

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
PLANNING GROUP ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESEARCH
AUGUST 6, 2013
MINUTES**

Council members present: Gilbert Bland, Joann DiGennaro, Steve Haner

Council members absent: Martin Briley, Gene Lockhart, and Gary Nakamoto

Others present: Peter Blake, Alan Edwards, Brent Scheffler and Liz Povar (Virginia Economic Development Partnership), and Lee Ann Rung

Ms. DiGennaro called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. She reviewed the importance of having a strong research component in Virginia and reviewed her purpose for requesting the meeting.

Ms. DiGennaro expressed an interest in exploring ways in which Virginia colleges could increase funding for research (both federal and private dollars) and increase public/private partnerships. She indicated that policies on intellectual property should be explored. Ms. DiGennaro suggested that private colleges could be included as sub-investigators on government grants. Potential formats and session topics for the conference and its agenda were offered and discussed preliminarily.

Ms. DiGennaro offered the services of her organization, Center for Excellence in Education (CEE), to partner with SCHEV to coordinate the session, which she hoped could be arranged for spring 2014.

Mr. Haner said he had conversations with other shipyard executives and one of the potential gubernatorial candidates and felt there was an interest in this topic. He suggested that Delegate Joe May should be invited to participate since he brings experience on the House Appropriations and Higher Education sub-committees and is an active engineer.

Ms. Povar said the Virginia Department of Economic Development (VEDP) has a slightly different focus as it is interested in showcasing Virginia and providing activities considered valuable to businesses in Virginia. VEDP is in the early planning phase but hopes to schedule a one-day conference in 2014 to showcase Virginia's academic research and innovative capabilities geared toward business. She indicated that while each business has different levels of interest, business executives need to understand what Virginia institutions can offer. Ms. Povar indicated that there could be some alignment between what SCHEV and VEDP are planning.

Mr. Haner felt the two ideas were not far apart and said there is great value in promoting what Virginia is currently doing right with regard to research but also to learn about what could be improved.

Mr. Bland said the challenge is to find ways to pique the interest of a varied group of colleges at different levels. Ms. DiGennaro said she felt the target audience would be university deans and presidents, or provosts or vice presidents of STEM activities.

Mr. Blake felt further discussion was needed in order to clarify the audience we are seeking to engage. Ms. DiGennaro said she felt it should include both colleges and state corporations. If a request for additional funding is needed, the audience should be the General Assembly. The goal is to make Virginia a frontrunner in research and determine what is needed to get to that point.

Mr. Bland asked what legislative barriers exist. Ms. DiGennaro mentioned that these barriers are not known but she felt there were barriers because the topic has been discussed for so many years without moving forward. Mr. Haner said one barrier could be that each university is doing its own thing and the institutions don't always work together.

Ms. DiGennaro asked that staff develop a draft for this group to consider in the future, taking into consideration all of the conversations from this meeting. She felt partners to consider should include Center for Innovative Technology (CIT); VEDP, the Chamber of Commerce, and CEE. The Tobacco Commission should also be considered, even if not as a partner. In addition to asking partner organizations to contribute to a panel discussion, Ms. DiGennaro felt they could be asked for a monetary commitment, perhaps sponsoring a private event related to the summit.

There was some discussion about location and cost. It was mentioned that it would be ideal to hold the event at a university, but it could be difficult to choose without showing favor to one over another. Ms. DiGennaro felt there should be a cap on the numbers of attendees for public and private colleges, as well as companies but the maximum total attendees should be 250. Key legislators and large funding organizations as well as nonprofits should be included.

The following next steps were discussed:

- Mr. Blake will work on wording with the suggestion that it be a summit with a call to action.
- Staff will provide cost estimates based on a maximum attendance of 250
- Each member will develop a list of potential invitees - VEDP could provide a list of corporate invitees that could be made public
- Mr. Haner will draft a statement of purpose and staff coordinate with VEDP
- Staff will schedule one more meeting of this group to be held at SCHEV before adding additional members
- Ms. DiGennaro will provide a report of this meeting to the Council on September 17.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Lee Ann Rung
Manager, Executive & Council Affairs