



**Student Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Friday, February 23, 2018**  
**State Council of Higher Education for Virginia**  
**Main Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Maher AL Tayara (Blue Ridge Community College), Daniel Elliott (Eastern Shore Community College), Jewel Hurt (James Madison University), Morgan Rollins (Longwood University), Tylisha Butler (New River Community College), Priscilla Obuabang (Old Dominion University), Ryley Harris (Radford University), Joshua Byrd (Randolph Macon College), Luis Torres Serrano (Richard Bland College), Isaac Weintz (University of Virginia), Natalie Chapman (University of Virginia – Wise), Isaiah Harvin (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Saherah Khan (Virginia Tech).

**SCHEV Staff Present:** Peter Blake, Richard Cole, Beverly Covington, Wendy Kang, Paula Robinson

- Paula Robinson (SCHEV) brought the meeting to order, welcomed attendees and introduced guests – Peter Blake and Deputy Secretary Fran Bradford.
- Peter Blake, SCHEV Executive Director, provided an update on the General Assembly and the legislative process. Focus of discussions are on Medicaid. There appears to be a great difference between the two chambers. The Governor weighs in. The elections in the fall led to a lot of changes and a large margin win for the Governor. The changes present both opportunities and challenges. Developing relationships makes the difference and getting to know each of the new legislators and understanding what brought them to their new roles
- Fran Bradford, Deputy Secretary of Education, Higher Education, greeted members shared her journey from the College of William and Mary to her current role. She reiterated the opportunities of new legislators and their reliance on SCHEV to provide background and guidance on higher education issues. She encouraged members to consider legislative careers themselves.
- Student discussion with the Deputy:
  - Common themes -Safety, transfer, transportation, parking and enrollment growth. Recognized challenge presented in interests to grow enrollment with declining number of high school graduates and raised interest in engaging more underrepresented students and returning adult learners. Financial aid, offered majors and proximity to home were the primary considerations in making college decisions.
- Appreciate legislators and administrators that come to campuses of all sizes
- Concern expressed about the cost of books particularly at campus bookstores
- Students utilize Amazon, but note again that some books with online access codes cannot be purchased used. Widespread use of Amazon and other online resources has caused campus bookstores not to maintain large inventory and causes a delay for students who do/cannot buy online
- Concerns about maintaining quality of instruction and meeting student needs as enrollment grows
- Blurred lines between in/out of state tuition and students

- Interest in voter registration on campus, policies about absentee voting, local voting precinct accessibility, precinct changes due to dorm changes . Governor’s Millennial Taskforce on Civic Engagement addressed many of these issues under McAuliffe. Interest in Northam picking up where the Taskforce left off.
- Admissions – concerns about student supports that promote student success beyond the first year
- Virginia’s Governor’s Fellows Program applications are open and due March 18.
- Student representatives share brief updates on student concerns and campus happenings:
  - Virginia Commonwealth University –Concern: There is lots of growth, but limited space. Institute for Contemporary Art and new residence hall. Entrepreneurship and innovation are key pieces of the University’s strategic plan. Looking to tailor admissions and retain students. There is also a focus on graduate and professional student aid - graduate scholarships for students.
  - UVA Wise – Concerns: Enrollment and growth complicated by decline in high school graduation rates from service area and competition from out-of-state schools. Tennessee is offering in-state rates to boundary counties and also has a free community college effort. Budget – sporadic state support; received \$20 million dollar endowment from personal giver and match from UVA. Financial incentive will help grow enrollment. Governor support to grown academic programs, faculty /staff and students, including graduate programs. There is a new transit system - Cavalier Connection and a Chick Fila now on campus.
  - Randolph Macon College– Concerns, growing enrollment. Around 1400 students now. There is a capitol campaign. Refining and adding academic programs, have added 2-4 majors and a number of minors. Working on more internship opportunities and affordability.
  - Blue Ridge CC – Just celebrated 50 year anniversary. Challenges – tuition and fees. Parking had been an issue, but there is a new lot. Concerned about single working moms and their ability to find child care while in school. Developing committee to look at issues.
  - Radford University – Change in leadership and focus have occurred over the years, beginning in 2005 with a focus on growth of the campus and now a new president (2015) with a focus on increasing campus morale, research and service. Radford has an Office of Sustainability – which focuses on raising awareness of energy efficiency, recycling and sustainable dining. Radford wants to meet the needs of the present without compromising the future. Radford wants to be the most sustainable in the country in addition to being the best educated. New positions filled – Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Admissions. There are also a number of new openings.
  - Old Dominion University – New buildings opened in November. Focus on entrepreneurship - Monarch Entrepreneurial Retail store – similar to shark tank supporting student product development and sales. New education building and dining hall. Engineering Week shared events with the campus and local high and middle schoolers with competitions on the lawn and outreach. Upcoming graduation fair to help prepare seniors. Expect to open a new, donor supported, art museum by the end of the year.
  - New River CC – Concern: Transportation. Students working to organize car pools to support one another. Easing Transfer. Upcoming Family Fun Fest for the community. A new president, Pat Huber, began in the fall. Honors society induction ceremony planned for March. Expanded ACE program from Giles to other surrounding areas to support student enrollment and access.
  - Eastern Shore CC – Broke ground for new academic and administration buildings in the fall. President resigned in January, new President (interim) is Billy Greer former president of Virginia Wesleyan College. ESCC is part of the Rural Horseshoe initiative, which assists students and enrollment. Developing early education transfer program. Concerns about dual enrollment and smooth transition

to four year institutions. Spring enrollment down. Transportation also a concern.

