



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

SAC MINUTES

Student Advisory Committee Minutes Friday, January 29, 2016 SCHEV Conference Room

Members Present: James Hodges (Patrick Henry Community College), Niyant Jain (Virginia Commonwealth University), Emily Duke (Longwood University), Elaine Koo (University of Virginia), Tanushri Shankar (Virginia Tech), Hector Rosa (ECPI), Mackenzie Harrman (Virginia Military Institute), Kody Carrington (Virginia State University), Reeve Ashcraft (Richard Bland College), Allison Leibowitz (University of Mary Washington), Colby Bender (Radford University), Nathan McGlone (University of Virginia's College at Wise), Trey McClendon (Norfolk State University), Matthew Fitzpatrick (Old Dominion University).

SCHEV Staff Present: Peter Blake, Paula Fisher, Beverly Covington, Greg Weatherford, Wendy Kang, Joseph Crook, Lindsey Jones, Kathy Robinson, Charlotte Shields.

- Paula Fisher (SCHEV) brought the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
- SCHEV Director Peter Blake welcomed the student members, telling them how much the Council appreciated their thoughts on issues related to higher education.
- SAC members introduced themselves and voiced student concerns at their respective campuses.
- James Hodges (Patrick Henry Community College) concerns: language barrier for large number of international students.
- Matthew Fitzpatrick (Old Dominion University) concerns: campus safety, peaceful cooperation between students and administration.
- Nathan McGlone (University of Virginia's College at Wise) concerns: campus expansion, campus safety and access to healthy food during construction.
- Colby Bender (Radford University) concerns: transparency in the financial aid process
- Allison Leibowitz (University of Mary Washington) concerns: access to healthy food, mental health counseling, campus police-student interactions.
- Reeve Ashcraft (Richard Bland College) concerns: access to scholarships for transfer students at 4-year institutions.
- Kody Carrington (Virginia State University) concerns: funding for financial aid and educational resources, campus safety.
- Mackenzie Harrman (Virginia Military Institute) concerns: healthy food, limited access to scholarships.
- Hector Rosa (ECPI) concerns: equal access to facilities for transgender students, lack of staff training for serving veterans.
- Tanushri Shankar (Virginia Tech) concerns: gender neutral facilities, sexual assault awareness, mental health counseling, geographic diversity in recruiting, university growth, endowment, textbook costs, tobacco.
- Elaine Koo (University of Virginia) concerns: declining state funding, sexual assault, mental health counseling, gender neutral facilities.
- Emily Duke (Longwood University) concerns: mental health and wellness; construction and university growth.
- Niyant Jain (Virginia Commonwealth University) concerns: affordable access, campus

safety.

- Trey McClendon (Norfolk State University) concerns: campus safety.
- Healthy food, safety, sexual assault, financial aid, mental health emerged as salient themes across campuses.
- Paula asks what students are doing re: healthy food concerns.
- students exchanged information about food options on their campuses.
- Paula asked what campuses are doing re: financial aid.
- students expressed concerns about availability of on-campus employment for students.
- Paula asked what students are doing re: campus safety.
- Students shared about safety initiatives on campuses and student cooperation with campus and city police; "campus walks" to detail potential safety problems; campus safety apps.
- Paula Fisher facilitated a networking exercise for the students.
- Jared Calfee gave Virginia 21 presentation.
- Members elected 2015-16 SAC officers: Chair Kody Carrington (Virginia State University), and Vice-Chair Niyant Jain (Virginia Commonwealth University).
- Peter Blake gave Virginia Plan for Higher Education presentation.
- Joe Crook gave student complaints presentation.
- The next SAC meeting will be held in April.
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.