

**Student Advisory Committee Minutes
Friday, February 1, 2019
9th Floor, James Monroe Building
SCHEV Main Conference Room**

Members Present: James Caprara (ECPI University), Mary Zell Galen (Longwood University), Cody Hartley (Radford University), Hunter Hess (The University of Virginia College at Wise), Lilliauna Hopkins (Norfolk State University), Karen Huang (Southwest Virginia Community College), Jewel Hurt (James Madison University), Sarah Izabel (Virginia Commonwealth University), Aquila Maliyekkal (University of Richmond), Alexis Helmer (Christopher Newport University), Alexis Pedrick (Richard Bland College), William Reeves (Virginia Military Institute), Caleb Stinchcomb (Virginia Western Community College), Tarik Terry (Old Dominion University), Isaac Weintz (University of Virginia), , Peyton Wilmer (Virginia Tech)

SCHEV Staff Present: Peter Blake, Scott Kemp, Ashley Lockhart, Beverly Rebar, , Laura Osberger, Paula Robinson, and Kristin Whelan.

Others Present: Ellen Neufeld, Old Dominion University via phone, Patricia Parker, VCCS/SCHEV Project Director, Transfer VA; Dirya Vashisht, SCHEV intern (VCU)

- Paula Robinson (SCHEV) brought the meeting to order, welcomed attendees and asked for campus updates.
- Campus updates and introductions were provided by each member:
 - Christopher Newport University – Alexis Helmer – CNU has expanded facilities and erected new buildings but have purposefully not expanded the size of the student body. The administration and students partnered for an MLK community event. It has been decided that in the future, CNU will celebrate MLK day with a half day of classes and a half day of service. CNU is expanding the Business graduate program. CNU is also exploring forming a gender neutral residence hall.
 - ECPI University – James Caprara – The students are excited about a shipment of new computers. The school and students are organizing to provide computers for troops. A Hacking club has been created.
 - James Madison University – Jewel Hurt – Jewel wrote a letter to the President regarding disability access on campus. In response, the institution created a standing committee to address access, and another to address concerns for transfer students. JMU is working on acquiring and installing cameras in the parking decks and will enact a bill opinion to gain feedback from students. Parking-permit fees will be used to cover the costs. A statement of inclusion to be a part of the syllabi from now on. There has been much discussion about the Federal Department of Education proposed changes to Title IX. The JMU Diversity committee is finishing up big project – “I too, am JMU.” *The BOV meeting next week.* In light of the Bill Bolling scandal, JMU students lobbied the General Assemble in support of Senator Obenshain’s bill which seeks to implement a two-year waiting period before institutions hire members of their Board of Visitors.

- Longwood University - Mary Zell Galen – There have been two lobby days organized for students to head to the General Assembly to discuss and address issues on campus, the school has organized monthly town halls with invited experts. A joint town hall with Hampden Sydney is also planned. The school has finally resolved issues with anti-Semitic vandalism. A food pantry, named Ellwood’s Cabin was created. The SGA organized a leadership retreat at the Roberta Russa Moton civil rights museum. Students are lobbying the administration to allow the training of service dogs on campus. Dorm renovation continues. Mary attended the Board of Visitors orientation and found the discussion of mental health issues and community policing interesting.
- Norfolk State University – Lilliuana Hopkins – All students affected by lack of housing at the beginning of the fall semester have been moved on to campus. NSU has a new front entrance gate. A new dorm will be complete in August of 2019 and will provide 600 additional beds and a community kitchen. Lilliuana shared that NSU has an on-campus childcare academy, an accredited on-campus daycare center available to provide free childcare to part and full-time students. Students studying Early Childhood Education perform their work-study and internships there. The student transfer office, the “Transformation Center” has gained its own offices. Campus safety is addressed with call boxes, active shooter training and restricting the study rooms in the public library on campus to student use only.
- Old Dominion University – Terrik Terry – The ODU police department is working on their reaccreditation. During the process, the police department invited student input and there was a large turnout. Racial sensitivity has been a concern on campus since an incident involving a sorority posting racial remarks on Twitter. The chapter is suspended. The school organized a town hall to discuss the issue. ODU is making use of a program called Party Smart, a self-reporting tool allowing students to report plans for off-campus parties.
- Radford University – Cody Hartley – Student group is working on organizing a safety drill on campus while more students are there, versus during the summer. There is a sexual assault awareness event coming up, a safety walk wherein students walk through the city and identify specific locations where there are safety concerns (lack of lighting, for example) and make recommendations to the City Manager. Cody visited the General Assembly for a Lobby day and meeting with Workforce Secretary, Megan Healy and Public Safety and Homeland Security Secretary, Brian Moran. Radford merged with Jefferson College of Medicine. There was a well-attended vigil on campus in honor of the slain student. Cody shared that he enjoyed the BOV orientation and getting ideas from attending.
- Richard Bland College – Alexis Pedrick – Students are meeting with the president about expanding library hours. The campus celebrated MLK day of service at nursing homes and cleaning up campus. Among improvements on campus: Student engagement is up, there are more active clubs and shuttle services for off-campus destinations have been added for the weekends. Students are helping to stock a cold weather shelter for the city of Petersburg. Advisors have created Walk-in Wednesdays to give students access to advising without an appointment. RBC has also created panels to help students with disabilities.
- Southwest Virginia Community College – Karen Huang – SWCC is remodeling its very old cafeteria. The school has also made other much needed repairs. They are working on a plan to provide free tuition. SGA finalized the first honor code and have discussed ways to keep students on campus when not in class. They hope to organize a Comic Con and dances.
- The University of Virginia’s College at Wise – Hunter Hess – UVA Wise signed an agreement with Appalachia School of Pharmacy to offer a joint degree. The chancellor was in a skiing accident and has treated it as an opportunity to study the campus’ ADA compliance. The institution is hosting a TedX event May 2nd.
- University of Richmond – Aquila Maliyekkal – Student groups are working with the administration to get the University to develop a specific and codified speech code. Thus far, a plan has passed