- Longwood University – Concern: Counseling services, new hire will help create more flexibility for supporting students. Growth - opening new building (student success center), university center, three hotels and restaurants in Farmville. Large delegation of LU students participated in VA21 lobby day.. SGA elections in March. New provost (interim). Celebrating Women’s History Month in March - Red Flag campaign, Bare Naked Ladies (all-inclusive campus organization).
  - Richard Bland College – Concern: out of state tuition. In-state tuition is reasonable with aid. Difficulty in transfer of credit (esp. math) to other schools. Limited number of foreign languages offered, only Spanish and French. Interested in partnership with Eastern Virginia Medical College. Have pathway to College of William & Mary. Offering support for international student enrollment. Searching for hosts for students during breaks.
  - University of Virginia - Concern: Tuition - ACCESS UVA meets full need and it continues to evolve, trying to increase endowment funding to support the program. Effort currently receives some funding support from student tuition. Students want to maintain tuition for all 4 years. Safety - ambassador program and security focus resulted from August events, which also raised freedom of speech issues that continue to be discussed as the campus struggles to understand the line between concerns for protecting freedom of speech and promoting safety. #1 in ACC basketball. New president coming in next year – James Ryan. University currently exposing him to students and stakeholder groups. Celebrating Bicentennial in 2019 – 200 years old. Renovating main library and engaging students in the process.
  - VATEch – Concern: Space. University wants to double student enrollments, this past year had the highest number of accepted and admitted students. Efforts have been made to ease space and capacity issues, such a mobile ordering to manage dining hall lines and commuting carpool systems (share pass) aid with parking limitations. SGA hosting event to talk about textbook costs with faculty. Certain disciplines have greater concerns with textbooks, such as engineering. Many books cannot be re-used due to software key. Strong faculty focus on research. Blacksburg growing with three new hotels, chain restaurants and increasing traffic flow. Campus building cadet dorm. Renovating liberal arts building.
  - James Madison University – Just completed SGA elections, SAC representative returning president. Students engaged in hiring process of new Vice President of Student Affairs. Board of Visitors reviewing new tuition plan. Pride in being the best at the lowest cost, but now challenged with funding for paying faculty and providing scholarships for students in need. Revisioning Dukes Vote. SGA lobbied. Center for Civic Engagement focusing on education, current events and politics , SGA lobbied, SGA used budget to fund 8 student civic engagement projects. Campus conversations about supporting DACA students – sit in on Wilson steps advocating for DACA students; active shooter drills, campus safety and security of buildings. Safety concerns pointed about by students are being assessed.
- Beverly Covington, SCHEV Senior Associate for Academic & Legislative Affairs shared about Open Education Resources as a resource for textbook costs. Instructors develop their own materials. Number of schools in VA have Z degrees where there are no textbooks, i.e. New river, ODU, VATEch.
  - Reviewed list of current higher education bills (see posted Legislative Update)
  - Questions about TAG, FIOA (HB1, SB512), Freedom of Speech (HB344), HB1473, notice and public comment on tuition and fee increases. Substance abuse HB44 (died in committee). HB45 (in education and health) making family education permissible, but not required.
  - Tod Massa, SCHEV Policy Analytics Director presented on Student Wages and Debt
  - Preliminary review of new wage and debt data report and resource tools that identify wage outcomes for students in the Commonwealth. It is the most comprehensive student wage and debt reporting in the

country. Institutions are required to publish links to this data. Most in the room were unaware of the existence of the data.

- New tool shares 18-month post-completion median wage, percentage of graduates with reported wage, median debt and percent of graduates with student debt. Report also lists Top 25 programs rank ordered by state level cohort size – Psychology is the largest, trailed by Business Administration and Management
- New data reports/tools are not available publically yet, but will be shared with Committee when available. SCHEV still working to make data more user friendly. Students suggested sharing the information with high school counselors, home-schooled students, road shows and guidance information on the site to ease understanding of available information and how it may be used..
- Richard Cole, SCHEV Certification Specialist, presented on Student Rights and the Compliant Process. What happens when something goes wrong in school? There is a way to handle it and there is help online for the student complaint process and student rights:
  - Presentation – posted
  - Student Complaint process - <http://schev.edu/index/students-and-parents/resources/student-complaints>
  - Student Complaint form - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StudentComplaintForm>
- Morgan Rollins, SAC Chair, led a discussion on SAC focus efforts and the development of the presentation for the upcoming March 20 Council meeting.
- Students discussed freedom of speech and incidents on campus as the presentation topic
- Identified court documents and need to understand “clear and present danger” as part of the discussion
- Freedom of Speech defines and sets the United States apart from all other countries. College campuses are a sanctuary space for that.
- Acknowledged the fine line between freedom of speech and respect for others space and safety - limit assembly locations, require permission to use space, create an environment/culture of collaboration and respect
- Safety of students should never be in question. Share from lessons learned between institutions and student body
- Identification of campus contacts for related issues, vary from campus to campus and are unknown to some. Noted offices included the Dean of Students Office, Office of Equal Access and Opportunity, SGA , Taskforce on Inclusion, and the offering of various support services
- Announcements:
  - March 20 – SCHEV Council meeting, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM @ CNU
    - Presentation of SAC report
    - This meeting is optional. Please notify Paula if you plan to attend.
  - March 23 – SAC meeting (#4), 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM @ SCHEV
    - Feel free to bring your successor, if known
- Group photo (posted)
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM