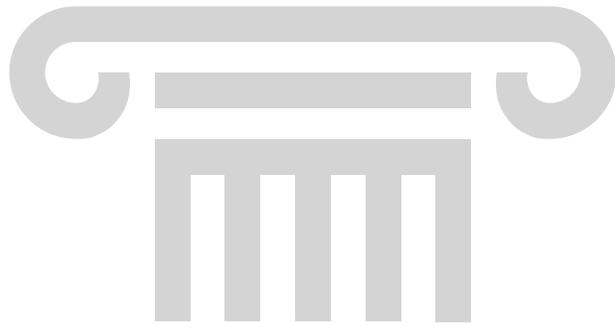


The State Council of Higher Education

for Virginia is the Commonwealth's coordinating body for higher education. SCHEV was established by the Governor and General Assembly in 1956. Then, as now, our mission, which is outlined in the Code of Virginia, is "to promote the development of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education" in Virginia.

To fulfill our mission, SCHEV makes higher education public policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly in such areas as capital and operating budget planning, enrollment projections, institutional technology needs, and student financial aid. SCHEV administers a variety of educational programs that benefit students, faculty, parents, and taxpayers. SCHEV serves as a catalyst to promote greater access, quality, affordability, and accountability throughout the system. SCHEV also helps policymakers, college administrators, and other concerned leaders work cooperatively and constructively to advance educational excellence.



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

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Student Advisory Committee (SAC)



Student representatives from Virginia's colleges and universities who advise the State Council of Higher Education on systemwide issues important to students.



The **Student Advisory Committee (SAC)** is a student council consisting of one full-time student from all 4-year public colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, four students representing the Virginia Community College System, and two students enrolled in private institutions of higher education. The committee assembles at least twice annually to advise the Council on systemwide issues of concern to Virginia's college students.

SAC members have chosen to speak with you about the following topics of importance to students attending institutions of higher education across Virginia.

SAC representatives unanimously support the spending plan proposed by Governor McDonnell that recommends appropriating \$200 million in higher education funding.

- As representatives of the education community, SAC appreciates your support for this budget proposal, which reverses a five-year trend of decreased state funding in higher education.
- SAC members believe that this much-needed funding will mitigate tuition increases so students and their families can better plan and pay for college.

SAC specifically supports Governor McDonnell's proposal of \$6.4 million per year, and the Senate's even more generous proposal of \$12 million per year, for need-based undergraduate financial aid.

- These proposed increases come at a time when many middle-income families are finding it harder to afford tuition costs.
- SAC members recognize that private institutions play an important role in educating Virginians, so its members appreciate Governor McDonnell's proposal to increase the maximum tuition-assistance grant (TAG) amount by \$100 to \$2,750.

SAC representatives support the 2% increases for faculty salaries in the second year of the biennium that are included in both the House and Senate budget proposals.

- Virginia's faculty members are the reason our colleges and universities are considered among the finest in the nation. We believe these educators, researchers, and mentors deserve additional state general fund support for modest salary increases.
- In the four years faculty members at public institutions have gone without a salary increase, the average teaching and research faculty salary at Virginia's 4-year institutions ranked as low as it ever has at the 30th percentile in FY11.

The viewpoints above were endorsed by a majority of SAC members representing 22 public and private two- and four-year institutions of higher education across Virginia.

2011-12 SAC Members

Blue Ridge Community College
Taylor Fix

Bryant & Stratton College
Jay Greene

Christopher Newport University
Nate Morris

College of William and Mary
Avery Newton

George Mason University
Alex Williams

James Madison University
Patrick Watral

Longwood University
Kaylin Minton

Norfolk State University
Bianca Lascano

Old Dominion University
Luis Ferreira

Paul D. Camp Community College
Brenda Anyanwu

Radford University
Zach McCoy

Rappahannock Community College
Jade Jett Traylor

Tidewater Community College
Louie Gibbs

University of Mary Washington
Michael Littlejohn

University of Richmond
Elliott Walden

University of Virginia
Alex Reber

University of Virginia's College at Wise
Luke C. Rasnick

Virginia Commonwealth University
Fajir Amin

Virginia Highlands Community College
Nathan Roark

Virginia Military Institute
Kayla Johnson

Virginia State University
Brandon Randleman

Virginia Tech
J. Corbin DiMeglio