# STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 25, 2016 MINUTES

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in the SCHEV main conference room, 101 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond, Virginia. Council members present: Marge Connelly, Heywood Fralin, Dan Gundersen, Henry Light, G. Gilmer Minor, III, William Murray, Carlyle Ramsey, Minnis Ridenour, Tom Slater, and Katharine Webb.

Council members absent: Ken Ampy, Gene Lockhart, and Pamela Moran.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Beverly Covington, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Laura Gogia, Dan Hix, Wendy Kang, Sylvia Rosa-Casanova, Feng Raoking, Lee Ann Rung, Lynn Seuffert, Paul Smith, Greg Weatherford, and Yan Zheng. Al Wilson from the Office of the Attorney General was also in attendance.

# **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mr. Minor requested a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Lockhart's son, Andrew.

# RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Minor reported that no requests for public comment had been received. He invited comments from those in attendance; no one came forward.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Light and seconded by Mr. Slater, the minutes from the September 20, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously with the correction of two minor typos that Mr. Light suggested.

# REMARKS FROM MARY G. MORRIS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VIRGINIA529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

Mr. Minor introduced Ms. Morris and she reported that the VA529 is the largest 529 college savings plan in the country, mostly due to the relationship with College America. She noted that it is more than a prepaid program. Tax advantage disability accounts will be offered later this year. Ms. Morris stressed the importance of making the public aware of what is available. The "tuition monster" is the spokesperson targeting families and is meant to be annoying but not scary. She distributed several handouts which were made available on the SCHEV website.

For the past 5-6 years the VA529 program has focused on no only asset management but also financial education to help families understand and access what's available to those with fewer resources. The most effective plan for low and moderate income families is SOAR Virginia, which is an early commitment scholarship program that encourages students to commit to earning good grades, being good citizens, and pursuing higher education. The program provides scholarship support up to \$2,000. Her agency is working with GRASP, the Access College Foundation, Project Discovery and the Virginia Community College System career coaches program to implement the SOAR Virginia program.

The VA529 program is changing its prepaid model in the near future. Under consideration is a weighted average payout program for new contracts. When the 529 program was first started 20 years ago, most institutions had the same tuition model. However, the differential tuition instituted by some colleges has created a problem for the prepaid program. The new payout model will require legislative support. Ms. Morris reported that most contracts are purchased for a few semesters rather than a full four-year contract. She answered questions from members.

### REPORT OF THE AGENCY DIRECTOR

In preparation for the annual report on *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*, and as requested at the October 24 special meeting, staff will poll members and schedule an additional meeting before year-end.

Mr. Blake acknowledged Beth Murphy, President of Bryant and Stratton College who was in attendance. President Murphy is also a member of the Norfolk State University board of visitors.

The following new SCHEV staff members were introduced: Lynn Seuffert, Associate for Research Investment; Dr. Feng Raoking, VLDS Business Intelligence Specialist; and Dr. Laura Gogia, part-time VLDS Business Intelligence Liaison.

Mr. Blake highlighted the items from his report that were included in the agenda book.

Mr. Minor thanked the SCHEV team for their participation in the Boards of Visitors (BOV) orientation and praised the quality of the program. He also expressed thanks to Delegate Steve Landes and the legislature for funding the event.

Mr. Gundersen and Dr. Ramsey joined the meeting at 10:05.

#### REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

### Report from Executive Committee

Mr. Minor reported that the Executive Committee approved changes to the bylaws. He explained that the primary reason for the change that was to update the timing of election of officers. Mr. Light reminded everyone that action on amendments to the

bylaws requires an affirmative vote by at least three-quarters of the membership (at least 10 of the 13). Because only nine members were present, this item will be held for action at the January 2017 meeting.

# Report from Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Ramsey reported on the following items from the Academic Affairs Committee meeting and asked Dr. DeFilippo to provide additional information:

Action on Guidelines for Study Abroad

Dr. DeFilippo said the Committee requested more information about study abroad programs and as a result, he will invite experts to speak to the Committee at a future meeting. The Committee's recommendation was seconded by Mr. Fralin and the following resolution was approved unanimously (9-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) approves the attached *Virginia Public Higher Education Guidelines for Study Abroad*. The *Guidelines* shall become effective immediately.

Action on Private and Out-of-State Post-secondary Education (POPE) Institutional Certifications

Dr. Ramsey provided a brief overview and invited Dr. DeFilippo to provide additional information. The Committee's recommendation was seconded by Mr. Light and the following resolution as approved unanimously (9-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies Worcester Polytechnic Institute to operate a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective October 25, 2016.