through SGA and passed back and forth between faculty and administration. The Free Expression panel is meeting this week to discuss and will include students and some faculty. A student suicide on campus last year exposed the need to create better student mental health services. Student groups are currently putting together a mental health awareness week. Student groups want to create a publication on “how to not be rich at University Richmond,” patterned off of one created at the University of Michigan, with ideas on how to survive on less,, such as where to eat and find affordable activities off campus.

- University of Virginia – Isaac Weintz – UVA received its largest ever single donation of 120 million dollars for a Data Sciences School. University Student Council is working with the new president on exploring ways to ensure that employees receiving living wages. The renovation of Alderman Library continues and the Brandon Avenue on-ground housing project is underway. Bird scooters have arrived in Charlottesville and are causing debates. UVA sororities advocating for improved lighting and safety enhancements in the Corner Area. Basketball team is doing well.
 - Virginia Commonwealth University – Sarah Izabel – President Rao just delivered his State of the University address. He shared findings that 17% of VCU graduates move up 2 income quartiles. This is significant at a school that serves many lower income and first generation students. VCU was granted a \$21.5 million NIH clinic research grant and are ranked in the top 20 in children’s health care. For the first time on the east coast, VCU team performed a robotic assisted kidney transplant. VCU has great student diversity and is now working toward matching the faculty diversity to the student diversity. Concerns remain around faculty retention. Sarah attended the SCHEV Board of Visitors Orientation in October and was impressed with the concentration on mental health issues in the session she attended.
 - Virginia Military Institute – William Reeves – VMI reports low sexual assault and crime rates. VMI staff good are about meeting with students with documented disabilities and providing note-takers and extra time, among other services. Freshman are about to become full-fledged cadets.
 - Virginia Tech – Peyton Wilmer – President Sands plans to make Tech more affordable. He presented a new masterplan including new academic centers and a new Amazon deal in Alexandria. The department of energy awarded 4 Tech researchers \$1.8 Million to study reducing stress that renewable energy places on US power grids.
 - Virginia Western Community College – Caleb Stinchcomb - Enrollment are stable which is a good since enrollment numbers usually shrink in the spring semester. The school has made text-to-talk technology available for disabled students. The school is looking for ways to elicit more student involvement and has planned social activities including sending a group of students to Charlotte to watch the Hornets play. Virginia Southwestern Community College partners with VaTech and RU to encourage and ease transfer to 4-year institutions.
- SCHEV Director, Peter Blake thanked the students for their service on the Student Advisory Committee.
 - Beverly Rebar gave a legislative update. Governor’s budget amendments included 5.5 million in aid for financial aid and 5.2 increase in TAG grant. SCHEV is advocating for money to conduct a survey of graduate outcomes.
 - Laura Osberger discussed the strategic plan to improve the way that SCHEV communicates with students and asked for committee input. The students said most of their information on the college search came from school counselors and internet sites such as College Confidential. They suggested that having students who just graduated high school and started college come back to sit on panels at high schools. The peer-to-peer influence is strong. Students stressed the best ways to communicate with them is through social media - Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and Snapchat (limited). They also suggested that keeping track and sharing what graduates are doing after college is information they would use. The committee agreed that an online form to assist students in tracking their college application process

would be helpful.

- Scott Kemp, SCHEV's Student Loan Advocate introduced himself and described the new role at SCHEV. Kemp will provide a full presentation at the next SAC meeting.
- Paula Robinson discussed dual enrollment perception project summary. The students shared their experiences and frustrations with dual enrollment credit at their institutions.
- Patricia Parker discussed transfer experiences at Virginia Institutions and the TransferVA plans that are underway to help improve the transfer process for students and increase efficiencies.
- Ashley Lockhart joined the group to discuss her work on students with disabilities and campus safety and sexual assault issues. The students shared some of the activities on their campus surrounding these issues.
- Ellen Neufeld joined the group via web conferencing to discuss the concerns specific to adult students and underrepresented populations on campus. She discussed how the college experience is different for adult and nontraditional students and emphasized that support services should be designed accordingly..
- Paula Robinson adjourned the meeting at 2:30. The chairs of the committee will present to the Council meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at Virginia Tech.
- Next meeting will be April 12, 2019 at the SCHEV office.