

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
JOINT MEETING WITH PUBLIC PRESIDENTS
DRAFT SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
DRAFT MINUTES**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

SCHEV Chair Marge Connelly called the virtual meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Michael Rao, president of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and Virginia State University (VSU) president, Makola Abdullah, who led the discussion.

A full list of attendees is attached.

DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

President Rao, Chair of the Council of Presidents, discussed VCU's COVID response and the response of the public institutions in the Commonwealth. He discussed the common goal is to create a safety net to catch the positive cases on campuses. Each campus created a COVID-focused team to plan and respond to the public health crisis.

Faculty spent much of the summer in training to learn the skills necessary for distance learning. He discussed the challenges they recognize for many of their students who lack access to the necessary technology in their homes for distance learning. Many students, faculty and staff also are managing challenging personal circumstances with younger children at home. He stated how pleased he is with the human resilience he has witnessed while mindful of vulnerabilities they are addressing. President Rao thanked the Governor, Executive Cabinet, SCHEV and the Virginia Business and Higher Education Council for the support they have provided to the institutions.

Dr. Abdullah opened his remarks by expressing his appreciation for the members of the Council of Presidents and the camaraderie he has found among them during this incredible period of uncertainty. He also expressed his gratitude for the support VSU has received from the Governor's administration, the House and the Senate. Dr. Abdullah discussed how VSU's approach to the fall semester is different from the other public institutions. In light of toll of the novel coronavirus on the constituencies that VSU serves, VSU decided not to invite students to campus for the fall. All classes moved to a distance-learning model to protect the student, faculty and staff. He stated that while this was the correct discussion for VSU, it does highlight the inequities many students face with broadband access. Addressing the social unrest and how it intersects with campus safety and policy is another challenge facing the Commonwealth's public institutions. Dr. Abdullah spoke about the need to monitor student activity on and off campus while providing policing and public safety in a fair and equitable way.

President Rao took a moment to recognize and introduce Gregory Washington, the new president of George Mason University to the meeting. He was previously with the University of California, Irvine. Ms. Connelly also welcomed President Washington and asked SCHEV Director Peter Blake to take over the question and answer period.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

Mr. Blake opened up the meeting for questions and discussions among COP members and Council members.

Council member Tom Slater asked the group to describe the financial impact of COVID on their institutions. The impacts varied depending upon the institution but the crises affected enrollment, revenue and bond payments. Institutions have incurred additional expenditures for technology upgrades, personal protective equipment, while experiencing lost revenue from enrollment drops and loss of room and board revenue.

Many in the meeting expressed unease about future budget impacts and the availability of federal assistance. While the institutions are saving money on travel, conferences and are appreciative of the assistance of CARES Act funds, they wonder how the next year will look as the crisis continues and the benefits run out.

Meeting participants also expressed concern for the mental health of their student bodies. Underfunded before the pandemic, campus mental health resources are now being stretched even further. The pandemic and the social unrest of recent months have created a higher level of vulnerability in students, and campuses are seeing more students reporting depression and anxiety.

The meeting discussed the job market for graduating students. Many noted that the numbers of students graduating into the job market in the spring of 2020 who were able to find work did not measurably change from the previous year, but that many students were starting new employment remotely. Internship opportunities have been more difficult for students to land because of the pandemic, and this could be a prelude to a worsening job market for those graduating in the near future. Institutions and SCHEV need to strengthen the pathways to work for graduates and soon-to-be graduates.

Participants also discussed the widening attainment gap and stressed the pandemic has widened the gap further. Inequities around broadband access have made distance learning hard on students who do not have broadband access.

The presidents discussed some ways they have addressed the attainment gap at their institutions. They close the gap by assigning a professional cadre of advisors to students. Institutions create smaller cohorts of students in their first year and have the cohorts move through several classes as a unit. Faculty are encouraged to build strong relationships with students so that there is a better understanding of the stresses students face outside the classroom. Finally, some institutions are assigning recent graduates to incoming students to act as mentors.

In the final discussion of the meeting, the presidents were asked to provide SCHEV with suggestions for how the Council could better support their institutions. Among the recommendations were the following: a coaching, mentorship or internship program; a dedicated higher education rainy day fund; programs to support keeping graduates from migrating out of the state and; a funding model that is more favorable to the student.

Ms. Connelly provided closing remarks and thanked all who were present for the thoughtful discussion. She adjourned the meeting at 4:30p.m.

Katharine Webb
Council Secretary

Kristin Whelan
Coordinator, Executive and Board Affairs

ATTENDANCE
JOINT COUNCIL/COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

PRESIDENTS

Makola Abdullah, Virginia State University
Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University
Jonathan Alger, James Madison University
John Broderick, Old Dominion University
Brian Hemphill, Radford University
Glenn DuBois, Chancellor, Virginia Community College System
Jackie Gill Powell, Danville Community College
Brian Hemphill, Radford University
Shannon Kennedy, Rappanhanock Community College
Troy Paino, University of Mary Washington
Paula Pando, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Donna Price Henry, University of Virginia's College at Wise
W. Taylor Reveley IV, Longwood Univerisity
Katherine Rowe, William & Mary
Michael Rao, Virginia Commonwealth University
James Ryan, University of Virginia
Tim Sands, Virginia Tech
Debbie Sydow, Richard Bland College
Gregory Washington, George Mason University