Dr. Ramsey invited Dr. DeFilippo to speak about the Virginia Engage/Governor's Summit on Civic Engagement on October 6-7 in Danville. Dr. DeFilippo provided a brief overview and indicated that the event ties into the goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*.

# Report from Resources and Planning Committee

Action on 2016-18 Systemwide Operating Budget Amendments

Ms. Connelly said the Committee reviewed final budget-amendment recommendations. She invited Mr. Hix to provide a presentation which highlighted *The Virginia Plan* and budget priorities' links to it in FY2018. Mr. Blake distributed a modified resolution that included changes suggested by the Committee members.

Based on a suggestion from Mr. Fralin, Mr. Hix agreed to consider the inclusion of operation and maintenance of new facilities costs and deferred maintenance needs into future capital outlay recommendations.

The Committee's revised recommendation was seconded by Mr. Slater and the following resolution was approved unanimously (9-0):

WHEREAS, Goal #1 of the Virginia Plan for Higher Education is to provide affordable higher education access for all, with the alignment of state appropriations, financial aid, and tuition and fees being critical to attaining this goal and thereby enabling our graduates to compete in the global market place and advance the economic and cultural prosperity of the Commonwealth and its regions, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia recommends that additional operating budget appropriations be provided in FY2018 for:

- Base Adequacy/Cost of Education, \$4.4 million in general fund and \$3.8 million from nongeneral funds for a total of \$8.2 million in FY2018;
- Faculty Salaries, \$21.6 million in general fund and \$21.6 million from nongeneral funds for a total of \$43.2 million in FY2018;
- Operation and Maintenance of New Facilities Coming Online, \$8.1 million in general fund and \$5.8 million from nongeneral funds for a total of \$13.9 million in FY2018;
- The Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund, \$8.9 million in additional allocations to meet the Council's original recommendation of \$75.9 million for FY2018 to be financed through debt service payments beginning in FY2019.
- Undergraduate Student Financial Aid, \$8.9 million in general fund in FY2018;
- Two-Year College Transfer Grant, \$900,000 in general fund in FY2017 and \$1.9 million in general fund in FY2018;
- Tuition Assistance Grant, increase the maximum award for undergraduate students to \$3,350 in FY2018, no additional funding required.

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia recommends that institutions be given the flexibility to award additional merit-based salary increases beyond the state-authorized three percent increase recommended above in order to attract and retain high-performing faculty and move closer to the Commonwealth's 60<sup>th</sup> percentile goal. Any such increases shall be incorporated as authorized or appropriated increases in future

benchmark calculations of need. Tuition-related increases should be minimal and not compromise affordable access for Virginia undergraduate students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia commends our public institutions of higher education for their financial management strategies—best practices that have allowed them to maintain their viability through economic downturns—and affirms its support for the flexibility and autonomy that is provided to those institutions through the Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operation Act of 2005 and the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011, within the framework of accountability and transparency required of our colleges and universities to perform and be measured on that performance.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia strongly supports the protection provided the public institutions of higher education by the Code of Virginia (§23.1-101.2) which states that when measuring the extent to which the Commonwealth shall finance higher education, the availability of endowment funds and unrestricted gifts from private sources "shall neither be taken into consideration in nor used to reduce state appropriations or payments and shall be used in accordance with the wishes of the donors of such funds to strengthen the services rendered by these institutions to the people of the Commonwealth."

# Report of 2015-16 Degree Completions

Ms. Connelly asked Mr. Massa to provide a brief overview of the presentation he gave to the Committee. Mr. Massa reported that the TJ21 goal of 100,000 additional Virginia degrees by 2025 should be met, as well as *The Virginia Plan* target of 1.5 million additional awards of credentials by 2030. He indicated that all states are trying to meet similar goals. Mr. Massa reported that Psychology is still the most popular degree at four-year institutions, and is the favored degree by those entering the teaching profession.

### RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Mr. Blake noted the categories of recent actions taken by staff as delegated by the Council. As required, a copy of these actions is attached to the minutes.

# **INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Connelly requested that the Council have further discussion on understanding costs. She will work with staff to see what information is available. She suggested that Mr. Lockhart and other members with a financial background be consulted.

Mr. Minor thanked Mr. Gundersen for hosting the Committee meetings at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) on October 24.

