Presidents (COP) have agreed are important, including need-based financial aid; research, economic development efforts between institutions and local government; investment in recruiting faculty; and continuing to beat the drum about the importance of higher education to the health and prosperity of the Commonwealth. SCHEV and colleges and universities should continue to assist the General Assembly's Joint Subcommittee on the Future Competitiveness of Higher Education.

Mr. Minor suggested that presidents representing the COP should present to the upcoming joint subcommittee meeting, and Mr. Blake indicated that he would suggest this idea to the members of the subcommittee. Mr. Minor assured the presidents that Council will continue to impress upon legislators the importance of sustaining funding for higher education.

A roundtable discussion progressed, and each president emphasized his or her priorities. Financial aid remained the top priority, with executives of some smaller institutions expressing concern that they cannot offset Virginia students with out-of-state students, making financial aid particularly important to them. Uncertainty of the federal budget will adversely affect some institutions. Expanding pathways and increasing access was also an important priority. Faculty salaries are important, and without flexibility to increase them, presidents said it becomes difficult to compete for the best faculty. Presidents said that Council also should emphasize what it means to be engaged citizens and the importance of higher education in shaping society. All presidents expressed thanks for appropriations to higher education in the last legislative session.

Mr. Blake summarized the discussion, saying that while higher education has experienced its best year, efforts need to be made to hold onto the progress and gains the state made. Priorities: need- based financial aid, compensation for classified staff and faculty, PK-12 partnerships to facilitate access, and partnerships and other initiatives that capitalize on the strength of organizations.

In response to efforts SCHEV can make in advancing the priorities, it should continue to find ways to maintain and increase funding for higher education, and protect the autonomous nature of the Commonwealth's system.

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL FOR 2016

Robyn McDougle and Alexandra Stewart reviewed and discussed the 2015-16 Commonwealth Education Poll, which is a state-wide survey of adults in Virginia that provides a representative picture of public opinion on questions asked. They solicited suggestions and responses from presidents as questions are prepared for the 2016-17 poll.

PROCESS FOR ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS AND DEGREE ESTIMATES

Mr. Massa presented information about the process for the enrollment projections and degree estimates and explained the Council's schedule for review.

UPDATE ON THE VIRGINIA PLAN INITIATIVES

Mr. Blake and Ms. Kang presented an update on Council's initiatives in support of The Virginia Plan and reported that the Council would hold a special meeting in October to review the vision, mission, goals, strategies, measures and targets, and discuss next steps and strategies for 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Minnis Ridenour
Council Secretary

Lee Ann Rung
Director, Executive and Board Affairs

The following executives were in attendance at the Joint Meeting with Council on September 19, 2016:

John Alger, James Madison University
Angel Cabrera, George Mason University
John Capps, Central Virginia Community College
Gene Couch, Virginia Highlands Community College
Glenn DuBois, Virginia Community College System
Bob Greene, Virginia Military Institute
Brian Hemphill, Radford University
Sandy Huguenin (representing UVa-Wise)
Eddie Moore, Norfolk State University
Troy Paino, University of Mary Washington
Scott Ralls, Northern Virginia Community College
Michael Rao, Virginia Commonwealth University
Taylor Reveley, III, College of William and Mary
Taylor Reveley, IV, Longwood University
Tim Sands, Virginia Tech
Teresa Sullivan, University of Virginia
Debbie Sydow, Richard Bland College
Paul Triple, Christopher Newport University