



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

Review of HB 1336 Policy Discussions

January 12, 2016

Academic Affairs Committee: October 26, 2015

- Draft policy presented for discussion—main features:
 - Consultation with Boards of Visitors to be conducted through IPAC
 - Focus on minimal thresholds for generating credit
 - Institutions “shall” grant credit for the standard minimum scores (e.g., “3” on AP) on the required exams, subject to exceptions.
 - Institutions can justify higher thresholds.
 - All other details (e.g., courses, gen ed and program requirements) left to institutions.

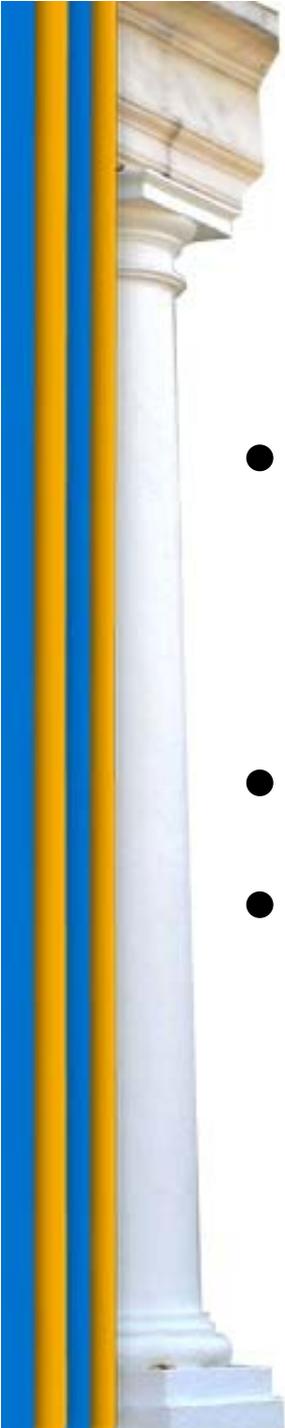


Academic Affairs Committee: October 26, 2015

- Academic Affairs Committee guidance:
 - Consult with institutions
 - Don't sacrifice quality
 - Consult with legislature

IPAC I: November 13, 2015

- Discussion:
 - Focused on minimum threshold for credit and criteria for justification.
 - Institutions with higher threshold policies advocate for SCHEV to establish “4” on the AP as the minimum threshold. Other institutions agree, so long as they don’t have to raise their credit threshold from “3” to “4.”
 - Note: “3” institutions are the only ones with rigorous quantitative data on the comparative success of students with “3” vs those with higher scores.
- SCHEV staff agrees to consult with the Director, and come back with a second iteration for discussion in January.



SCHEV legislative consultation

- The bill's prescription of consistency reflects intention to maximize students' ability to earn credit.
- Room for variability among institutions.
- Review/approval of institutional policies should go through SCHEV.



Second iteration (agenda book)

- does *not* propose a higher than minimum default threshold, i.e., does not advance a default minimum threshold of “4;”
- removes “shall grant” and substitutes “be considered;”
- recognizes a place for qualitative justifications for higher thresholds.

IPAC II: January 8, 2016

- Directions of discussion:
 - Proponents of “4” renew their case, arguing that if SCHEV establishes “4” as the threshold, the bill’s prescription of *consistency* would be fulfilled.
 - SCHEV staff counsels that this risks being viewed as thwarting legislative intention.
 - Also, concern that “3” as default may create misleading impressions among students.
 - Wording is suggested that would identify “4” as a minimum threshold for credit unless an institution adopts “3.”



IPAC II: January 8, 2016

- SCHEV staff agrees to:
 - recommend tabling Council action until its March meeting;
 - consider a third iteration of the policy to accommodate the above considerations *pending* Council's guidance/feedback.