Mr. Minor asked that members check their availability at the end of November/first of December for an additional meeting to follow-up on *The Virginia Plan*. Ms. Rung will poll all members and schedule a meeting from approximately 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Mr. Minor asked the citizens and constituents in attendance for their feedback to help SCHEV determine ways in which the Council meetings could be more meaningful and communicative. He noted that the Council is open to suggestions but understands certain things that cannot be changed, such as the conference room layout.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Ms. Connelly and seconded by Mr. Slater, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minnis Ridenour
Council Secretary

Lee Ann Rung
Director, Executive and Board Affairs

### Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the <u>Code of Virginia</u>, Section 23-9:6:1 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following item was approved as delegated to staff:

### **Program Actions**

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Paul D. Camp Community	Facilitated Staff Approval: Associate of Applied Science degree program in	Fall 2016
College	Mechatronics (15.0613) [Conferral:	
	Spring 2018]	

Pursuant to the <u>Code of Virginia</u>, Section 23-9:6:1 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items were reported:

# **Certificate Programs**

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Dabney S.	Initiate Undergraduate Certificate	Fall 2016
Lancaster	program in Sustainable Agriculture and	
Community	Horticulture (01.0601) [Conferral: Spring	
College	2017]	
Old Dominion	Initiate Undergraduate Certificate	Spring 2017
University	program in Diversity Studies (30.2301)	_
	[Conferral: Spring 2017]	

Pursuant to the <u>Code of Virginia</u>, Section 23-9.14:3 and Council's "Commonwealth of Virginia Policy on the Reciprocal Authorization of Distance Education and Related Activities," the following item was approved as delegated to staff:

# National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) Approvals

Institution	Effective Date
George Mason University	August 31, 2016

# **Amended Regulations and Guidelines**

As directed by the Council, staff members have amended the following regulations and guidelines to conform with and reflect the changes enacted by Chapter 588 of the 2016 *Acts of Assembly* to the current language and numbering of statutes in Title 23 of the *Code of Virginia*:

- Domicile Guidelines
- Regulations for the Senior Citizen Higher Education Program
- Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program Regulations
- Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant Program Regulations
- Virginia Two-Year College Transfer Grant Program Regulations
- Virginia Vocational Incentive Scholarship Program for Shipyard Workers Regulations

# STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 24, 2016 MINUTES

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. in the 9<sup>th</sup> floor board room, Virginia Economic Development Partnership offices, 901 E. Cary Street, Richmond, Virginia. Committee members present: Marge Connelly, Heywood Fralin, G. Gilmer Minor, III, and Minnis Ridenour. Al Wilson from the Office of the Attorney General was also present.

Committee member absent: Gene Lockhart.

Other Council members present: Henry Light, William Murray, Carlyle Ramsey, Tom Slater, and Katharine Webb.

Staff members present: Peter Blake, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Jodi Fisler, Wendy Kang, Lee Ann Rung, Lynn Seuffert, and Greg Weatherford.

# **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Minor and seconded by Mr. Ridenour, the minutes from the September 19, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously.

### <u>ACTION ON PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES</u>

Mr. Minor reminded members of the change discussed at the last meeting, i.e., changing the election of officers to the beginning of the fiscal year rather than waiting for the Governor to make appointments. In most years, the appointments are made in a timely manner, but if the appointments are made later than July 1, it could affect the Council's ability to provide an orientation and prepare new members for their first meeting. Mr. Fralin agreed with the reasoning, and Ms. Webb echoed her support.

On a motion by Mr. Ridenour and seconded by Mr. Fralin, the following resolution was approved unanimously to be forwarded to the full Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, pursuant to the SCHEV Bylaws Section Eight, following presentation in writing and discussion at the September 19, 2016, Council meeting, and following a three-quarters vote of the total Council membership at the October 25, 2016, SCHEV Council meeting, adopt the amended version of the SCHEV Bylaws dated October 25, 2016. Council also requests that staff distribute the amended bylaws to the members and post a copy on the SCHEV website.

### **UDPATE ON BUDGET**

Mr. Blake reported on the Governor's recently-announced plans to address the budget shortfall. The salary increases for state employees, including faculty, were voided automatically when revenues did not meet projections. While the Governor's plan did not include budget reductions to the public degree-granting institutions it did propose reductions to other areas of higher education. These areas included the Library of Virginia (VIVA), the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL) and Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), as well as the five regional higher-education centers.

