

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
Restructuring Subcommittee
August 17, 2010

Mr. Bland called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. in the SCHEV main conference room, James Monroe building, 101 N 14th Street, 9th floor, Richmond, Virginia.

Subcommittee members present: Gilbert Bland and Katharine Webb

SCHEV Staff present: Jim Alessio, Andrew Fogarty, Tod Massa, Lee Ann Rung, and Diane Vermaaten.

Additional attendees: Keith T. Miller, Felix Davis, Jr.; James McNeer, LeAnn Binger, Russell Whitaker; Scott Bevins

WELCOME

Mr. Bland welcomed Dr. Fogarty and expressed the Council's gratitude for his willingness to step out of retirement to fill the Interim Director position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Webb and seconded by Mr. Bland to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2010 meeting as distributed.

DISCUSSION WITH VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Bland welcomed President Miller and Mr. Davis and asked Mr. Alessio to provide an overview of the history of Restructuring in Virginia. Mr. Bland said while the Council is aware of the implications if institutions are not certified, it still has certain responsibilities in Restructuring. However, the Council would like to assist the institutions in being successful. Mr. Alessio answered questions by President Miller about the difference between the three levels of Restructuring and the subcommittee reiterated its offer to assist Virginia State University in its efforts with regard to Restructuring.

REMEDIAL PLAN UPDATES - RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE (RBC)

Dr. McNeer introduced LeAnn Binger and Russell Whitaker. Dr. McNeer thanked Mr. Alessio and Mr. Massa and provided a status of where RBC will be by year-end. Dr. McNeer said that since the report was prepared, his staff has met with staff at William and Mary (CWM) to better address areas in which they were remiss. He also indicated that RBC is partnering with Southside Regional Medical Center to collaborate in

delivering an Associate degree in Health Sciences to address the nursing shortage. RBC is also working with a national clearinghouse to determine how well students do and where they go after leaving the institution. Ms. Binger and Mr. Whitaker provided information about meetings they have had with CWM and ways in which the college is assisting RBC. A student engagement survey will be conducted by Dr. Eddy at CWM and RBC is breaking ground on a new recreational facility that will be easily accessible to the residence halls. RBC is revamping its student advising system to better assist students to be sure they are taking the right courses in order to transfer to a four-year institution of their choice.

Mr. Whitaker said by mid-September Dr. Eddy will submit a research plan with a three-prong approach. First is the engagement survey in which focus groups will get feedback on student needs and areas for improvement. Second, graduate students from CWM will do a literature review of best practices in the areas of retention, graduation rates, and remedial education. Third, is data gathering. It will be a year long process and a timeline and list of needed resources will be submitted to RBC by Dr. Eddy.

Mr. Alessio provided background information on the residence halls and how it impacted retention and graduation rates for RBC and complimented the administration for the way in which it approached the issue. Mr. Bland asked if RBC experienced any cultural or process changes during the remediation process. Dr. McNeer said it helped them focus on problems and brought them closer to CWM. The institution continues to work on diversity. Of the over 30% minority students this year, half, if not more, are in the residence hall.

REMEDIAL PLAN UPDATES – UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AT WISE (UVA-W)

Mr. Bevins provided the update in lieu of Chancellor Prior, who was not present because UVA's new president (Dr. Sullivan), was on his campus. Mr. Bevins highlighted portions of the report from UVA-W and provided background from the remediation report.

Mr. Bevins indicated that the new Provost at UVA-W is very eager to assist in the process and he reported that the staff at UVA-W is continuing to work with staff at UVA on a regular basis. The ongoing initiatives were discussed as well as the new improvement strategies for 2010, including the communication plan entitled, "Retention Momentum." He indicated that UVA-W is looking at the demographics of groups of students and has started a new student information system to provide faculty with more student information. The new system is also more user-friendly to students. The institution is currently working on a dashboard for advising, retention, and registration. A freshman seminar has been introduced for provisionally admitted students so they can be identified and monitored throughout the process. Mr. Bevins said he can't stress enough the amount of monitoring the institution is doing and they are really focused on meeting the measures.

Mr. Alessio said UVA-W seems to be back on target and moving ahead. Mr. Bland asked Mr. Bevins to express to Chancellor Prior the Council's gratitude for embracing the spirit of the Restructuring process.

REVIEW OF 2011-12 THROUGH 2015-16 INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (IPS) TARGETS/THRESHOLDS

It was mentioned that institutions that had trouble meeting standards have done an outstanding job turning the situation around.

Ms. Webb suggested that the Council document ways in which it is reaching out to institutions, and Mr. Massa reminded the members that January is the kick-off for the enrollment projection process. He suggested that staff could include questions about IPS and discuss aspects of restructuring during the narrative part of the enrollment projection process as well as in individual meetings with institutions during that process.

Dr. Fogarty indicated that he would reinforce the importance of this work in the next General Professional Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting with the college presidents.

Mr. Alessio indicated that he could meet with the institutions one last time to be sure they are comfortable with the numbers being submitted and then another meeting of this group to get the subcommittee's final sign-off before it is submitted to the Council for approval in October. Ms. Webb felt it should be left to staff to work with institutions that may need to be encouraged to stretch a bit while still meeting their targets. Mr. Bland suggested that this could also be enforced at the upcoming Boards of Visitors (BOV) conference to educate new members.

It was decided that Mr. Alessio would meet again with institutions and bring back a final set of numbers that each institution has agreed upon and is comfortable submitting. An additional meeting of the subcommittee will be scheduled for late September or early October.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Gilbert T. Bland
Subcommittee Chair

Lee Ann Rung
Manager for Executive & Council Affairs