

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL RETREAT
AUGUST 21, 2019
MINUTES**

Mr. Fralin called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. in the Board Room of Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP, Richmond, Virginia. Council members present: Heywood Fralin, Henry Light, Stephen Moret, William Murray, Carlyle Ramsey, Tom Slater and Katharine Webb.

COUNCIL MEMBERS MARGE CONNELLY AND VICTORIA HARKER PARTICIPATED VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE.

Council members absent: Ken Ampy, Rosa Atkins, Gene Lockhart, Marianne Radcliff.

Other attendees present: Pam Currey, Minnis Ridenour.

SCHEV staff present: Tom Allison, Peter Blake, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Jodi Fisler, Ashley Lockhart, Tod Massa, Beverly Rebar, Paula Robinson, Lee Ann Rung, Emily Salmon, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

Deb Love from the Office of the Attorney General also was in attendance.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Blake thanked Mr. Slater for hosting the meeting. Mr. Fralin requested that action on the strategic roadmap be taken first.

ACTION ITEM ON THE DRAFT COMMONWEALTH RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC ROADMAP

Ms. Salmon presented the information and noted research areas of focus and actionable steps. She reviewed the PowerPoint slides that provided a review of the Roadmap's goal and use specified in the *Code of Virginia*. She summarized the development process and opened a discussion on the emerging themes and areas of research focus.

Mr. Blake noted that Mr. Slater and Mr. Light attended several of the meetings and members engaged in a conversation about the direction of the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC) and whether the legislation is focused in the right area. Mr. Slater mentioned that another purpose of VRIC and SCHEV's involvement in it, is to convene colleges and universities to start working together rather than in silos.

Mr. Fralin asked if legislation was needed that focuses on commercialization and may provide better results for the Commonwealth. Mr. Blake congratulated Ms. Salmon for her efforts in working with the panel of independent experts.

On a motion by Mr. Slater and seconded by Dr. Ramsey, the following resolution was approved unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia finds the draft Commonwealth Research and Technology Strategic Roadmap to be a cohesive and comprehensive framework developed in collaboration with a panel of independent experts and in compliance with statutory requirements; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council approves the draft Roadmap and encourages its submission by the Virginia Research Investment Committee to the appropriate officials in the executive and legislative branches prior to final approval by the Committee and the Governor; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council extends its sincerest appreciation to the 13 collaborating experts, whose exceptional contributions to the Roadmap have placed the Commonwealth and its innovation ecosystem on a strong and improved trajectory.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Dr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Webb, the minutes from the June 14, 2019, retreat were approved unanimously (9-0).

GOALS FOR THE DAY

Mr. Slater stated the goals and indicated that by the end of the day he hoped to get consensus on any changes or modifications to The Virginia Plan for Higher Education. His four take-away messages from the June retreat were: educational attainment; workforce development; rainy day fund; and communication plan. Ms. Connelly said Council's interest is in getting results. She indicated that staff has done a great job over the last year acquiring input from Council and other experts, including other states. She encouraged members to add any strategies they feel strongly about.

DISCUSSION OF PRIORITY TOPICS FOR POTENTIAL STRATEGIES AND/OR INITIATIVES

Mr. Allison presented the first of six priority topics for discussion (funding). He reviewed each of the known issues, as well as what we are doing on each topic. Finally, potential solutions were discussed and members provided feedback to staff.

Dr. DeFilippo reviewed the second topic (alignment) and reviewed potential solutions. Ms. Connelly expressed interest in having someone "own" this item in order to maintain its progress. Ms. Webb said the current program approval process in Virginia should be included to encourage a more proactive approach in the process. Mr. Ridenour suggested that career planning and advising are critical both in colleges and in the Pre-K system. Mr. Fralin suggested that staff work with Mr. Moret to determine needs in this area and provide a report at the next meeting.

Dr. DeFilippo discussed the third topic (teacher shortages) and reported that much work has been done in recent years. He answered questions and received suggestions from members.

Dr. DeFilippo discussed the fourth topic (efficiencies) and answered questions. Ms. Connelly suggested that Council consider taking a framework that is already in place and customize it for Virginia. She stated that many schools are at an inflection point with infrastructure and suggested that this item be moved as quickly as possible. Ms. Harker agreed that we should not reinvent the wheel and run the risk of delayed progress.

Ms. Robinson addressed the fifth topic (access, enrollment and completion). She reviewed the items and answered questions from members. Mr. Moret suggested that Council consider inviting Sara Goldrick-Rab to speak at a future meeting. Dr. Goldrick-Rab's focus is on the cost side of enabling access and completion, and includes the financial challenges students face in attending and completing college. He suggested that the barriers may be more significant than we realize and are getting worse.

Ms. Robinson and Mr. Allison discussed the sixth topic (equity and outcomes). Members provided their opinions and raised concerns about the unlimited pricing power of higher education and the possible price bubble.

The chair called for a break at 4:35 p.m. The meeting resumed at 4:40.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING VIRGINIA PLAN GOALS, STRATEGIES AND PRIORITY INITIATIVES

Mr. Blake again thanked Mr. Slater for hosting and Council members for attending and contributing to the discussion. In an effort to save time, he chose not to review the potential modifications charts, saying that staff would like to sharpen these and bring back to Council as action items. Employer assessment and supply and demand are imperative, and it is important to maintain equity in everything we do. Mr. Blake suggested that SCHEV seek a legislator to request that SCHEV conduct this work in order to have an owner and champion of the initiatives, with SCHEV acting as a catalyst. In summary, he said we have made much progress and accomplished what Mr. Slater and Ms. Connelly set out to do, and noted that staff has a lot to go on based on the discussions. Mr. Blake recommended that staff incorporate the suggestions from this meeting and continue the discussion in September.

Invited speakers to the September meeting will stimulate conversation between Council and public college presidents.

In response to Mr. Light's question about addressing the gaps in the rural horseshoe that Governor Baliles raised last year, Mr. Fralin suggested that staff consider inviting input from potential new legislators to talk about their perception of what SCHEV should be doing.

Members thanked Mr. Ridenour for his participation. Mr. Fralin suggested that staff invite members of the Op Six group to a future meeting to share their understanding of

SCHEV's work and get their reaction to The Virginia Plan. He also suggested that SCHEV solicit input from the public college presidents to learn how they have incorporated The Virginia Plan into their institutions' strategic plans. Mr. Blake suggested that staff convene a small panel of presidents to meet with Council at a separate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Katharine M. Webb
Council Secretary

Lee Ann Rung
Director, Executive and Board Affairs