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ken Ampy
Alex Arriaga
Marge Connelly Heywood
Fralin Victoria Harker
Thaddeus Holloman
Henry Light
Stephen Moret
Tom Slater
Katharine Webb

SCHEV STAFF

Lee Andes
Peter Blake
Richard Cole
Joe DeFilippo
Alan Edwards
Jodi Fisler
Jean Huskey Wendy
Kang
Scott Kemp
Ashley Lockhart Tod
Massa Laura

Osberger
Feng Raoking
Beverly Rebar Paula
Robinson
Emily Salmon
Felix Sam
Kristin Whelan
Susan Yale

OTHERS

Fran Bradford, Deputy Secretary of Education
Eldon Burton, Virginia State University
Penny Cabaniss, University of Virginia
Matt Conrad, Virginia Commonwealth University
Ellen Davenport, Virginia Community College System
Joyce Edwards, Virginia State University
Lisa Ghidotti, Radford University
Craig Herndon, Virginia Community College System
Sarah Herzog, Virginia Senate Committee
Elizabeth Hooper, Virginia Tech
Charles King, James Madison University
Melva Kishpaugh, University of Mary Washington
Jennifer Latour, Christopher Newport University
Cindy Martin, Virginia Commonwealth University
Jeff McClurken, University of Mary Washington
Margaret McManus, Radford University
Beth Miller, Virginia 529
Christina Morell, University of Virginia
Sabena Moretz, Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia
Kim Parker, Virginia Military Institute
Dwayne Pinkey, Virginia Tech
Chad Reed, Radford University
Maxine Sample, Virginia State University
Colette Sheehy, University of Virginia
Colin Smolinsky, William & Mary
Crystal Wynn, Virginia State University

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING (VIRTUAL)
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
DRAFT MINUTES**

Ms. Connelly called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Council members present: Ken Ampy, Alexandra Arriaga, Marge Connelly, Heywood Fralin, Victoria Harker, Thaddeus Holloman, Henry Light, Stephen Moret, Carlyle Ramsey, Tom Slater and Katharine Webb.

Council members absent: Rosa Atkins and Marianne Radcliff.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Joseph DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Wendy Kang, Tod Massa, Emily Salmon and Kristin Whelan.

Deb Love and Ramona Taylor from the Office of the Attorney General also were in attendance.

Ms. Connelly 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. She also noted that the meeting was being recorded as required by the 2020 Acts of Assembly, Chapter 1283, item 4.0.01.g. A copy of the recording will be posted on the SCHEV website (or the temporary website if the SCHEV website is still down).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Slater and seconded by Ms. Harker, the minutes of the July 13, 2020, Council meeting were approved unanimously (11-0) in block after a roll call vote.

REMARKS FROM JAMES RYAN, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Ms. Connelly thanked President Ryan for his time and expressed her appreciation for his input. She also expressed the Council's hope to visit UVA for a site visit in the near future. Mr. Blake briefly introduced President Ryan by sharing his biography and describing his long distinguished career and passion for higher education.

President Ryan thanked the Council for their partnership and advocacy and also expressed the hope for an in-person meeting in the coming year.

President Ryan shared an update on the state of the grounds with regard to the public health crisis. UVA delayed bringing students onto grounds and started classes two weeks later to better align with their safe start plan. Among other benefits, this plan gave UVA the opportunity to observe and learn from other campuses. Through their observations, the safe start team noticed three key factors for a safe start. First, UVA created and communicated clear expectations for student behavior around health and safety protocols. Second, testing before students arrived, prevalence testing and randomized testing were key to staying ahead of the problem. Third, the institution needed to provide ample space for isolation and quarantine. President Ryan said that

they are still learning and adjusting to student behaviors. The silver lining for the presidents has been their greater collaboration during the pandemic and the opportunities to learn from each other.

In addition to the pandemic, President Ryan spoke about grappling with the large scale social unrest around issues of race. Early in the summer, President Ryan created a commission tasked with creating a set of recommendations about racial equity. The group submitted a report with goals, recommendations and initiatives to the President's office. President Ryan chose several of the initiatives for focus and submitted them to the UVA Board of Visitors. The report focused on student and faculty diversity and tenure and curriculum policies. It expressed bold goals such as doubling UVA faculty diversity within 10 years and creating a student body that looks more like the wider population.

President Ryan revisited a question that arose during the joint SCHEV/COP meeting about what SCHEV can do to help the institutions right now. President Ryan encouraged the Council to focus on championing flexibility in the budget. The losses in auxiliary services because of refunds from spring 2020 and reduced capacity in the fall are leading institutions to look for ways to offset the shortfall. In addition, President Ryan said that flexibility in carrying forward funds from one year to the next would help.

President Ryan concluded by answering questions from the members.

PRESENTATION ON LEARNING AT A DISTANCE

Ms. Connolly introduced Evan Feinman, the Governor's Chief Broadband Advisor, to share a presentation about the Governor's goal of universal broadband coverage in Virginia no later than 2028.

