

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2023**

DRAFT MINUTES

Ms. Harker called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. in the board room of the Virginia Community College System Office, Richmond, Virginia.

Council members present: John Broderick, Walter Curt, Jason El Koubi, Victoria Harker, William Harvey, Thaddeus Holloman, Cheryl Oldham, John Jumper, Scott Fleming, Jennie O'Holleran, Douglas Straley and Delceno Miles.

Council members absent: Ken Ampy.

Staff members present: Tom Allison, Lee Andes, Peter Blake, Grace Covello Khattar, Joe DeFilippo, Emma Donovan, Alan Edwards, Deon Hamner, Jodi Fisler, Sandra Freeman, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Paul Smith, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner, Kristin Whelan, Samantha White and Yan Zheng.

Notable: Deputy Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Oldham, seconded by Mr. Holloman, the minutes from the September 18, 2023, joint meeting with the Council of Presidents and the minutes from the September 19, 2023, Council were approved 12-0.

REMARKS FROM DAVID DORE, CHANCELLOR VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Ms. Harker introduced Dr. Doré, the Chancellor of the Virginia Community Colleges. Dr. Dore started in April of 2023 and within his first 36 days he visited all 23 community colleges. He described his goals for the VCCS and changes he is implementing.

Dr. Doré is shifting the direction of the community colleges and asking the colleges to look at themselves regionally and to collaborate across colleges to better align with the workforce and economic needs of Virginia. The colleges also are shifting their delivery models to better address the needs of the labor market. Many of the high-demand sectors also are the costliest for the community colleges to credential, so the VCCS is asking for a greater investment to improve labs.

Dr. Doré discussed responding to the "new majority" of learners who are nontraditional students and need more flexibility. His goals for student success are high standards and greater completion. Serving the needs of the new majority better will lead to increased enrollment.

The VCCS also is responding to the national upheaval in higher education. More learners do not have the luxury to wait for work to complete a four-year degree. A

more customized approach and credit-for-prior-learning will help more students complete credentials. Dr. Doré discussed blurring of the line between non-credit and credit so that credentials are stackable and can be completed over time while students remain in the workplace.

Council members asked about workforce, and Dr. Dore singled out the success of the Fast Forward program as a new way to look at skilled trades. Mr. Allison was asked to comment on the success of the Workforce Credential Grant program.

The Chancellor's final comments stressed that the community colleges serve many students who are part of the ALICE (asset limited, income constrained, employed) population and that turning these students into taxpayers will save the state from having to provide services.

In response to questions, Dr. Dore also discussed dual enrollment.

DISCUSSION OF SCHEV'S ROLE IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND THE DAY OF DIALOGUE

Dr. Fisler, SCHEV's senior associate for assessment and policy analysis delivered a presentation on SCHEV's role in civic engagement. Civic engagement is one of the four competencies as outlined in SCHEV's Policy on Student Learning Assessment and Quality in Undergraduate Education. Two additional competencies are chosen by and specific to the institutions.

Institutions are teaching civic engagement skills through a variety of methods. Some integrate civic learning into courses, others integrate it into on-campus activities.

SCHEV has convened several virtual and in-person gatherings for institutional faculty and staff for the purpose of discussing various aspects of teaching and assessing civic engagement. These gatherings have allowed faculty and staff to share success stories and helpful resources with one another and allowed SCHEV staff to hear from institutional representatives about the challenges they face. SCHEV staff use insights and feedback generated at these gatherings to inform further action in a manner appropriate to SCHEV's mission and statutorily assigned duties.

The ultimate goal of civic engagement efforts is to prepare Virginia's students to be effective participants in a pluralistic democratic society.

ACTION ON STRATEGIC PLAN'S PRIORITY INITIATIVES

Ms. Salmon updated the Council on the strategic plan progress. The 10 proposed priority initiatives are as follows and incorporate suggestions from Council input:

1. ***Promote access to postsecondary education: Develop, implement and collaborate on a variety of strategic activities, including marketing, professional development, and direct student and family programming (such as mentoring, summer bridge programs, counseling and advising via GEAR UP), to improve awareness of and access to a variety of postsecondary education opportunities for Virginia's low-income and underserved students.***

2. **Support a market survey by Online Virginia Network (OVN):** Gather insight on Virginia higher education alumni including those who obtained some college and no degree and their interest in completing a degree through OVN.
3. **Develop resources for mental health and disabilities supports:** Partner to deliver additional resources to institutions and support front line professionals that provide mental health services to students and/or assist students with disabilities.
4. **Establish consensus on higher education cost and funding needs:** Build consensus around higher education cost and funding needs in accordance with work done last year.
5. **Establish pathways maps as means to lower students' costs by ensuring a smooth transition from two-year to four-year institutions:** Create system-wide course equivalencies and complete seven pathways maps, strengthening pathways to the baccalaureate for transfer students as well as high school students.
6. **Report on student choices and outcomes to ensure commitment to completion and student success:** Produce report on public and private postsecondary education outcomes and transparently communicate the results. Similarly, assess factors influencing an individual's decision to pursue/not pursue higher education.
7. **Automate database for private postsecondary education:** Automate database to improve reliability and increase productivity in regulation of private postsecondary education.
8. **Scale Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP):** Scale the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership, launch new V-TOP initiatives that address barriers to work-based learning and evaluate progress/success to expand the statewide effort.
9. **Establish criteria for high demand jobs:** In cooperation with the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE) and institutions, work to establish criteria to define and incentives to address urgent labor market needs.
10. **Foster activities and partnerships that improve students' civic knowledge and their ability to contribute effectively to civic life.**

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Blake highlighted the following from the Director's report, published on page 142 of the agenda book:

Board of visitors orientation planning: A planning committee continues to meet and refine the agenda for the November 14-15 orientation program for new college and university board members. Featured presenters include Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Jason Miyares, Secretary of Education Guidera, Secretary of Finance Cummings, director of the Department of Planning and Budget Michael Maul and several board rectors, members and university presidents. Council members Delceno Miles and John Jumper serve on the planning group. They and other Council members, including chair Ken Ampy and vice-chair Victoria Harker, will participate in the event, which will be held at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond.

“Level Up Virginia” launch: On October 2 and in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education, SCHEV launched a new “student-facing” website, www.levelupvirginia.org. The website offers resources to Virginia’s students and families on a broad range of postsecondary pathways, including two- and four-year colleges, credentials, apprenticeships and the military. It features a directory connecting students and families to local college access providers and spotlights an “ROI College Explorer” tool from VirginiaStudentLoanHelp.org. Visitors can access an event calendar for the latest in college-going activities. While the target audience is students who are underrepresented in higher education, their families and the educators who serve them, it is a resource for anyone in Virginia looking to advance their educational journey.

Data Science Innovation Hub workgroup meeting: On October 4, Joe DeFilippo convened the workgroup assembled by SCHEV to work with a consultant (SRI International) on the feasibility of a university-consortia data science innovation hub in the Hampton Roads region. The group reviewed SRI’s phase 2 report, as well as plans for focus-group discussions with relevant alumni of the designated institutions.

Virginia Education and Workforce Conference: This annual event is scheduled for October 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Richmond Convention Center. SCHEV’s Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership is a co-host for the event along with the Virginia Chamber Foundation and the Virginia Business Higher Education Council. SCHEV staff member Alisha Bazemore will participate on a panel to talk about the value of internships in expending the educational experience of students. If Council members are interested in attending, please tell Kristin Whelan (kristinwhelan@schev.edu), who will register you for the conference.

Wrapping up: I will spend the last two months as SCHEV director on activities related to the annual board of visitors orientation program, SCHEV’s budget and policy recommendations and the Governor’s introduced budget, the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership, the conclusion of the six-year-plan process, internal agency operations and the transition to the new director. The Council made me the interim director in April 2011 and the permanent director in January 2012. I have worked with six Council chairs and dozens of members. Together, we have produced over 100 Council regular meetings, special meetings, retreats and conferences. I have enjoyed (just about) every moment and have been inspired by the Council members’ commitment, thoughtfulness, creativity, knowledge, experience and respect for one another. You will continue to be supported by an exceptional and talented staff and by many friends of higher education around Capitol Square and at the institutions. Thank you.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEES

Report from Academic Affairs Committee

Ms. Oldham highlighted the following from the Academic Affairs committee:

The committee discussed two agenda items.

The first item was an action item of proposed changes to the program approvals policy.

The Academic Affairs Committee heard from Dr. DeFilippo and Dr. Osei on proposed edits to the program approvals policy. Detail of the proposed changes are on page 9 of the agenda book. Proposed changes of particular interest include adding cost information to certificate program proposals, updating the timeline and process for degree program approvals and modifying the process for submitting feedback on duplicative programs. The committee voted on this action and approved unanimously to move the item to the full Council for approval.

