



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

SAC MINUTES

Student Advisory Committee Minutes Thursday, October 13, 2014 SCHEV Conference Room

Members Present: Conner Trebour (Christopher Newport University), Yohance Whitaker (College of William and Mary) Ashley Carter (George Mason University), Taylor Vollman (James Madison University), Lisa Colwill (Dabney S. Lancaster Community College), Jordan McWilliams (Longwood University), Trianne Smith (Old Dominion University), Wendy Viana (Radford University), Katherine Barthol (Randolph Macon College), Carley Sadler (Richard Bland College), Dayana Gallegos (Stratford University), Megan Jensen (Thomas Nelson Community College) Zakaria Kronemer (University of Mary Washington), Jill Ferguson (University of Virginia), Nathan McGlone (University of Virginia's College at Wise), Niyant Jain (Virginia Commonwealth University) Harper Niver (Virginia Military Institute), Elizabeth Lazor (Virginia Tech).

SCHEV Staff Present: Kirsten Nelson, Susan Wood, Paula Fisher, Kathy Robinson and Liz Liverman.

- Kirsten Nelson (SCHEV) brought the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and had members introduced themselves.
- Kirsten Nelson (SCHEV) outlined the agency's numerous responsibilities, including our Mission and Vision.
- Kirsten asked students to share campus concerns.
- Jill Ferguson (University of Virginia) concerns are safety, tuition, access UVA and student voice. She is concerned with the future of higher education and the peer to peer education.
- Conner Trebour (Christopher Newport University) main concerns were safety, parking and sexual assault awareness.
- Carley Sadler (Richard Bland College) concerns on her campus include lack of financial education and budgeting for students, applying for scholarships and grants. Carley stated there a few extracurricular activities for commuters and residential students. Her main concern is the lack of information available for transfer grant students.
- Dayana Gallegos (Stratford University) concerns are lack of transfer information and no library on weekends.
- Wendy Viana (Radford University) concerns are mental wellness, physical wellness and campus safety.
- Harper Niver (Virginia Military Institute) Security including terrorist attacks, funds for research.
- Megan Jensen (Thomas Nelson Community College) Concerned with Math programs and tutoring services needed. Vocational training for higher education.
- Jordan McWilliams (Longwood University) concerns include sexual harassment, drug and alcohol abuse, tuition and fees. Need to increase number of students and provide more space.
- Lisa Colwill (Dabney S. Lancaster Community College) Concerned with the size of the school, tuition and fees, the need for more technical programs in the area.
- Nathan McGlone (University of Virginia's College at Wise) Concerns are tuition cost, job search and internships. Library closes early with limited study areas on campus.
- Niyant Jain (Virginia Commonwealth University) Concerned about financial aid, student loans, gender housing and child care.

- Elizabeth Lazor (Virginia Tech) Concerned with revamping the path to higher education, financial aid, student loans, housing, and child care.
- Trianne Smith (Old Dominion University) Concerns are safety, student expense, tuition for traditional and nontraditional expenses.
- Katherine Barthol (Randolph Macon College) Concerns are collaboration on distance learning and video technology.
- Ashley Cater (George Mason University) Concerned with tuition and fees, parking. Lack of space and housing also alcohol concerns.
- Taylor Vollman (James Madison University) Safety concerns, drinking diversity, and student to advisor distribution.
- Yohance Whitaker (College of William and Mary) Concerned with financial aid for out of state students, mental health and physical health. Need more out reach for everyone.
- Kirsten explained the responsibilities of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC). She referred to Code of Virginia § 23-9.3:1, which mandates SCHEV's appointment of a student advisory committee that shall advise the State Council of Higher Education regarding the student perspective on higher education issues.
- Kirsten explained that in years past SAC has met four times a year, with one of those meetings being a visit to the General Assembly. Interested SAC members will get a chance to participate in a legislative visit again this year.
- Kirsten introduced Susan Wood, Policy and Planning Specialist. Susan gave a presentation on "The Framework of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Higher Education." The power point presentation included the goals and the strategies as adopted by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia on September 16 and October 28th.
- Members elected 2014-15 SAC officers: Chair Ashley Carter (George Mason University) and Vice-Chair Carley Sadler (Richard Bland College).
- Paula Fisher, College Challenge Grant Director & Sr. Associate for Academic Affairs presented a call to action for college access and provided SAC members with a number of ideas for involvement. The students were very receptive and offered various ideas and promises of support.
- Kirsten told the members about the Safety Task Force at SCHEV and to let her know if you need assistance on your campus. There is an assessment team that was established by the legislators.
- The next SAC meeting will be held at SCHEV during the 1st week of December to discuss which messages the group will deliver to legislators on SAC Legislative Day.
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.