

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2017  
MINUTES**

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. in Capital Room A, Owens and Minor, Mechanicsville, Virginia. Council members present: Marge Connelly, Heywood Fralin, Henry Light, Gene Lockhart, G. Gilmer Minor, Pamela Moran, Stephen Moret, Carlyle Ramsey, Minnis Ridenour, Thomas Slater, and Katharine Webb. Al Wilson from the Office of the Attorney General was also in attendance.

Committee members absent: Ken Ampy, William Murray.

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

**WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE DAY**

Mr. Blake provided an overview of points Drs. Cannaday and Staples were asked to share with the Council. He introduced Dr. Stephen Staples, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Dr. Billy Cannaday, President, Virginia Board of Education.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Cannaday provided background on the Board of Education's membership and discussed the timeline of the board's reform work, including the major changes to the state's accountability system in 2014. As a result of this work, the General Assembly eliminated the five Standards of learning (SOL) assessments and moved to local alternative assessments. After receiving feedback from 24 stakeholder groups, the Board of Education learned that students are not well prepared for life after high school.

In 2016 the board held a full-day work session to review, amend, and confirm a draft Profile of a Virginia Graduate. The board adopted revisions to certain parts of the Standards of Accreditation (SOA), which included the requirements for the Profile of a Graduate. The Governor and General Assembly supported the development of a Profile of a Virginia Graduate through the introduction and adoption of legislation which placed the recommendation in the Code of Virginia's Standards of Quality.

Dr. Cannaday discussed the reasons the Board developed the Profile of Graduates, saying the current pre-K-12 system was built to prepare young people to work in a manufacturing dominated economy, which stakeholders agreed is no longer useful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Dr. Staples indicated that more emphasis is being placed on engagement rather than time in a classroom setting.

Dr. Cannaday reviewed the Profiles of a Graduate with its four overlapping areas of student learning and achievement, which is considered essential to success beyond high school. He proposed a set of potential questions and engaged members in a discussion that allowed them to provide input.

Dr. Staples and Dr. Cannaday answered questions from members.

The chairman called for a break at 12:15 p.m. The meeting resumed at 12:45. Mr. Blake reminded members that any unresolved issues from the meeting would be addressed by the newly formed Taskforce on High School to Postsecondary Transitions that SCHEV will convene. More details about the task force were provided in the second half of the meeting.

Dr. Staples stressed the need for students to learn beyond content knowledge but reminded members that the current high school model was developed in 1895 and hasn't changed much since that time. It will take time but all agreed that stakeholders (pre-K-12 and higher education) must speak with a singular voice when advocating for change. Dr. Staples suggested that legislation should be considered that will aid several constituencies rather than an individual sector. It was noted that lines of authority within each sector do not allow for overlap.

Dr. Cannaday expressed a desire to develop a list of 3-5 important ideas that could better align pre-K-12 and higher education rather than just developing a checklist of things that must be accomplished.

Mr. Fralin congratulated Drs. Staples and Cannaday for their efforts in evaluating what is working within the current system and what needs improvement. More communication between pre-K-12 and higher education was encouraged. Members were reminded that Mr. Blake will attend the May Board of Education meeting. In answer to a question raised by Mr. Fralin, Mr. Blake agreed to share with members the UVA study on early childhood development.

Ms. Connelly requested that the new task force use SCHEV data to help make tangible connections between pre-K-12 and higher education.

Mr. Minor asked that the dialogue continue in order to make progress from today's discussion, and Mr. Blake reminded members that Dr. Moran and Dr. Ramsey will represent the Council on the Taskforce on High School to Postsecondary Transitions and will relay the discussion from this meeting.

The chairman called for a break at 2:15. The meeting resumed at 2:30.

Mr. Lockhart requested that staff provide a copy of the Virginia Department of Education's strategic plan to Council members.

## **INITIATIVE UPDATES FROM THE VIRGINIA PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

Mr. Blake invited SCHEV staff that serve as leads on each of the Initiatives to provide brief updates. All materials were included in the agenda materials.

Dr. DeFilippo addressed Initiative #1, reporting that an ad hoc dual enrollment group has had initial discussions. As a result of the 2017 legislative session, SCHEV will develop a passport credit program.

Ms. Kang reported on the newly formed taskforce on quality and assessment (Taskforce on High School to Postsecondary Transitions) which will bring together those who can influence policy in this area.

Mr. Hix addressed Initiative #2, reminding members that at the March meeting information was provided about constitutional provisions in other states. He distributed a copy of the Constitution of Virginia language regarding funding for pre-K-12. Mr. Fralin suggested that a representative from Virginia21 be invited to a future Resources and Planning Committee meeting to discuss the student perspective on sustainable funding. Mr. Ridenour requested that in light of the recent New York decision to provide reduced or free tuition, Council explore and discuss a similar option to better understand the costs and implications of free tuition. Mr. Fralin asked for an estimate of income thresholds in Virginia if a similar option is considered. Mr. Hix said staff will present choices for sector-based funding at a future meeting, which could become part of the Council's 2018-20 budget recommendations.

Mr. Hix addressed Initiative #3 and provided an update from a recent meeting with selected state officials. He said that staff will be seeking input on future restructuring opportunities. Ms. Connelly said institutions should emphasize in their six-year plans any collaborative initiatives they will undertake and any efficiencies that could be gained. Mr. Hix reminded members of the October 19 statewide conference to share innovative and best practices across the larger higher education community.

Dr. DeFilippo addressed Initiative #4 and reported that the taskforce on quality and assessment has concluded its work. The Council will consider the recommendations of the taskforce at the July meeting. SCHEV staff is coordinating a statewide meeting in June on civic engagement (in conjunction with the College of William & Mary) to share best practices and assist institutions in building capacity and defining and measuring civic engagement.

Communications Initiative #5 – Ms. Kang discussed the issues for each group (students and parents; business and economic development; and policymakers) as well as the goal and strategies for each. She explained that staff is working to get consistent baseline information. Mr. Fralin requested that a progress report on the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC) initiatives be added to the communications initiative as well as the research initiative.

Research Initiative #6 – Dr. Edwards reported that effective January 1 Council will assume responsibility for development of the strategic roadmap. Mr. Lockhart suggested that Council consider making the Ad Hoc Committee on Research a standing committee to continue to track progress of the research initiative. Currently, the ad hoc committee is scheduled to end its work in June 2017.

Mr. Blake agreed to send data to members on out-migration occurring mostly in northern Virginia. Mr. Moret will attend the next GPAC meeting with college presidents to discuss economic growth and development issues.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

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Minnis Ridenour  
Council Secretary

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Lee Ann Rung  
Director, Executive & Board Affairs

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2017  
MINUTES**

Dr. Murray called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the offices of Owens and Minor, 9120 Lockwood Blvd, Mechanicsville, Virginia.

Committee members present: H. Eugene Lockhart, William Murray, Minnis E. Ridenour

Committee member absent: Ken Ampy

Council members present: Heywood Fralin, Henry Light

Council members present for part of the meeting: Marge Connelly, G. Gilmer Minor III, and Stephen Moret

Staff present: Peter Blake, Alan Edwards, Lynn Seuffert. Al Wilson, SCHEV counsel from the Office of the Attorney General, also was in attendance.

**WELCOME**

Dr. Murray welcomed committee members, attending Council members, and staff.

He recognized Mr. Blake to frame the meeting.

Mr. Blake informed members that, after the staff update, the draft Call for Proposals for the Round 1 competition of the Virginia Research Investment Fund would be discussed and feedback gathered. Staff would then bring a final version to the May 15-16 committee and Council meetings for approval of the guidelines for Round 1. Mr. Blake reminded members that the statute confers upon Council the responsibility to create the guidelines and VRIC then makes the final approval for awards.

**UPDATES FROM STAFF**

Mr. Blake informed members that VRIC asked staff to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure consultants to conduct an assessment of assets or situational analysis. That assessment would be coordinated with other ongoing efforts, such as the GO VA regional plans, the VEDP strategic plan, and the Research and Technology Strategic Roadmap (the Roadmap). The pieces could all come together near the end of the year.

Mr. Blake asked Dr. Edwards to provide an update on the General Assembly reconvened session.

Dr. Edwards stated that the Governor had amended the bill (HB2245/SB1371), the amendments were accepted by the General Assembly, and it appeared the bill would be signed by the Governor. He provided an overview of changes to the role of VRIC, changes to the role of SCHEV, and changes to the budget language. Dr. Edwards mentioned three changes to the duties assigned to SCHEV by the statute and budget language. First, the development of the Roadmap, after January 1, 2018, will become the responsibility of SCHEV. Second, after establishment by SCHEV of the initial guidelines for application, review, and award of grants, the responsibility for maintaining and updating the guidelines will transition to VRIC. Third, SCHEV will serve as the coordinating body on behalf of VRIC for the study of research assets to be conducted. Dr. Edwards also offered a handout related to that study as described in the budget language.

Dr. Edwards stated that the April 6 VRIC meeting focused on the RFP for the study and the coordination between entities.

He turned to Mr. Blake (Chair of VRIC) and Mr. Fralin (VRIC member) to add their thoughts about the April 6 VRIC meeting. Mr. Blake highlighted the overlap between the Roadmap and the assessment. Mr. Fralin commented that the composition of VRIC members brought the needed skills to the table. He believes that the primary issue is getting research from the laboratory to the marketplace in a way that creates significant high-paying jobs for the Commonwealth.

Mr. Lockhart asked whether the anticipated mapping of assets would rely only on responses from the institutions. He expressed concern that a central research office might not be aware of all the projects underway throughout the enterprise.