Mr. Feinman shared the Commonwealth Connect initiative, which aims to solve the two major factors that have prevented universal broadband coverage for all Virginians.

The first obstacle is access. The infrastructure does not exist in the Commonwealth to make internet coverage universally available, particularly in rural parts of the state. The Commonwealth Connect plan addresses access in three parts: 1. direct grants through public/private partnerships; 2. policy changes through the Governor's office and the legislature; and 3. local planning support.

The second obstacle to broadband availability is affordability. One-and-a-half million Virginians are low to moderate income and cannot pay for service even when it is available in their area. Mr. Feinman stressed that there are no easy solutions to this part of the challenge. Other states have added broadband access to their social service offerings.

Mr. Feinman closed his presentation by asking for an all-hands-on-deck approach to improving the quality and accessibility of the expanded distance learning resulting from COVID 19.

Dr. Filippo and Dr. Fisler followed up Mr. Feinman's presentation with a short discussion of national trends in distance learning and the challenges of remote teaching and online education.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Blake highlighted some items from the written report in the agenda book.

Governor's reopening guidance: On June 11, Governor Northam announced guidance for colleges and universities to follow for reopening their campuses for in-person instruction. SCHEV worked with the office of the Secretary of Education and the Virginia Department of Health to develop and distribute the guidance documents. Institutions submitted plans on or about July 6. We completed reviews and certified nearly all of the plans by the end of July. We completed reviews and certification of all institutions except one by August 20.

Board affairs: The planning group for the annual board of visitors orientation session continues to meet. Council members Thaddeus Holloman and Katharine Webb are working alongside representatives from the Governor's office, institutions and SCHEV. The orientation session is scheduled for October 20-21 and will be held remotely.

General Professional Advisory Committee: SCHEV held a joint meeting with the Council of Presidents (COP) on August 24. The agenda included a budget overview from Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne; an update on the presidents' and SCHEV's "Equity in Action" initiative; an update of SCHEV priorities; and general discussions about the special legislative session, potential advocacy efforts and college reopening experiences. VCU president Michael Rao is the COP chair for 2020-21. VSU president Makola Abdullah is vice chair.

Statewide equity plan: In collaboration with the state's Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Janice Underwood, staff has collected Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) plans from institutions for review. Institutions developed the plans to guide the creation of statewide goals for "inclusive excellence." Inclusive excellence is a framework that includes cohesive, coherent and collaborative integration of diversity into an institution's culture. Common elements include emphasis on student access and success; climate and relations; education and training; infrastructure; and community engagement.

Op-six: The individuals named in the Code of Virginia responsible for the higher education six-year plan process – the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Finance, the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, the staff directors of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, and the Director of the State Council of Higher Education – known collectively as "op-six," met twice in the last two months. The meetings included discussions of college and university reopening plans, the six-year plan process and the current budget situation.

Governor's Education Emergency Relief Grants: SCHEV staff helped the Secretary of Education's office prepare instructions for public and private institutions receiving

\$23.5 million through these federal grants. Institutions will use the majority of the funds for student financial assistance.

Virginia Business Council presentation: Along with Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane, Peter Blake participated in a presentation to the Virginia Business Council. Members indicated particular interest in SCHEV's recent labor market and academic program alignment project and the Innovative Internship Program. They asked for additional information at a future meeting.

Lumina Foundation: SCHEV hosted a Talent, Innovation and Equity (TIE) grant partners meeting on July 29 to revisit our plan, assess progress and consider changes resulting from the pandemic and social justice considerations. This month, SCHEV received another grant from Lumina to support and advance equity work at institutions and align their work with state-level priorities. A total of \$675,000 of the \$725,000 grant will be sub-granted to four, four-year universities (George Mason, Norfolk State, Old Dominion and Virginia Commonwealth), two community colleges (Patrick Henry, J. Sargeant Reynolds) and the Virginia Community College System.

Strada Education Network grant: In late August, SCHEV received news that it submitted one of the four successful proposals to Strada's Recovery Incubator Grant program. The Recovery Incubator Grant program focuses on establishing a common, real-time data system to drive state level and regional decision making relative to training and higher education. The grant also incorporates collaboration with other state agencies and a pilot program to address COVID-related layoffs. SCHEV's proposal includes the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, GO Virginia, the Virginia Employment Commission, the Virginia Community College System and two community colleges. More information will be forthcoming in early October.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

Academic Affairs Committee

Action on Private Postsecondary Institution Certification

Mr. Ampy provided background information on the following program. The committee's recommendation was seconded by Mr. Fralin approved unanimously after a roll call vote (11-0).

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital School of Medical Imaging to operate a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective September 15, 2020.

Action on Private Postsecondary Institutional Provisional Certifications

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

Academic Affairs Committee

Action on Programs at Public Institutions

Mr. Ampy provided background information on the following program. The committee's recommendation was seconded by Ms. Webb and approved unanimously after a roll call vote (11-0). Mr. Fralin abstained:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to initiate a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program in Neuroscience (CIP code: 26.1501), effective fall 2020.

Action on Private Postsecondary Institution Certification

Mr. Ampy introduced the private postsecondary institutional provisional certification, which is intended to allow schools to operate in a limited fashion for one year. He described the differences between the two resolutions being presented, as one is intended to be fully online, and the other with in-person instruction. Mr. Ampy presented the following resolution for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fralin and approved unanimously after a roll call vote (11-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia provisionally certifies American Sterling University to operate a proprietary postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective immediately and for a period of one (1) year, in accordance with the conditions enumerated below:

- 1. that, during the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University shall be allowed to advertise and receive student applications, but not actually enroll or instruct students;**
- 2. that, during the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University shall be allowed to recruit and hire faculty and staff;**
- 3. that, during the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University may not collect tuition from prospective students, though it may collect initial non-refundable fees of no more than \$100, as per 8 VAC 40-31-130(E) of the Virginia Administrative Code;**
- 4. that, during the period of provisional certification, all publicity, advertisement, and promotional material must include a statement that the school is provisionally certified to operate in Virginia by SCHEV;**
- 5. that, during the period of provisional certification, no changes to the Board of Directors may be made without explicit approval from SCHEV; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia 29**
- 6. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, SCHEV staff shall conduct a final review of faculty and administrator credentials hired during the provisional certification period**

7. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, SCHEV staff (or an assigned expert) shall conduct a review of American Sterling University's online platform and content as a condition to authorizing the school to offer distance education;
8. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University shall satisfy a site review conducted by SCHEV staff demonstrating that the facility conforms to all federal, state and local building codes and that it is equipped with classrooms, instructional and resource facilities, and laboratories adequate for the size of the faculty and student body and adequate to support the educational programs to be offered by the school;
9. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University shall submit a surety instrument in an amount adequate to provide refunds to students in the event of school closure during the first year of operation; and
10. that American Sterling University's provisional certification shall lapse if conditions 6-9 are not fulfilled prior to September 15, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council delegates to the SCHEV Director authority to confer full certification on American Sterling University upon his determination, at a point in time prior to September 15, 2021, that American Sterling University has satisfied all Virginia Administrative Code requirements, including, but not limited to, conditions specifically enumerated above.

Mr. Ampy presented the following resolution for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fralin and approved unanimously after a roll call vote (11-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia provisionally certifies Virginia Business College to operate a postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective October 29, 2021 and for a period of one (1) year, in accordance with the conditions enumerated below:
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

1. that, during the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College shall be allowed to advertise and receive student applications, but not actually enroll or instruct students;
2. that, during the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College shall be allowed to recruit and hire faculty and staff;
3. that, during the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College may not collect tuition from prospective students, though it may collect initial non-refundable fees of no more than \$100, as per 8 VAC 40-31-130(E) of the Virginia Administrative Code;
4. that, during the period of provisional certification, all publicity, advertisement, and promotional material must include a statement that the school is provisionally certified to operate in Virginia by SCHEV;
5. that, during the period of provisional certification, no changes to the Board of Directors may be made without explicit approval from SCHEV;

6. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, SCHEV staff shall conduct a final review of faculty and administrator credentials hired during the provisional certification period;
7. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College shall satisfy a site review conducted by SCHEV staff demonstrating that the facility conforms to all federal, state and local building codes and that it is equipped with classrooms, instructional and resource facilities, and laboratories adequate for the size of the faculty and student body and adequate to support the educational programs to be offered by the school;
8. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College shall submit a surety instrument in an amount adequate to provide refunds to students in the event of school closure during the first year of operation; and
9. that Virginia Business College's provisional certification shall lapse if conditions 6-8 are not fulfilled prior to October 29, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council delegates to the SCHEV Director authority to confer full certification on Virginia Business College upon his determination, at a point in time prior to October 29, 2021, that Virginia Business College has satisfied all Virginia Administrative Code requirements, including, but not limited to, conditions specifically enumerated above.

ACTION ON DISTANCE EDUCATION ONLINE COURSE POLICY

Mr. Ampy introduced this item and discussed the reasoning behind the addition to the policy statement about online courses counting toward general education credits is necessary and may be amended further at another date. Mr. Ampy presented the following resolution for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fralin and approved unanimously after a roll call vote (11-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia adopts changes to the SCHEV Policy Statement on Distance Education, effective immediately.

Mr. Ampy also reported that the committee received a report from the staff liaison, Dr. DeFilippo. Mr. Ampy reported that staff conducted some of the reopening plan reviews, and he described the work of staff on various advisory committees such as disabilities access, military education and transfer of credits.

Resources and Planning Committee

Discussion of Outcomes of the Special Session

Ms. Harker reported the Secretary of Finance conveyed that the stop in discretionary funding, the unallotment of funds in the spring and higher revenues than expected allowed the state to build up reserves. This outlook could change, and there will be a

new updated forecast in the fall. In addition, if current trends continue, the state could face an estimated \$400 million shortfall in FY2022. The Governor mentioned this in his remarks, and the Secretary affirmed the need to preserve cash and avoid additional recurring expenditures.

Discussion of Budget and Policy Considerations for 2021 General Assembly

Ms. Harker reported that because of the unique year, budget and policy considerations would need to be prioritized to areas that will support the safety and security of students, faculty and staff. The committee discussed further discussed new and continuing programs to prioritize.

Discussion of Institutional Performance Standards

Dr. Huskey presented the preliminary results for the six measures. The committee will receive the results soon for the financial and administrative standards and will bring before Council at the October meeting. In light of the public health crisis, committee members discussed new measurements as ways to look back over a shorter period of time.

Discussion of Legislative Studies

Mr. Andes updated the committee on the progress of the work that has been done with the financial aid recommendations SCHEV proposed last year. The first of those recommendations was the successful adoption of new financial aid funding methodology that directed aid to institutions serving primarily low-income students, diminished the impact of an institution raising tuition and improved the calculation of need for very low-income students. In addition, there were several recommendations included in that report that SCHEV proposed to continue working on in the coming year.

Ms. Zheng concluded the meeting by presenting information on the Statewide Survey of Institutional Expenditures by Program and Academic Discipline. The study focused on identifying methods to implement reporting of institutional expenditures by program and academic discipline to determine the effectiveness of spending related to the attainment of state and institutional goals.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Mr. Blake noted that the delegated items included in the agenda materials did not require additional discussion. A copy of the delegated items is attached to the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Connelly announced that a public comment request had been received from Stacie Gordon with Partners for College Affordability and Public Trust. Due to connectivity issues, Ms. Gordon was unable to deliver her comments. A copy of her statement is attached to these minutes.

MOTION TO CONVENE A CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Connelly, seconded by Mr. Light, Council moved that, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-371 I(A)(I), the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia convened in a closed meeting for the purposes of addressing personnel issues related to SCHEV's Director. The motion was approved unanimously (11-0) in block after a roll call vote.

Upon resumption of the Council meeting, Ms. Connelly presented the following resolution for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fralin and approved unanimously after a roll call vote (11-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council delays until October 2020 the evaluation of its director and any salary or bonus actions authorized in Chapter 1283 of the 2020 General Assembly, also known as the Appropriation Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council extends the employment contract with its director from September 30, 2020, to October 31, 2020.

Katharine Webb
Council Secretary

Kristin Whelan
Interim Director, Executive and Board Affairs

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council’s “*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*,” the following items were approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

Degree Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	Facilitated Staff Approvals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Arts degree program in Linguistics (16.0102) • Master of Science degree program in Marketing (52.1401) 	Fall 2020
George Mason University	Degree Designation Discontinuance Approved: Discontinue the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree designation in the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)/Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree program in Dance (50.0301)	Spring 2021
George Mason University	Program Modification Approved: Add an online delivery format to the Master of Arts in Economics (45.0601)	Fall 2020
John Tyler Community College	Facilitated Staff Approval: Associate of Applied Science degree program in Web Design (11.0801)	Fall 2020
Lord Fairfax Community College	Facilitated Staff Approval: Associate of Applied Science degree program in Surgical Technology (51.0909)	Fall 2020
Virginia Commonwealth University	Program Modification Not Approved: Graduate Certificate program in Nursing (51.3818)	June 29, 2020
Virginia Commonwealth University	Program Modification Approved: Modify the credit hours of the Master of Science degree program in Nursing (51.3818) from 41-51 to 35-44 credit hours	Fall 2020
Virginia Commonwealth University	Certificate Designation Change Approved: Change the designation from a Post-Baccalaureate to a Graduate Certificate program in Real Estate (52.1501)	Fall 2020
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	CIP Code Change Approved: Change the CIP code of the Graduate Certificate program in Urban Computing from 11.0199 to 30.7099	Fall 2020

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items were reported:

Diploma, Certificate, Discontinued and Modified Programs

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	Initiate a new Graduate Certificate Program in Addictions Counseling (51.1501)	Fall 2020
George Mason University	Program Discontinuances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science in Global and Environmental Change (40.9999) [Council Approval: 03/13/2007] • Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Science (51.2314) [Council Approval: 05/04/2016] • Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation Science (26.1503) • Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Science (26.1503) [Council Approval: 09/21/2010] 	Fall 2020
George Mason University	Initiate a new Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Secondary Education-Earth Science (6-12) (13.1337)	Fall 2020
James Madison University	Initiate a new Graduate Certificate Program in Teacher Leadership (13.0404)	Fall 2020
Lord Fairfax Community College	Initiate a new Certificate Program in Paramedic (51.0904)	Fall 2020
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Initiate the following new Graduate Certificate Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Statistics (27.0304) • Big Data (30.7101) • Business Data Analytics (30.7102) • Cybersecurity Management (52.0299) • Cybersecurity Policy (43.0404) • Cybersecurity Technologies (43.0401) • Health Information Technology (11.0199) • Information Systems Design (11.0401) • Information Technology Management (52.1206) • Internet and Network Technologies (11.0901) • Software Development (11.0201) 	Fall 2020

