

Restructuring Subcommittee Meeting
SCHEV Main Conference Room
September 15, 2009

Council Members Present: Gilbert Bland, Chair, G. Gilmer Minor, Katharine Webb, Alan Wurtzel

Institutional Representatives Present: John Casteen, President, University of Virginia (UVA); David Prior, Chancellor, University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVA-W); Colette Sheehy, Vice President for Management and Budget, University of Virginia

SCHEV Staff Present: James Alessio; Daniel LaVista; Tod Massa; Lee Ann Rung

Mr. Bland called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and discussed the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Alessio provided background information about the timetable of actions that have occurred to date, including the concerns expressed by the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) related to a lack of formal written procedures and continuity plans.

Mr. Prior distributed a Remediation Plan that included ongoing initiatives as well as new improvement strategies for FY2010 and addressed the steps that have been taken to address each of the seven best practices suggested by the APA. Mr. Prior indicated that UVA-W will meet measure 11 with regard to retention by next spring.

Mr. Wurtzel indicated that he was very impressed with the report that was presented.

Mr. Casteen indicated that in Restructuring it is difficult to determine what is considered significant and expect institutions to manage these areas.

Mr. Wurtzel suggested that a faculty mentor could be assigned to each student and Mr. Casteen reminded the subcommittee that the Commonwealth has not fully funded base adequacy to handle a more favorable faculty to student ratio.

Mr. Wurtzel suggested that graduate students from UVA could provide assistance to UVA-W by preparing a paper on best practices in retention for use throughout the Commonwealth.

Mr. Bland thanked Mr. Prior for providing such an informative plan of action and expressed his endorsement.

Mr. Alessio asked if UVA-W expects any potential issues for the next round of measures. Mr. Prior indicated that they expect to pass the financial measure. He also indicated that graduation rates are expected to be the same as December of last year. Mr. Alessio indicated that certification will take place in May 2010 and will be based on the year that just ended.

Mr. Massa reminded the institution that in addition to the new data system that has been implemented, there is still a need to provide back up to staff that use the system.

Mr. Bland asked for input from the institution on whether or not the Restructuring process has been helpful and if there are lessons to be learned about the process. Mr. Prior said that no one data point or measure will be able to tell the story or provide the value-added about the university, but he believed that starting a conversation about these issues will improve their services to students who need support. He still disputes the structure of the process that does not allow for more leeway when failing one measure. Mr. Casteen indicated that the problem is with the law rather than with the Council. He indicated that it's difficult to legislate certain things such as variations in completion rates from one year to the next. Mr. Casteen also suggested using software and computer labs for remedial work in order to eliminate teaching remedial courses, much like the math emporium developed by Virginia Tech.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Gilbert Bland, Subcommittee Chair

Lee Ann Rung, Mgr. for Executive & Council
Affairs