

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
JOINT MEETING WITH PRIVATE COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD (PCAB)
MAY 18, 2020
DRAFT MINUTES**

Mr. Fralin called the virtual meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Council members present: Ken Ampy, Rosa Atkins, Marge Connelly, Heywood Fralin, Victoria Harker, Thaddeus Holloman, Henry Light, William Murray, Carlyle Ramsey, Marianne Radcliff, Tom Slater and Katharine Webb.

Council members absent: Stephen Moret

SCHEV staff present: Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Jodi Fidler, Wendy Kang, Tod Massa, Paula Robinson Lee Ann Rung and Kristin Whelan. Deb Love from the Office of the Attorney General also was in attendance.

A complete list of attendees is attached.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Blake provided ground rules for the meeting and reminded attendees to mute their microphones when they are not speaking.

Mr. Fralin explained that the Council's March meeting was canceled due to the pandemic. Although the Council met in April, the discussions in that meeting were only to address the emergency.

Mr. Fralin further explained that due to a change in legislation during the pandemic, the Council is now able to conduct its business remotely without a quorum assembled in person. He thanked the Governor and legislature for making this change. He also noted that the meeting was being recorded as required by 2020 Acts of Assembly, Chapter 1283, item 4.0.01.g. A copy of the recording will be posted to the SCHEV website.

Mr. Fralin welcomed Secretary of Education, Atif Qarni and asked Mr. Blake to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Blake thanked Dr. Miller for agreeing to host the meeting that was scheduled at Virginia Wesleyan University (VWU) and he expressed his hope that the visit to the VWU campus could be rescheduled.

REMARKS FROM LARRY STIMPert, PRESIDENT, HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

Mr. Blake introduced President Stimpert, who also serves as Chair of the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV) and is the 25th president of Hampden-Sydney College. President Stimpert welcomed all private college presidents and thanked SCHEV for hosting the virtual meeting.

President Stimpert noted that CICV's primary focus this year is to work aggressively to increase the size of the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG), which benefits families by making privates more affordable and providing more options to students. The Governor and legislature endorsed an increase in TAG to \$4,000 prior to COVID-19. President Stimpert said the last few months of the pandemic reinforced the value of the highly personal touch that private institutions provide. He said that many students will not enroll if campuses do not open in fall, and noted that institutions cannot give students a full experience if they are not on campus. Most campuses have developed task forces to address ways in which they can open safely, realizing that some students are eager to resume campus life but others are frightened. President Stimpert stressed that federal, local and state support is needed, suggesting that there be protocols in place to reassure the public that any reopening is safe and is a responsible course of action. He noted that a parallel set of guidelines for higher education, much like what the Pre-K12 system developed was needed.

STATE OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Mr. Blake introduced Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. Daniel Carey, Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Ms. Angela Navarro and Deputy Commissioner of Population Health at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Dr. Laurie Forlano.

Dr. Carey provided an update on the pandemic now that it has been in Virginia for approximately 10 weeks. He discussed the timeline of activities since last December. He thanked all agencies involved and noted that it has been a whole government approach. Dr. Carey recognized the need to make plans for summer and fall soon to alleviate concerns from students, faculty and the community. The VDH is looking at trends in hospitalization, medical equipment, beds and ventilators to gauge the resiliency of the health care system. Dr. Carey stated that the goal is to understand the virus, but he noted that every aspect has been challenging.

Dr. Laurie Forlano provided information to better understand key measures to assess where Virginia is in the pandemic. All of the information is available on the VDH website. The presentation is on the SCHEV website.

Dr. Forlano reviewed statewide specifics and measures about the pandemic. Ms. Navarro addressed Phase I and explained the strategies used in developing each phase and what it will look like as the state begins to gradually reopen. Dr. Forlano discussed the considerations for higher education that are unique to this sector. She noted that plans include repopulation of campuses; monitoring health conditions to detect infection, containment to prevent future spread and the method for shutting down if it becomes necessary. Additional considerations are to address mental health, case management/health care capacity and community mitigation strategies (class size, occupancy, physical distancing, social gatherings, housing considerations, communal spaces, face coverings, education/communication on prevention and control).

Mr. Blake introduced Secretary of Education, Atif Qarni and he provided an update on the Governor's press conference held earlier in the day. He explained that the task force the Governor formed with a team from the VDH would work on guidance for higher

education. The task force will provide criteria for public and private institutions. It also will include subject matter experts as partners to develop a plan, which should be available in early June.

All of the speakers answered questions from Council members. In response to a question about legal liability, Secretary Qarni recommended that the private institutions as a group begin communication with the Office of the Attorney General. He offered to assist in this effort if needed. Some presidents expressed concern that the task force report will be too late to help institutions plan for the fall.

DISCUSSION ABOUT FALL OPENING (LARRY STIMPERT AND TAYLOR REVELEY IV, PRESIDENT, LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY)

Mr. Blake introduced President Stimpert and President Reveley. They discussed the op ed that they co-wrote and published in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* about why colleges can and must reopen this fall.