Mr. Ridenour suggested that asking the Vice Presidents of Research at each institution to encourage participation throughout their university would ensure results.

Ms. Seuffert suggested that there were ways to double check for gaps in the responses received from institutions, perhaps by reviewing articles published in peer-reviewed journals that, in the aggregate, reveal areas of expertise and then ensuring that information was already reflected in university responses.

Dr. Edwards concluded that staff had reviewed studies from other states to identify consultants that had conducted those studies. Staff also has begun to gather additional information about potential vendors. He stated that a revised version of the RFP would be introduced at the May 19 VRIC meeting, with approval to issue the RFP occurring at the May 24 VRIC meeting.

## **REVIEW OF DRAFT CALL FOR PROPOSALS (ROUND 1 OF THE VIRGINIA RESEARCH INVESTMENT FUND)**

Dr. Murray asked Ms. Seuffert to walk through the draft Call for Proposals. He requested that the focus remain on the content that was discretionary (not required by statute) and for which members could provide guidance.

Ms. Seuffert highlighted salient points in each section and fielded questions.

Mr. Lockhart asked whether staff, Council, or VRIC needed to involve themselves in the issue of intellectual property (IP). Ms. Seuffert stated that each institution has its own standards for IP and it was expected that these would be sufficient.

Mr. Ridenour asked for clarification about the stage or phase of research and commercialization that would be funded. He wanted to ensure that the guidelines were soliciting projects for which the research was well underway and ready to be commercialized. Ms. Seuffert confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Fralin raised the issue of the measures of success. He believes that the Governor and General Assembly are looking to measure the results of these investments. He understands that it could be years before final measures of success would be available.

Mr. Light suggested that, while the General Assembly might have a short-term focus, setting up a new research program such as VRIF is a long-term endeavor.

Ms. Seuffert responded that the measures that would be tracked included both progress metrics and outcome metrics for each funded grant, as well as state-level trends such as ranking. She also stated that some measures would be reported by grantees for five years after the end of the grant period.

Mr. Ridenour asked whether institutions could offer Education & General Program (E&G) funds as part of the match requirement. (E&G revenues are derived mainly from state appropriations and student tuition and fees.) Discussion of potential scenarios followed, such as release time for faculty at comprehensive institutions to conduct research versus using E&G funds as a cash match. Dr. Murray suggested that staff accept comments from institutions about this issue and return at the May meeting with a recommendation.

Mr. Ridenour asked whether there was anything in the Call for Proposals to incentivize growth in external funding. He reminded members of the goal in the Virginia Plan for Higher Education to position the Commonwealth higher in the national rankings for research expenditures.

Mr. Lockhart commented that, in addition to state ranking, VRIF had goals for commercialization of research and economic impact. He asked which entity had responsibility for determining the prioritization of areas of research.

General discussion followed. VRIF areas of research focus are those included in the Roadmap. While the Roadmap is currently administered by CIT, it will transition to Council for development in January 2018, with approval by VRIC and then the Governor.

Mr. Lockhart noted that the VRIF program does not satisfy all of what Council anticipated for Initiative #6 in the Virginia Plan for Higher Education. If Council decides to recommend research priorities beyond VRIF, it might prefer a wider range.

Mr. Lockhart raised a concern whether proposals for researcher recruitment and retention would be at a scoring disadvantage because the sections relating to the commercialization of research and economic development might be less specific or have a longer timeline. Ms. Seuffert responded that the scoring does not offer more points for projects that are closer to commercialization or for projects that have higher estimates of job creation. Instead, the scoring is based on whether the plans described in those sections are realistic and achievable.

Mr. Lockhart asked about responsibility for ensuring that grant funds were spent in accordance with the proposals and according to state rules, as well as whether audits would be conducted. Ms. Seuffert responded that grantees agree to terms and conditions that include these aspects and so they share responsibility. The Auditor of Public Accounts would determine whether a specific project should have a full audit. As staff to VRIC, Ms. Seuffert will be reviewing the financial and narrative progress reports, looking first to assist grantees if it appears they are getting off-track, but also keeping an eye out for red flags. Finally, at some point in the future, Council and VRIC should expect a review by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC).

Mr. Fralin suggested that staff not wait for JLARC. Instead, staff should design a methodology to conduct an internal evaluation of VRIF grant-making on an ongoing basis. In addition to tracking grantee progress, staff should assess the whole concept of using public funds to support research to spur economic development.

## **DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS**

Dr. Murray summed up the meeting by agreeing that conducting program evaluation on an ongoing basis was a wise approach. He also reminded staff that institutions should be informed that the Call for Proposals is available online and that staff welcome feedback before the next meeting.

The next meeting is May 15-16, in conjunction with the regular Council meeting. Action by full Council on the Call for Proposals will be requested May 16.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Murray adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

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William Murray  
Chair, SCHEV Ad Hoc Committee on Research

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Lynn Seuffert  
Associate for Research Investment