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes*," the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
George Mason University'	Rename the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution to the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution . The school has been renamed to honor the Carters' legacy of peacebuilding and conflict resolution and to fulfill a philanthropic campaign to support the renaming. The goal of the campaign was to raise \$10 million by June 30, 2023. To date, the campaign's silent phase has raised \$5,025,027. The name change also would reflect the changing terms used for the School's activities in the external community.	September 1, 2020
Radford University	Rename the Department of Information Technology to the School of Computing and Information Sciences . Radford indicates that the proposed name change will not result in "a school in which departments will reside." The new name better reflects the multiple degree programs in the unit and faculty research interests. The new name also will eliminate confusion between the academic department and the unit supporting the information technology needs of the university. The term "school" is needed to establish consistent naming practices for academic units that administer a similar number of academic programs.	August 5, 2020
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Rename the Department of Communication to the School of Communication . Virginia Tech indicates that the proposed name change will not result in "a school with reporting departments." The new name will align with the names of similar departments at Virginia Tech's SCHEV peer institutions." The term "school" is also needed to acknowledge and highlight the breadth of activities and programming offered by the unit.	August 1, 2020

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 23.1-213 to 230 and 8VAC-40-31-90 of the Virginia

Administrative Code, the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

Postsecondary, Non-Degree Institutions Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Advanced Dental Assistant Training School	Haymarket, VA	07/27/2020
Hair Technology Center	Norfolk, VA	07/07/2020
ImpactTek	Annandale, VA	07/07/2020



**Partners for
College Affordability**
AND PUBLIC TRUST

September 15, 2020

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Attn: Kristin Whelan
101 N. 14th Street, 10th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Board Members:

On behalf of Partners for College Affordability and Public Trust, I respectfully submit the following Public Comment for the September 15th public comment session of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

“This year, colleges and universities face unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19. But it’s important that we remember the financial challenges and difficult decisions many are facing in higher education today are not limited to the institutions themselves. For the students and family consumers shelling out hundreds and thousands of dollars each year to finance a college education, this year has left them unsure about their investment and whether or not they will get what they paid for.

“According to several national surveys, students are unhappy with the quality of the online instruction they are now receiving as their colleges transition to remote learning and believe they should be provided tuition discounts or refunds. But these unsatisfied consumers are being charged the same rates they were before, even as course modality changes abruptly after classes start or campus facilities and services are made unavailable.

“Now, more than ever, it is important that students and parents are made more aware of institutional decision-making and refund policies so that they are not blind sighted by any sudden reversals of the school’s original operating plans for a semester.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the surface many questions – including those related to financial transparency and the value of online learning – that higher education must now reckon with in the months and years to come. And SCHEV should take the lead on answering them by proposing that the General Assembly revive last year’s cost study during the 2021 legislative session and ensuring it examines the cost and value of online instruction versus in-person instruction. The students and families footing the bill deserve to know exactly what they are paying for, and why, and with SCHEV’s help they will.”

On behalf of Partners for College Affordability and Public Trust,

Stacie Gordon, State Advocacy Manager
Partners for College Affordability & Public Trust

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
September 15, 2020
DRAFT MINUTES**

Mr. Ampy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., by electronic means, as prescribed in § 4-0.01 of the Code of Virginia. Committee members present: Ken Ampy, Chair; Carlyle Ramsey, Vice Chair; Alexandra Arriaga, and Heywood Fralin.

Committee members absent: Rosa Atkins and Marianne Radcliff

Staff members present: Peter Blake, Joseph G. DeFilippo, Jodi Fisler, Ashley Lockhart, Beverly Rebar.

Mr. Ampy introduced and invited staff to present information on the following topics:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 13 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

On motion by Mr. Ampy, seconded by Ms. Arriaga, the minutes from the July 13, 2020, Academic Affairs Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Roll call:
Arriaga – yea
Fralin – yea
Ampy – yea
3 yeas; the motion passes.

ACTION ON PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION

Dr. DeFilippo provided contextual remarks regarding the institutional certification process, as well as the history of Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital School of Medical Imaging as a non-degree granting institution. There was some discussion about the accreditation of the institution.

On motion by Mr. Fralin, seconded by Ms. Arriaga, the following resolution was approved to be forwarded to the full Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia certifies Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital School of Medical Imaging to operate a degree-granting postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective September 15, 2020.

Roll call:
Arriaga – yes
Fralin – yes
Ramsey – yes
Ampy – yes
4 yeas; the motion passes.

ACTION ON PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the private postsecondary institutional provisional certification, which is intended to allow schools to operate in a limited fashion for one year. He described the differences between the two resolutions being presented, as one is intended to be fully online, and the other with in-person instruction. Dr. DeFilippo then went on to illustrate the structure of provisional certification and the conditions required in order to get full certification. There was discussion about the ownership of the Virginia Business College and its plans to rehabilitate the campus.

On motion by Dr. Ramsey, and seconded by Mr. Fralin, the following resolutions were approved to be forwarded to the full Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia provisionally certifies American Sterling University to operate a proprietary postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective immediately and for a period of one (1) year, in accordance with the conditions enumerated below:

1. that, during the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University shall be allowed to advertise and receive student applications, but not actually enroll or instruct students;
2. that, during the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University shall be allowed to recruit and hire faculty and staff;
3. that, during the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University may not collect tuition from prospective students, though it may collect initial non-refundable fees of no more than \$100, as per 8 VAC 40-31-130(E) of the Virginia Administrative Code;
4. that, during the period of provisional certification, all publicity, advertisement, and promotional material must include a statement that the school is provisionally certified to operate in Virginia by SCHEV;
5. that, during the period of provisional certification, no changes to the Board of Directors may be made without explicit approval from SCHEV; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia 29
6. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, SCHEV staff shall conduct a final review of faculty and administrator credentials hired during the provisional certification period
7. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, SCHEV staff (or an assigned expert) shall conduct a review of American Sterling University's online platform and content as a condition to authorizing the school to offer distance education;
8. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University shall satisfy a site review conducted by SCHEV staff demonstrating that the facility conforms to all federal, state and local building codes and that it is equipped with classrooms, instructional and resource facilities, and laboratories adequate for the size of the faculty and student body and adequate to support the educational programs to be offered by the school;

9. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, American Sterling University shall submit a surety instrument in an amount adequate to provide refunds to students in the event of school closure during the first year of operation; and
10. that American Sterling University's provisional certification shall lapse if conditions 6-9 are not fulfilled prior to September 15, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council delegates to the SCHEV Director authority to confer full certification on American Sterling University upon his determination, at a point in time prior to September 15, 2021, that American Sterling University has satisfied all Virginia Administrative Code requirements, including, but not limited to, conditions specifically enumerated above.

Roll call:

Arriaga – yes

Fralin – yes

Ramsey – yes

Ampy – yes

4 yeas; the motion passes.

On motion by Dr. Ramsey, and seconded by Mr. Fralin, the following resolution was approved to be forwarded to the full Council:

[Note: highlighting in the third line of the resolution below indicates correction of a typo in the resolution as it appeared in the final agenda book.]

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia provisionally certifies Virginia Business College to operate a postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective October 29, **20240** and for a period of one (1) year, in accordance with the conditions enumerated below:
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

1. that, during the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College shall be allowed to advertise and receive student applications, but not actually enroll or instruct students;
2. that, during the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College shall be allowed to recruit and hire faculty and staff;
3. that, during the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College may not collect tuition from prospective students, though it may collect initial non-refundable fees of no more than \$100, as per 8 VAC 40-31-130(E) of the Virginia Administrative Code;
4. that, during the period of provisional certification, all publicity, advertisement, and promotional material must include a statement that the school is provisionally certified to operate in Virginia by SCHEV;
5. that, during the period of provisional certification, no changes to the Board of Directors may be made without explicit approval from SCHEV;
6. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, SCHEV staff shall conduct a final review of faculty and administrator credentials hired during the provisional certification period;

7. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College shall satisfy a site review conducted by SCHEV staff demonstrating that the facility conforms to all federal, state and local building codes and that it is equipped with classrooms, instructional and resource facilities, and laboratories adequate for the size of the faculty and student body and adequate to support the educational programs to be offered by the school;
8. that, prior to the expiration of the period of provisional certification, Virginia Business College shall submit a surety instrument in an amount adequate to provide refunds to students in the event of school closure during the first year of operation; and
9. that Virginia Business College's provisional certification shall lapse if conditions 6-8 are not fulfilled prior to October 29, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council delegates to the SCHEV Director authority to confer full certification on Virginia Business College upon his determination, at a point in time prior to October 29, 2021, that Virginia Business College has satisfied all Virginia Administrative Code requirements, including, but not limited to, conditions specifically enumerated above.

Roll call:

Arriaga – yes

Fralin – yes

Ramsey – yes

Ampy – yes

4 yeas; the motion passes.

ACTION ON DISTANCE EDUCATION ONLINE COURSE POLICY

Dr. DeFilippo presented the longstanding policy statement on distance education, which dates back to 2001. Dr. DeFilippo expressed concern that the current circumstances may extend beyond 2020, so the addition to the policy statement about online courses counting towards general education credits is necessary and may be amended further at another date. There was some discussion about the categories of courses that have sometimes not transferred well, such as lab sciences and foreign languages.

On motion by Dr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Fralin, the following resolution was approved to be forwarded to the full Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia adopts changes to the SCHEV Policy Statement on Distance Education, effective immediately.

Roll call:

Arriaga – yea

Fralin – yea

Ramsey – yea

Ampy – yea

4 yeas; the motion passes.

REVIEW OF PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the program announcements from public institutions and explained that individual representatives were available to respond to any questions. There was some discussion regarding curricula at George Mason University for the communication component of the biodiversity conservation program, the ethical data collection component of the forensic science program, and strategies for collaboration in the special education program.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF LIAISON

Dr. DeFilippo commented on the work of Academic Affairs and how Staff conducted some of the reopening plan reviews. He went on to describe the work of Staff on various advisory committees such as disabilities access, military education, and transfer of credits. There was discussion on the reopening plans and the common challenges at the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ampy adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Kenneth Ampy
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Ashley Lockhart
Staff, Academic Affairs

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
DRAFT MINUTES**

Ms. Harker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., by electronic means, as prescribed in § 4-0.01 of the Code of Virginia. Committee members present Victoria Harker, Chair, Marge Connelly, Thaddeus Holloman, Henry Light, Tom Slater and Katharine Webb.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Jean Huskey, Wendy Kang, Felix Sam, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

DISCUSSION OF OUTCOMES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION

Ms. Kang led the discussion on the outcomes of the ongoing special session and some of the issues that have come up during the session.

