



Boards of Visitors Orientation Report

2016

Table of Contents

Overview	2
Planning Group.....	2
Attendance	3
Survey Results.....	3
Orientation Agenda	4-6

Overview

Section 23.1-1304 of the Code of Virginia states that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia “shall develop, in consultation with public institutions of higher education and members of their governing boards, and annually deliver educational programs for the governing boards of such institutions” and “submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Council pursuant to this section no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.” A 2013 amendment to the Code of Virginia stated that new board members “shall participate in an orientation session at least once during their first two years of members.” In 2015, the Code language was amended to provide a process whereby members who do not participate could be removed.

In accordance with this requirement, SCHEV staff held a mandatory orientation session for newly appointed board members on October 18-19, 2016. A copy of the agenda summarizing the topics covered in these meetings is attached.

Planning Group

In order to comply with the mandate to develop the orientation “in consultation with public institutions of higher education and members of their governing boards,” SCHEV created a planning committee that included two current and one retired college president, two Council members, and three college representatives. Representatives from the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Virginia Commission on Higher Education Board Appointments, and the Office of the Attorney General also participated in the planning sessions.

Attendance

2016	
BOV appointments	63
New attendees	57
Rector	1

The eight new members who were unable to attend the 2016 orientation understand that they will be required to attend the 2017 orientation session. The date for that session has been conveyed to the institutions.

Survey Results

Following the orientation session, SCHEV staff asked attendees to complete an evaluation survey. Results of the survey indicate that of the 35 new members that responded, 91 percent rated the sessions as extremely value, very valuable, or valuable. The sessions with the highest ratings included:

- 1) Effective Institutional Governance: Leadership of Public Institutions and Administration of their Missions and Public Purposes
- 2) Consequential Boards: Best Practices of Public-institution Trustees
- 3) Financing Public Higher Education: Impacts of Changing Demographics and Revenue Uncertainties on Affordability, Costs, Tuition and Aid

Boards of Visitors Orientation
Public Higher Education's Public Purposes in the 21st Century
October 18 - 19, 2016
Richmond, Virginia

Tuesday, October 18: Capitol Building

- 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.** **REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING**
House Room 3, Capitol Building (Bank Street entrance)
- 4:00 - 4:15** **Welcome, Introductions and Overview**
- Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education
 - Gil Minor, Chair, State Council of Higher Education
- 4:15 - 5:00** **Perspectives on Board Service**
- Introductions:* Gil Minor, Chair, State Council of Higher Education
- Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia
 - Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
 - Ric Brown, Secretary of Finance
 - Dietra Trent, Secretary of Education
- 5:00 - 6:00** **The Public Purposes of 21st-Century Public Higher Education**
- Introduction:* Tom Slater, Member, State Council of Higher Education
- Kim Hunter Reed, Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
- 6:00 - 7:30** **RECEPTION**
Capitol Rotunda
- Introductions:* Gil Minor, Chair, State Council of Higher Education
- Ralph Northam, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia
 - Mark Herring, Attorney General of Virginia



Boards of Visitors Orientation

Public Higher Education's Public Purposes in the 21st Century

Wednesday, October 19: Capitol Building

- 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.** **REFRESHMENTS, CHECK-IN AND NETWORKING**
House Room 3, Capitol Building (Bank Street entrance)
- 8:00 - 8:15** **Greetings and Opening Remarks**
- Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education
 - Gil Minor, Chair, State Council of Higher Education
- 8:15 - 9:15** **Consequential Boards: Best Practices of Public-institution Trustees**
Introduction: Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education
- Susan Whealler Johnston, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Association of Governing Boards; Member, Radford University Board of Visitors
 - Commenting: James B. Murray, Member, University of Virginia Board of Visitors
- 9:15 - 10:30** **From Excellent Postsecondary System to Best-Educated State:
Boards' Roles in Fulfilling The Virginia Plan for Higher Education**
Moderator: Katharine Webb, Member, State Council of Higher Education
- R. Steven Landes, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
 - Walter Stosch, Member, State Board for Community Colleges
 - Rachel Fowlkes, Member, Radford University Board of Visitors
- Closing:* Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education
- 10:30 - 10:45** **BREAK**
- 10:45am - 12:15pm** **Legal, Ethical and Fiduciary Responsibilities of Boards:**
Introduction: Henry Light, Member, State Council of Higher Education
- Maria J.K. Everett, Executive Director, FOIA Advisory Council
 - Tim Oksman, Opinions Counselor for the Attorney General
 - Al Wilson, Senior Assistant Attorney General
- Closing:* Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education
- 12:15 - 1:30** **LUNCH**
Senate Room 3, Capitol Building
- Group/Table Discussions:**
- Conveying Citizenship Skills (as well as Workplace Skills)
 - Civil Discourse/Campus Dialogue (Free Speech, Assembly/Protest)
 - Student Welfare and Campus Safety
 - FOIA Implications for Boards and Individual Members
 - Foundations as Independent Entities and the Bounds of Trustees' Involvement



1:30 – 3:00

Financing Public Higher Education: Impacts of Changing Demographics and Revenue Uncertainties on Affordability, Costs, Tuition and Aid

Moderator: Michael Maul, Associate Director, Department of Planning and Budget

- Jim Chapman, Rector, Virginia Tech Board of Visitors
- Colette Sheehy, Senior Vice President for Operations, University of Virginia
- Jennifer (J.J.) Wagner Davis, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, George Mason University

3:00 – 3:15

BREAK

3:15 – 4:15

Effective Institutional Governance: Leadership of Public Institutions and Administration of their Missions and Public Purposes

Moderator: Ken Ampy, Member, State Council of Higher Education

- Susan Whealler Johnston, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Association of Governing Boards, Member, Radford University Board of Visitors
- John Luke, Rector, Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors
- Taylor Reveley IV, President, Longwood University
- Paul Tribble, President, Christopher Newport University

4:15 – 4:30

Synthesis, Conclusions and Appreciation

- Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education
- Gil Minor, Chair, State Council of Higher Education

4:30

Distribution of Certificates of Completion and Governor's Pins

- Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Ben Hermerding, Records Manager, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Planning Committee Members

John Alger, James Madison University
Peter Blake, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Fran Bradford, College of William and Mary
Paula Gentius, Norfolk State University
Eva Hardy, Virginia Commission on Higher Education Board Appointments
Penelope Kyle, Radford University
Henry Light, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Makola Abdullah, Virginia State University
Emily O'Brion, Longwood University
Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Dietra Trent, Secretary of Education
Al Wilson, Office of the Attorney General
Katharine Webb, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia



Boards of Visitors Orientation • October 18 - 19, 2016