He noted the continuing demands on the budget and acknowledged that FY18 will be more difficult because consecutive-year uses of the rainy day fund are not allowed. Mr. Blake indicated that the final budget-balancing plan will be clear in February or March.

Mr. Ridenour expressed concern that as general funds continue to be reduced, the institutions could potentially lose the autonomy that was provided through the Restructuring Act. Mr. Blake suggested that since the Restructuring Act has been in existence for 10 years, it would be helpful, particularly for new members, if staff scheduled a discussion explaining the Act's purpose and how it has evolved over the years, including the possibility of a phase 2. Ms. Webb suggested that legislators be invited to participate in the discussion and noted that it would be useful to demonstrate ways in which the issues relate to The Virginia Plan. Mr. Minor reminded members that Mr. Ridenour was instrumental in helping to develop Restructuring's first phase and suggested that he could be instrumental in any discussions related to a phase 2.

Members discussed the Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) budget reductions, and Dr. Murray requested that staff clarify why students at some hospital-affiliated nursing programs receive Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) funds and others do not. Mr. Blake agreed to report back to the Council. Mr. Light suggested that Council continue to support shielding EVMS from future budget reductions. Mr. Fralin expressed thanks to the Governor for the funding provided to higher education in the last General Assembly session.

Mr. Blake explained the reductions to SCHEV's budget and indicated that economies will be realized by utilizing wage staff and holding open unfilled positions. Dr. Edwards introduced Ms. Seuffert, the agency's new Associate for Research Investment. Mr. Blake announced additional new staff hires in the Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) area and reported that an administrator for the new workforce program should be announced soon. He reminded members that with the budget cuts that SCHEV received, no capacity exists to hire beyond these three positions.

Following from the discussion of the Restructuring Act, Mr. Blake noted related passages in the budget recommendation on page 68. Members recommended edits, and staff agreed to provide a revised version of the resolution at the October 25 Council meeting.

Mr. Minor requested that Mr. Ridenour provide a short overview of Restructuring. Mr. Ridenour explained the main purpose, which was to provide public institutions with opportunities for greater autonomy in exchange for their commitments to meeting state goals and needs.

# **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

On a motion by Mr. Ridenour and seconded by Mr. Fralin the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Minnis Ridenour Council Secretary

Lee Ann Rung Director, Executive & Board Affairs

# STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OCTOBER 24, 2016 MINUTES

Dr. Ramsey (Chair) called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in Richmond, Virginia. Committee members present: Heywood Fralin, Gil Minor, Carlyle Ramsey, and Katherine Webb.

Staff members present: Beverly Covington, Joe DeFilippo, Jodi Fisler, and Sylvia Rosa-Casanova.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Minor, the minutes from the September 19, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously.

### <u>ACTION ON GUIDELINES FOR STUDY ABROAD</u>

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the legislative background of the action item and described the process by which the agency analyzed the issues related to study abroad in order to develop the guidelines. The prologue of the document sets forth the importance of study abroad, but also attempts to limit liability for the institutions by recognizing the varying degrees of responsibility for programs. It describes kinds of programs for which institutions have responsibility as opposed to those for which they do not, such as when a student requests credit after the fact.

The committee had a discussion about the effectiveness of study abroad programs and their impact on future employment of graduates.

On motion by Ms. Webb, and seconded by Mr. Minor, the following resolution was approved unanimously to be forwarded to the full Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) approves the attached *Virginia Public Higher Education Guidelines for Study Abroad.* The *Guidelines* shall become effective immediately.

# ACTION ON PRIVATE AND OUT-OF-STATE POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION CERTIFICATIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the action item, reviewing facts relevant to examining the eligibility of the institution for certification

On motion by Mr. Minor, and seconded by Ms. Webb, the following resolution was approved unanimously to be forwarded to the full Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies Worcester Polytechnic Institute to operate a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective October 25, 2016.

# **LIAISON REPORT**

Dr. DeFilippo informed members the report is available on page 55 of the agenda book. He reviewed various staff activities highlighted by the report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Carlyle Ramsey
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Beverly Covington
Staff, Academic Affairs

# STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OCTOBER 24, 2016 MINUTES

Ms. Connelly called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. in the 9<sup>th</sup> floor board room, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, 901 E. Cary Street, Richmond, Virginia. Committee members present: Marge Connelly, Henry Light, Bill Murray, Tom Slater, and Minnis Ridenour. Al Wilson from the Office of the Attorney General was also in attendance.

