



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

SAC MINUTES

Student Advisory Committee Minutes Thursday, October 10, 2013 SCHEV Conference Room

Members Present: Stacey LaRiviere (College of William and Mary), Tyron Graves, (Danville Community College), Roshell Brown (Eastern Shore Community College), Charles Price (ECPI University), Danny Lee (George Mason University), Jake Jedlicka (James Madison University), Silvia Garcia Murcia (John Tyler Community College), Alexander Julian (Longwood University), Diandra Simmons (Norfolk State University), Analise Roccaforte (Radford University), Joana Blum (Richard Bland College), John Carper (Southwest Virginia Community College), Ester Newman (University of Mary Washington), Eric McDaniel (University of Virginia), Samantha Robinson (University of Virginia's College at Wise), Daniel Oberlander (Virginia Military Institute), Brent Ashley (Virginia Tech), Phillip Blevins (Appalachian School of Law).

SCHEV Staff Present: Peter Blake, Kirsten Nelson, Paula Fisher, Kathy Robinson, Liz Liverman, Tierney McAuley and Gary Krapf.

- 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 tracking education-related bills and providing legislative action summaries to the Governor. Kirsten also provided information about how bills are tracked on the SCHEV website.
- 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 SCHEV Director Peter Blake, who thanked the group for coming and expressed his interest in the various concerns he heard thus far. Peter mentioned the SCHEV website was a great tool to find information on funding, tuition, and fees. He also explained the upcoming work to create a Strategic Plan for higher education in Virginia.
- Kirsten asked students to share campus concerns.
- Stacey LaRiviere (College of William and Mary) said that her biggest concern was funding for health services both physical and mental.
- Tyron Graves (Danville Community College) mentioned the cost of credits and transition to a 4-year college is a concern for many students.
- Roshell Brown (Eastern Shore Community College) is a non-traditional student concerned about funding and graduation rates at her institution. She believes rates are too high and is concerned about cost and fees.
- Charles Price (ECPI University) is a retired marine in an accelerated program and expressed concern about transportation and housing.
- Danny Lee (George Mason University) is concerned about financial aid, funding, and domicile issues for students.

- Jake Jedlicka (James Madison University) is concerned about expansion on his campus and where JMU is headed with the strategic plan, tuition, fees, and athletics.
- Silvia Murcia (John Tyler Community College) is concerned about state funding as well as overcrowded classrooms and parking.
- Alexander Julian (Longwood University) says growth has created major concern with parking.
- Diandra Simmons (Norfolk State University) is a graduate student concerned with financial aid, state funding, and affordability for books. Another concern is the cost of the light rail system for student transportation.
- Analise Roccaforte (Radford University) is concerned about class availability, financial aid, and rates for out-of-state students. She expressed a great concern about smoking on campus.
- Joana Blum (Richard Bland College) is concerned about course variety and funding cuts for music and drama.
- John Carper (Southwest Virginia Community College) is concerned about financial aid, state funding, and job placement in the workforce.
- Esther Newman (University of Mary Washington) is concerned about tuition rates for out-of-state students and the need for more state funding.
- Eric McDaniel (University of Virginia) is concerned about state funding and the need for more money and less student loans.
- Samantha Robinson (University of Virginia's College at Wise) says there are problems on her campus with a lack of public transportation, faculty retention, and a need for nutrition facts on campus.
- Daniel Oberlander (Virginia Military Institute) says students on his campus worry about financial aid and the role of athletics at VMI.
- Brent Ashley (Virginia Tech) says there is a need for greater state funding for student research. He is also concerned about faculty retention.
- Phillip Blevins (Appalachian School of Law) would like to see a student as a member of the board of visitors.
- Members elected 2013-14 SAC officers: Chair Phillip Blevins and Vice-Chair Esther Newman
- 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.
- 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.
- Kirsten announced upcoming events and invited members to volunteer for the BOV Orientation Session on October 21-22. The newly elected chair and vice chair were encouraged to attend the upcoming Council Dinner and meeting on October 28 and 29th.
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.