

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2024**

**MINUTES**

Mr. Ampy called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. in the 9<sup>th</sup> floor main conference room of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Council members present: Ken Ampy, Jason El Koubi, William Harvey, Thaddeus Holloman, Cheryl Oldham, John Jumper, Scott Fleming, Jennie O'Holleran and Douglas Straley.

Council members who joined virtually: John Broderick, Victoria Harker and Delceno Miles.

Council members absent: Walter Curt.

Staff members present: Tom Allison, Lee Andes, Grace Khattar, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Justin Horton, Jodi Fisler, Sandra Freeman, Erin McGrath, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Paul Smith, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

Notable guests: The Honorable Aimee Guidera, Secretary of Education; Deputy Secretary of Education, Nicholas Kent; and Deb Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General/Chief.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Ampy called for a motion to approve the remote participation of Mr. Broderick, Ms. Harker and Ms. Miles. All three members were located greater than 60 miles from the meeting location. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Ampy congratulated and thanked Dr. Edwards for stepping in as SCHEV Interim Director.

On a motion by Mr. El Koubi, seconded by Mr. Holloman, the Minutes from the October 24, 2023, the Minutes from the special Council meeting on December 12, 2023, and the Minutes from the special Council meeting on December 21, 2024, were approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF THE SIX-YEAR PLANS AND FACT PACKS**

Mr. Allison shared a presentation about the process regarding public institutions' six-year operating plans and the development of (new in 2023) fact packs.

The six-year-planning process is required in the *Code of Virginia*. Each public-institution governing board is required to adopt a plan. New plans are adopted in odd-numbered years and updated in even years. In consultation with a group dubbed Op-Six, SCHEV

staff coordinate the process. Public institutions are asked to complete a two-part report. Part one is an excel template that includes the non-general fund revenue of each institution, the general fund requests and academic planning for the institutions. Part two is a narrative that also has specific requirements. These documents help SCHEV put together budgets and policies.

Mr. El Koubi asked how the plan timeline was determined. Mr. Allison described the odd year work. It includes two-hour meetings with each of the institutions and Op-Six. The process is a dialogue between the Commonwealth and the institutions.

In March, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) was contracted to assist in the process. BCG requested additional data from each institution to constitute institution-specific fact packs. Instructions for fact-pack completion were submitted to institutions in June. Op-Six held its meetings with the institutions in August. After a period of questions and comments between Op-Six and the institutions, plans were finalized in September. Institutional boards approved the final versions of the plans in the fall. All information on the six-year plan process and the results were posted on the SCHEV website by December 1.

Mr. Allison shared that Virginia has a higher graduation rate for our selective institutions. The graduation rates for non-selective institutions also are higher than their national peers. Virginia enrollment has recovered since 2019. Some institutions struggle with retention and completion rates, but many have plans to address these challenges.

Mr. Allison described how the six-year plan process informs SCHEV budget and policy recommendations. He included specific examples of funding requests from the institutions.

Gen. Jumper asked how much of what the institutions ask for is unfunded. Mr. Allison said that the institutions are asked to provide balanced requests that includes expected sources of funding and specific uses of funds.

## **DISCUSSION OF THE 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

Dr. Khattar discussed the convening of the 2024 General Assembly including budget amendment deadlines and the timeline of events during session.

SCHEV staff work with members directly and with the House and Senate appropriations committees. Staff attend committee meetings and serve as a resource for members who have questions. Staff testify when asked and collect information. The Secretary of Education assigns bills to staff for comment, and staff create Legislative Action Summaries (LASs) and Fiscal Impact Statements (FISs).

Dr. Khattar reviewed the bills of relevance to SCHEV in the upcoming session. She highlighted bills that seek to: audit education preparation programs at public colleges; eliminate legacy admissions practices at public institutions; change procurements that impact capital projects and state agencies; provide grants to qualifying campuses under a program called Hunger Free Campus; and call for a SCHEV study of the in-state, out-of-state tuition differential.

## **UPDATE ON THE VIRGINIA TALENT + OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Dr. Bazemore gave an update on the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (VTOP), which is a partnership between SCHEV, the Virginia Chamber Foundation and the Virginia Business Higher Education Council. Its goal is to facilitate the readiness of students, employers and institutions to participate in internships and work-based learning (WBL).

She shared progress in the areas of student readiness, employer readiness and institutional readiness. VTOP procured a state-wide staffing agency to help smaller businesses with recruitment and matching funds for their interns' stipends. The partnership offers a mentorship training program to help employers support students. VTOP offers grants to institutions to transform federal work-study programs; other grants support the program staff on campus through professional development.

Dr. Bazemore presented student, employer and institutional highlights from 2023, and she outlined the plans for 2024.

Members inquired about outcomes, capacity and data reporting. Dr. Bazemore stated that a workgroup was addressing those issues. Dep. Sec. Kent addressed some of the questions. Mr. Kent shared that the Governor's introduced budget concentrates on building capacity at the institutional level through grants to create pillars and metrics for outcomes.