President Reveley began by saying one positive aspect in Covid-19 is that the spirit of collaboration across the higher education community (public and private) is thriving. He also noted that colleges and universities have developed muscle memory in dealing with infectious disease during recent years. He talked about the social justice consideration of opening campuses. If they do not open in fall, the burden will fall disproportionately on the service workers employed at institutions. President Reveley also reminded presidents of the role of in loco parentis that institutions play. As colleges contemplate changes they will need to make before reopening, it will be important to work closely with local officials. He suggested that if private institutions are not located near a public institution, they should make an effort to start a conversation with a state park, a museum or a local Pre-K12 system to share information.

President Stimpert highlighted the need to work with students about changes when they return to campus, including how they will access campus, how they will socialize, and how the college will institute sanitizing residence halls, academic buildings and cafeterias. He remains positive about fall reopening and noted steps he is taking at his institution. President Stimpert stressed the importance of communication within communities.

Presidents Reveley and Stimpert answered questions from attendees.

SCHEV REPORTS

TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Andes provided an update of financial aid programs, including the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG). He provided a presentation on the financial aid appropriations, noting:

- TAG proposed to grow to \$3,750 in FY21 and \$4,000 in FY22 and included phase-out of TAG support for distance learning students.
- COVID-19 disrupted revenues and increased costs; the Governor “unallotted” all new appropriations; funding set at FY20 levels.

- SCHEV's COVID-19 web page contains guidance for state aid issued on April 28, 2020.

TALENT, INNOVATION AND EQUITY (TIE) GRANT

Dr. Robinson explained the four-year, \$500,000 educational equity grant awarded by the Lumina Foundation to Virginia and three other states. The grant will help Virginia increase educational achievement and advance equity in the Commonwealth. Virginia is focusing on students who have traditionally been left behind, as it works toward the goal of being the best-educated state by 2030.

She addressed the differences between equality and equity and discussed what is needed to increase equity in higher education. Virginia will use the grant to pursue improvements in four critical areas: leadership culture and values; equity policy and initiatives; communications and outreach; and programming to improve educational attainment. Dr. Robinson noted that in the current environment some activities that had been planned have now changed. Community roundtables to view how students view higher education in Virginia will need to be adjusted to gather the information differently.

Dr. Robinson explained that a Governor's summit on equity was postponed due to the pandemic. She noted that she is working to plan a future event to bring higher education officials together to share best practices. Dr. Robinson explained some of the accomplishments that have been realized in spite of the pandemic, noting that calls among various groups will continue in an effort to share information. SCHEV is working with Virginia's first Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Janice Underwood, to keep the plan moving forward. Dr. Robinson said right now we are all in same storm, but not all in same boat.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST

Mr. Fralin thanked all participants and encouraged attendees to remember two things. First, even if Virginia gets ahead of the curve on the virus, it is likely that it will re-emerge. Second, most researchers say climate change will create new diseases and viruses in the future. He stressed the need to learn from the current crisis to ensure the state is better prepared for the future. He hoped that SCHEV would have more statistics in the fall to determine the effects on the higher education community.

Mr. Blake opened the floor for discussion among presidents and Council members. Mr. Lambeth thanked the Council members for the interesting presentations and productive conversations. He agreed that communication is key and noted that CICV has excellent communications and conversation with SCHEV staff, saying that SCHEV has been dealing with complex issues in a collegial way with good results. He also noted that CICV has been in communication with the Governor's office and the Secretary of Education's office. He noted that communication between the public and private college presidents was lacking. He urged SCHEV to consider ways to fill this void.

Mr. Blake and Mr. Lambeth will discuss some of the issues raised with members of the Governor's task force.

Mr. Fralin thanked staff, presidents and cabinet secretaries for the important conversations and said SCHEV will consider ways to improve communication.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Katie Webb
Council Secretary

Lee Ann Rung
Director, Executive and Board Affairs

The following executives were in attendance at the Joint PCAB meeting with Council on May 18, 2020:

PRIVATE COLLEGE PRESIDENTS:

President Kenneth Garren, University of Lynchburg
President Reed Wilcox, Southern Virginia University
President Michael McGlothlin, Appalachian College of Pharmacy
President David Olive, Bluefield College
President David Bushman, Bridgewater College
President Nathaniel Bishop, Jefferson College of Health Sciences
President Pamela Fox, Mary Baldwin University
President Irma Becerra, Marymount University
President Robert Lindgren, Randolph-Macon College
President Michael Maxey, Roanoke College
President Tracy Fitzsimmons, Shenandoah University
President Ronald Crutcher, University of Richmond
President Scott Miller, Virginia Wesleyan University
President-elect Alison Morrison Shetlar, University of Lynchburg
President Brain Blount, Union Presbyterian Seminary
President Susan Schultz Huxman, Eastern Mennonite University
President Hakim Lucas, Virginia Union University
President David Johns, Ferrum College
President Tiffany Franks, Averett University
President Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
President Nancy Oliver Gray, Hollins University
President Meredith Woo, Sweet Briar College
President Taylor Reveley, IV, Longwood University
President Scott Miller, Virginia Wesleyan University
President Ronald Crutcher, University of Richmond
President Larry Stimpert, Hampden Sydney-College
President William Dudley, Washington and Lee University

CICV STAFF:

Robert Lambeth and Sabena Moretz

OTHERS:

Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education
Fran Bradford, Deputy Secretary of Education
Justice Elizabeth McClanahan, Dean of Appalachian School of Law
Daniel Carey, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Deb Love, Office of Attorney General
Angela Navarro, Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade
Laurie Forlano, Director of Office of Epidemiology