

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1, 2016  
MINUTES**

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. in the Capital Room C at the offices of Owens and Minor, Mechanicsville, Virginia. Council members present: Ken Ampy, Marge Connelly, Heywood Fralin, Dan Gundersen, Henry Light, Gene Lockhart, G. Gilmer Minor, III, Pamela Moran, William Murray, Carlyle Ramsey, Minnis Ridenour, Tom Slater, and Katharine Webb.

Staff members present: Peter Blake, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Dan Hix, Wendy Kang, Tod Massa, Lynn Seuffert, Paul Smith, and Lee Ann Rung. Al Wilson from the Office of the Attorney General was also present.

**DISCUSSION OF THE VIRGINIA PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

Mr. Minor asked that SCHEV staff provide a short presentation of the items related to The Virginia Plan and Mr. Blake provided background on what has been done to date.

Ms. Kang spoke about affordable pathways and answered questions from members.

Dr. DeFilippo distributed supplementary materials from priority initiatives 1 and 4 and summarized the progress to date. He also spoke about the transfer policy that Council approved in July, explaining that the policy was sent to institutions. Dr. DeFilippo answered questions from members. Members suggested that Dr. Staples be invited to present information on better alignment between PK-12 and higher education.

Members discussed job opportunities that require a credential. This led to further discussion about high school counselors, transitions to college, and transfer agreements between community college and universities. Dr. DeFilippo said he would work with staff and the State Committee on Transfer to promulgate better awareness, including improved advising about the cost savings that could result from receiving a credential from community college before transferring to a four-year institution.

Mr. Ridenour suggested that more focus be placed on preparing students at the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade level when looking at ways to help them prepare for college. Dr. Moran suggested creating different pathways at an early age and said the solution should include ways to create experiences at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level.

Dr. Ramsey spoke about states with incentive policies for completing at a community college with guaranteed admission to a four-year institution. He suggested that a research project to collect more data from community colleges about this type of incentive be considered.

Mr. Minor summarized the discussions and indicated that there are many challenges that the Council could positively affect. Dr. Moran noted that success could not be achieved unless PK12 and higher education are fully integrated.

Dr. DeFilippo discussed the work plan for dual enrollment as outlined in the handout. Dr. Paul Smith, Associate for Student Mobility Policy and Research at SCHEV, answered questions about dual enrollment data that SCHEV has compiled. Members inquired about the possibility of conducting a student survey to better understand why students aren't transferring or taking advantage of transfer agreements. Mr. Lockhart suggested that most of the information in Dr. DeFilippo's handout could serve as an agenda for the Academic Affairs Committee for the coming year, with regular reports to the full Council.

There was brief discussion about regional meetings and dialogues with PK-12 and higher education. Mr. Blake suggested that this could be done through the affordable pathways partnership grants.

After discussing the business community's involvement in higher education and the "GO Virginia" initiative, members requested that John "Dubby" Wynne, chairman of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board (the state board that oversees the "GO Virginia" grant programs) provide an update to Council. Mr. Fralin spoke about out-migration and stressed the importance of retaining talented and educated citizens in the Commonwealth. He would like the Council to keep the public informed on these important issues and suggested that staff arrange for members to meet with gubernatorial candidates to discuss the issues.

Mr. Blake reminded members that the affordable pathways grant would not have been possible without Mr. Minor's efforts in meeting with the governor, legislators, and staff.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Dr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Ramsey, the minutes from the September 19 and October 24 special meetings were approved unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Minor thanked Mr. Gundersen for his contributions while serving on the Council as interim president at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). Mr. Gundersen stressed the importance of a strong connection between economic development and education. VEDP's new president will begin in January and comes from a higher education institution.

The chairman called for a break at 11:50 a.m. The meeting resumed at 12:20 p.m.

## **DISCUSSION OF THE VIRGINIA PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (continued)**

Mr. Hix presented information about sustainable funding, restructuring and shared services. Council members discussed tax code reform as a means to have more sustainable revenue sources. Mr. Fralin expressed an interest in modernizing the current tax structure and suggested that this could be another item to discuss with the gubernatorial candidates.

Mr. Ridenour said that, in response to the Council's request at the October special meeting, he has begun thinking about next steps related to restructuring. He would like to bring suggestions to a future meeting. Mr. Fralin suggested that the Council prepare a plan for restructuring that the General Assembly can endorse. Mr. Lockhart said that Council could consider reviewing the shared services authority that has been developed in Indiana. Dr. Ramsey and Ms. Webb suggested getting an update on the shared services initiative that the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) is developing. Ms. Webb also said surveying other states to see if they are addressing shared services and efficiencies could be explored. Dr. Murray cautioned members about addressing current needs and solutions rather than thinking about long-term future needs for higher education.

Ms. Webb said the Council could benefit from learning more about the private institutions' work in the areas of shared services in health insurance, retirement, and renewable energy.

Dr. DeFilippo addressed the quality initiative and reviewed the information in the handout related to the four outcomes. Members requested input from Mr. Massa related to data and surveys that could be useful related to student debt and employment after college.

Dr. Edwards presented information on initiative #6 related to academic research. He introduced Ms. Lynn Seuffert, Associate for Research Investment. Dr. Edwards reported that since joining the SCHEV staff, Ms. Seuffert has organized the first meeting of the Virginia Research Investment Committee. The second meeting of the committee is scheduled for December 5 to develop the framework for research competition and faculty recruitment competition. Dr. Edwards answered questions from members.

Mr. Minor encouraged collaboration among staff and Council members and cited an example where Ms. Kang and Mr. Weatherford worked with Ms. Webb on the communications initiative. Ms. Webb explained how the process unfolded and how it was successful. She said that through this experience, she learned the depth and the complexity of the staff's work and she recommended that other members get involved in a particular area of interest to keep them engaged between Council meetings. Several members suggested that staff and Council consider writing a series of editorials on higher education.

Mr. Minor requested that staff capture the discussions from this meeting and inform members how they can assist in continuing to make progress. He opened the floor for additional ideas.

Mr. Minor requested that members mark their calendars for a special meeting on April 12 for another strategic plan follow-up discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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Minnis Ridenour  
Council Secretary

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Lee Ann Rung  
Director, Executive and Board Affairs