She mentioned that the Secretary of Finance conveyed that the stop in discretionary funding, the unallotment of funds in the spring and higher revenues than expected allowed the state to build up reserves. The revenue outlook could change and there will be a new updated forecast in the fall. In addition, if current trends continue, the state could face an estimated \$400 million shortfall in FY2022.

She also mentioned that the Governor conveyed in his remarks to money committee staff in August and the Secretary affirmed that the state needs preserve cash and avoid additional recurring expenditures.

Ms. Harker mentioned she was pleased to hear the community colleges were a little better off than they otherwise anticipated. She asked about reallocations, specifically carry over funds. Ms. Kang said carryover funds were being reallocated.

Mr. Light mentioned that after listening to the presidents yesterday and the discussion they had, if there is additional money available for broadband or computer equipment for needy students because it is top concern of the state. He asked if it is something the General Assembly could look at now. Ms. Kang mentioned the Governor unallotted funding in the broadband area in his introduced budget and staff would continue to monitor the budget.

Ms. Kang touched on institution reopenings and how that may impact budgets. SCHEV continues to monitor reopening plans and early enrollment estimates that institutions are providing. Institutions gained some savings in the springs but incurred additional expenses particularly in the auxiliaries.

Ms. Connelly mentioned that in consideration of budget cuts in the future, if the Council could be proactive in looking at the institutions that are most likely to feel stress by coming up with stress test scenarios that will show what a meaningful shift will look like and ask them for their plans to react to those scenarios.

Ms. Kang mentioned staff has have worked with various members in Capitol Square in identifying some institutions that may have more difficulty. Staff will continue to identify some specific options that the Council could pursue.

Ms. Harker suggested that institutions could provide whatever analysis they are already using without asking for anything new.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Ms. Kang led the discussion of the budget and policy considerations for the 2021 General Assembly Session. SCHEV generally affirms the two-year budget passed in the prior General Assembly session, considers SCHEV recommendations that did not receive support in the previous session and seeks budget and language adjustments based on new circumstances that arise. Since this is a unique year, Council may want to be cautious by reviewing funds that were unallotted and look at prioritization of funding in areas that will support the safety and security of students, staff and their communities.

Ms. Harker expressed an interest in support for co-ops and internships and growth of remote options. She thought it will particularly be helpful for both the workplace and the academic agenda.

Mr. Slater emphasized the importance of the G3 program to help move the numbers of being the most educated state. Mr. Holloman followed up by emphasizing his support of Mr. Slater's comments.

Ms. Connelly suggested possibly revising the base adequacy calculation to better align with the true expense associated with providing the necessary kind of support. That will potentially have a good impact on the equity.

Ms. Kang responded by saying that the study SCHEV proposed was unallotted and SCHEV is looking at proposing some adjusted budget language in that area.

DISCUSSION OF INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Dr. Jean Huskey presented the preliminary findings for the six measures. We will receive the results soon for the financial and administrative standards and will bring before Council in the October meeting.

Ms. Harker expressed concern at the look-back period of time and asked if adopting something that is more current would be helpful. It is a retrospective period when in crisis mode.

Dr. Huskey responded by saying that staff will have internal conversations about that and will come back before Council in October with some ideas. The language allows for an annual review, but staff are only required to bring them before council every two years. The timing of the data is the usually the issue.

Mr. Slater mentioned the remediation approach has served as well in the past and was in favor of continuing that approach.

Mr. Holloway asked if it is time to revise the benchmarks for IPS since they are 10 years old.

Dr. Huskey agreed to take a look but noted measures are not perfect for all the institutions.

Ms. Webb asked about the history of institutions having problems meeting the performance standards and whether we are seeing the same institutions having difficulty.

Dr. Huskey pointed out that sometimes it was the same institutions but different measures. Institutions such as Virginia Tech have never had a deficiency.

Mr. Light concluded this discussion by saying it is better to respond to deficiencies by remediations rather than depriving them of resources and agreed with Mr. Holloman's suggestion of adjusting the benchmarks.

DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE STUDIES

Mr. Andes led the discussion on the financial aid study. This is a continuation of the work initiated last year related to state financial aid, where SCHEV provided recommendations in several key areas. The first of those recommendations was the successful adoption of new financial aid funding methodology that directed aid to institutions serving primarily low-income students, diminished the impact of an institution raising tuition and improved the calculation of need for very low-income students. In addition, there were several recommendations included in that report that SCHEV proposed to continue working on in the coming year.

Mr. Slater asked to what extent are Virginia public institutions using tuition revenue to aid the students who need financial help to stay in college or get into college.

Mr. Andes pointed out that it varies by institution. Some use only 3 to 5 percent of tuition revenue for financial aid, others are in the 15 to 20 percent range and a number of them are in-between. There are also a few institutions who make less use of the tuition revenue for aid program and more use of unfunded scholarships.

Mr. Slater wants to see a little more detail or a report on this possibly in the next meeting. It will be a very useful tool in improving our minority students getting onto college.

Ms. Zheng concluded the meeting by presenting information on the development of a statewide survey of institutional expenditures by program and academic discipline. The study focuses on identifying methods to implement reporting of institutional expenditures by program and academic discipline to determine the effectiveness of spending related to the attainment of state and institutional goals.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Victoria Harker
Committee Chair

Felix Sam
Associate for Finance Policy