



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

SAC MINUTES

Student Advisory Committee Minutes Friday, March 27, 2015 SCHEV Conference Room

Members Present: Conner Trebour (Christopher Newport University), Ashley Carter (George Mason University), Brianna DiSanza (Germanna Community College), Taylor Vollman (James Madison University), Wendy Viana (Radford University), Carley Sadler (Richard Bland College), Daniel Peets (Wytheville Community College).

SCHEV Staff Present: Kirsten Nelson, Joe Crook, Lee Andes, Paula Fisher, Kathy Robinson, and Liz Liverman.

- Kirsten Nelson (SCHEV) brought the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
- Kirsten Nelson (SCHEV) introduced Joseph Crook, Lead Certification Specialist.
- Joe explained the state-level Student Complaint Process which is administrated by SCHEV for the benefit of students at institutions of higher education & career technical schools in Virginia.
- Carley Sadler (Richard Bland College) was not aware of SCHEV's student complaint process and would like to see the information more prominently on her college's website. The other students voiced similar concerns regarding knowledge of the state-level complaint procedure.
- Brianna DiSanza (Germanna Community College) said she went through the grievance process at her institution without knowing there was an additional avenue of appeal at the state-level.
- Wendy Viana (Radford University) said it is the position of Dean of students who should be aware of such a process at the state level. She said she plans to contact her dean regarding better student notification of the SCHEV complaint process.
- Ashley Cater (George Mason University) suggested the state-level student compliant process be disseminated in multiple ways.
- Daniel Peets (Wytheville Community College) would like to see the state-level student complaint process included in student orientations.
- Kirsten introduced Paula Fisher to discuss college access.
- Paula asked the students if they were aware of any outreach programs at their institutions.
- All of the members were aware of at least one event at their institutions for high school and middle-school students.
- Paula asked if members had concerns regarding academic and administration support on their campuses.
- Several students had concerns about the availability of academic advisors at times when they are most in demand of services for issues such as transfer and courses needed for graduation.
- Kirsten introduced Lee Andes, Assistant Director for Financial Aid. Lee discussed financial aid, affordability, state funding, and the cost of higher education.
- Most members said amenities were not their primary motivation for choosing a college. However, they did take note of amenities during college tours and appreciated amenities such as fitness centers on campus when they became students.
- Students also noted the role that student fees play in providing student activities which are important to the higher education experience.

- The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.