Committee member absent: Dan Gundersen

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Alan Edwards, Dan Hix, Wendy Kang, Tod Massa, Lee Ann Rung, and Yan Zheng.

### <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u>

On a motion by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Slater the minutes from the September 19, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously.

# **ACTION ON 2016-18 SYSTEMWIDE OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Blake provided a brief overview of the information beginning on page 60. He noted that the recommendations are modest and focus on core salary, operations and maintenance, and financial aid. Mr. Hix provided a presentation with more detail.

Several members commented that they have been contacted by private institutions about increasing the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG). In response to a question by Dr. Murray, Mr. Hix asked Mr. Andes to address the cost associated with TAG. He reported that for every \$50 added to the TAG award, the cost is approximately \$1M. The current authorized award amount is \$3200 and \$3300 for FY2017 and FY2018, respectively. The recommendation is to increase the FY2018 award to \$3350. Mr. Andes reported that this is consistent with Council's biennial recommendation in October 2015 and would require no additional funds for FY2018.

Dr. Murray left the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Mr. Hix reviewed the four goals of The Virginia Plan and discussed the summary of the SCHEV budget amendments in FY2018. Mr. Hix noted that additional language was added to the resolution as requested by Council at the last meeting that includes commending institutions for their financial management strategies, affirming support for the flexibility and autonomy provided to the public institutions, and noting the importance of protecting endowments.

Mr. Hix answered questions from members. On a motion by Mr. Ridenour and seconded by Mr. Light the following revised resolution was approved unanimously (4-0) to be forwarded to the full Council:

WHEREAS, Goal #1 of the Virginia Plan for Higher Education is to provide affordable higher education access for all, with the alignment of state appropriations, financial aid, and tuition and fees being critical to attaining this goal and thereby enabling our graduates to compete in the global market place and advance the economic and cultural prosperity of the Commonwealth and its regions, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia recommends that additional operating budget appropriations be provided in FY2018 for:

- Base Adequacy/Cost of Education, \$4.4 million in general fund and \$3.8 million from nongeneral funds for a total of \$8.2 million in FY2018;
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- The Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund, \$8.9 million in additional allocations to meet the Council's original recommendation of \$75.9 million for FY2018 to be financed through debt service payments beginning in FY2019.
- Undergraduate Student Financial Aid, \$8.9 million in general fund in FY2018;
- Two-Year College Transfer Grant, \$900,000 in general fund in FY2017 and \$1.9 million in general fund in FY2018;
- Tuition Assistance Grant, increase the maximum award for undergraduate students to \$3,350 in FY2018, no additional funding required.

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia recommends that institutions be given the flexibility to award additional merit-based salary increases beyond the state-authorized three percent increase recommended above in order to attract and retain high-performing faculty and move closer to the Commonwealth's 60<sup>th</sup> percentile goal. Any such increases shall be incorporated as authorized or appropriated increases in future benchmark calculations of need. Tuition-related increases should be minimal and not compromise affordable access for Virginia undergraduate students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia commends our public institutions of higher education for their financial management strategies—best practices that have allowed them to maintain their viability through economic downturns—and affirms its support for the flexibility and autonomy that is provided to those institutions through the Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operation Act of 2005 and the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011, within the framework of accountability and transparency required of our colleges and universities to perform and be measured on that performance.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia strongly supports the protection provided the public institutions of higher education by the Code of Virginia (§23.1-101.2) which states that when measuring the extent to which the Commonwealth shall finance higher education, the availability of endowment funds and unrestricted gifts from private sources "shall neither be taken into consideration in nor used to reduce state appropriations or payments and shall be used in accordance with the wishes of the donors of such funds to strengthen the services rendered by these institutions to the people of the Commonwealth."

### **REPORT OF 2015-16 DEGREE COMPLETIONS**

Mr. Massa provided a presentation on the report and explained that 119,934 total degrees and certificates were awarded in 2015-16, which was a 3.8% increase over the prior year. He provided information on awards by public institutions and degree type. Mr. Massa also discussed awards by private institutions which were 32,570; a 3.5% increase overall. The cumulative awards by 2030 (assuming 1% annual growth), should achieve the goal of 1.5 million new Virginia degrees by 2030. He noted that all other states are trying to achieve similar increases. Mr. Massa expressed concerns about the population aged 25-34 and indicated that this could require more efforts to increase degree completions in this age bracket.

### MOTION TO ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Marge Connelly	
Committee Chair	
Lee Ann Rung Director, Executive	