On a motion from Mr. Fleming and seconded by Ms. Miles, the edits to the programs approval policy were approved unanimously.

For the second item, the Academic Affairs Committee also engaged in a discussion on the work of the Academic Affairs Committee with Dr. DeFilippo and staff.

The Academic Affairs work falls under two main categories: public higher education policy and private postsecondary regulation. Discussion of the included work in the public education sphere included approval actions (e.g., degree and certificate program proposals), policy development and analysis, and liaisonship with multiple campus-based groups. The discussion was informative, and staff has been asked to continue the conversation in future meetings beginning with work in the private education sphere.

Report from the Resources & Planning Committee

Ms. O'Holleran highlighted the following from the Resources and Planning committee:

The committee discussed two agenda items.

The first item was an action on budget and policy recommendations for the 2024-26 biennium.

Mr. Allison reviewed the budget and policy recommendations highlighting staff's proposals in the following three categories:

1. Improving student success and labor market outcomes.
2. Affordability and access.
3. Institutional operations.

Mr. Allison also reviewed capital outlay and equipment recommendations for the upcoming biennium. Staff concluded the presentation with a series of policy considerations for the 2024-26 biennium for Council to consider related to enrollment, campus safety and affordability.

The committee discussed staff's proposals and took action to approve the proposed recommendations on the budget and policy items contained in the materials. The resolution that the committee brings forward for consideration by Council appears on page 37 of the materials.

After a discussion, Council members determined that another meeting may be required to have the time needed to hammer out details of budget recommendations. This meeting date and time will be determined later.

The second item was an action item on institutions' enrollment projections.

Mr. Massa presented enrollment projections to the committee. He highlighted Council's duties in statute as it relates to enrollment projections, the process institutions, SCHEV, and Op-Six go through as it related to the projections and presented detailed data by sector and institution on enrollment projections through Fall of 2029.

Mr. Massa highlighted key findings by institution type noting that four-year institutions are anticipating an overall decrease in in-state first-time in college students. Among four-year institutions there is an even split among institutions that project a decrease and those that project an increase.

Staff concluded the presentation noting that we are on track to meet the cumulative goal in the Virginia Plan to have 1.5 million undergraduate degrees and credentials by 2030. Staff estimates that, by 2030, 70% of Virginia's working-age population will have an associate or bachelor's degree or other relevant workforce credential.

The committee discussed various ways to continue to enhance the enrollment projection process and data collection methods to better project and work with institutions to accurately project enrollment. The committee took action to approve institutions' enrollment projections; the vote was four in favor, with Walter Curt voting against. The resolution that the majority of the committee brings forward for consideration by Council appears on pages 75 and 76.

On a motion from Ms. Miles that was seconded by Mr. Holloman, the institutional enrollment projections were passed by a vote of 11-1, with Mr. Curt voting no.

REPORT FROM THE SCHEV DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Ms. Harker reported on the activities of the Executive Search Committee.

The position was posted in several periodicals and on the SCHEV website. A longer description is being used by the search company, Isaacson, Miller for their search. The search firm has been in touch with 150 individuals. The search committee met last week and discussed roughly a dozen carefully vetted candidates. The committee is currently working on dates for virtual committee interviews in November and finalist visits to follow shortly after. The committee remains on track to hire by the end of the calendar year.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Mr. Blake confirmed no new items were delegated to staff. He told the new members where to find the item in the agenda book.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Ken Ampy
Council Chair

Kristin Whelan
SCHEV Staff

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council’s “Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes,” the following item approved as delegated to staff:

Academic Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
Old Dominion University	Undergraduate Certificate Program Establishment Approved: • Human Factors (42.2899)	Spring 2024

Pursuant to *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council’s “Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes,” the following item approved and reported:

Program Discontinued

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
George Mason University	Graduate Certificate Program Discontinuance Approved: • Information Security and Assurance (11.1003)	Spring 2024

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

Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
George Mason University	<u>Rename</u> the School of Business to the Donald G. Costello College of Business . The school has been renamed to recognize the Donald G. Costello Foundation financial support and provision of scholarships to students in the business school. The \$52 million gift of the Costello Foundation trusts is "the largest donation to name an academic unit" in the university's history. In addition, the change from "school" to "college" will "acknowledge the size of the unit" and accurately align it with other large academic units at the university.	November 1, 2023