## **REMARKS FROM WILLIAM & MARY'S PRESIDENT, KATHERINE ROWE**

Mr. Ampy welcomed President Rowe who joined the meeting to speak about current initiatives at William & Mary.

Dr. Rowe began her remarks by sharing her internship vision. The commitment from the Council of Presidents is a paid internship for each student without extended time to degree. Dr. Rowe stated that she wants the message to students to be that they can come to Virginia for college, develop a relationship with an employer and stay when they graduate. William & Mary is committed to hands-on and experiential learning. Internships should be paid, mentored and transcribed. Their goal is to provide access to funded internships in all William & Mary departments by 2026. Dr. Rowe sees this initiative as an opportunity to build on strengths and existing relationships in higher education and business. William & Mary's Chief Careers Officer oversees internship and work-based learning. The institution has collected significant gifts to support funded internships.

President Rowe discussed making William & Mary more affordable and the institution's commitment to meet the full demonstrated need of Pell-eligible students. Their goal is to have 20% of their student population be Pell-eligible. William & Mary is part of the Posse Initiative program that provides scholarships and leadership opportunities to underserved potential college students. William & Mary also launched the Commonwealth Impacts Partnership Outreach program to identify high-achieving students in limited income high schools to accept into the William & Mary Scholars program.

President Rowe discussed a new School of Computing and Data Science that William & Mary will bring before Council. This effort is a reorganization to be more efficient and to meet labor needs. There is large growth in computer and data science-applied science and physics, and William & Mary is bringing these disciplines together to meet the high demand more effectively.

Gen. Jumper asked President Rowe about education leadership training. He asked her thoughts on a Ph.D. track in education leadership. She offered to have the dean of the William & Mary School of Education address the Council.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Ampy motioned for Council to enter closed session by moving that, pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3711 (A)(1) and § 2.2-3711 (A)(8), the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia convene a closed meeting for the purposes of discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for employment; and consultation with legal counsel regarding legal matters in connection with the first matter. Upon a unanimous roll-call vote, members convened in a closed session.

Upon reconvening in the public meeting, Mr. Ampy stated the following:

“We convened today in a Closed Meeting pursuant to a recorded vote on the motion above and in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act*. Title 2.2-3711 of the *Code of Virginia*, which requires that Council certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under this chapter; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered. Any member who believes there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place. The statement of the departure will be recorded in the minutes.”

A unanimous roll call vote certified the close session's adherence to the statute and the motion; no member voiced a statement of departure to record.

### **REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEES**

#### ***Report from the Academic Affairs Committee***

In the interest of expediency, Ms. Oldham proposed the Council consider the following five resolutions carried over from the Academic Affairs Committee as a whole.

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to James Madison University to initiate a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Health Sciences (CIP code: 51.0000), effective fall 2024.**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to Virginia State University to initiate a Bachelor of Science (B.S.)**

degree program in Mechanical Engineering (CIP code: 14.1901), effective fall 2024.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to James Madison University to initiate a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree program in Education (CIP 13.0411) on condition that the proposal receives a favorable review from a team of external reviewers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Council delegates to the director of SCHEV permission to communicate formal approval to the institution. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to the three institutions listed below to implement the specified degree programs in education licensure shortage areas, effective fall 2024.

Institution	Degree/Credential	Program Name	CIP
CNU	BAEd	Elementary Education PreK-6	13.1202
GMU	EdS	School Psychology	42.2805
UVA	MEd	School Psychology	42.2805
UVA	EdS	School Psychology	42.2805

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the proposed mission statement for Old Dominion University, to take effect 30 days following adjournment of the 2024 General Assembly:

**Old Dominion University (ODU) is a preeminent public research university located in Coastal Virginia. Our world-class faculty fosters dynamic on-campus and global online learning for undergraduate and graduate students that enriches their lives, promotes insightful and perceptive leadership, and motivates the pursuit of excellence in dedicated fields and professions. We collaborate with strategic partners to address challenges and propose solutions that impact the economy, environment, health and wellness, and social justice. In pursuit of equity and inclusion, ODU provides opportunities for educational, artistic, and professional growth to our diverse Monarch community.**

The motion from Ms. Oldham was seconded by Gen. Jumper and approved unanimously by the Council.

*Report from the Resources and Planning Committee*

Mr. Ampy stated that due to an absence of a quorum in the Committee, the full Council would consider the action item on budget and policy recommendations. After a brief discussion, Gen. Jumper motioned, and Ms. O'Holleran seconded, the following resolution, which was approved unanimously by the Council.

**WHEREAS, *Pathways to Opportunity*, the statewide strategic plan for higher education, seeks to make Virginia the best state for education by 2030; and**

**WHEREAS, Virginia's higher education system is a shared responsibility of the state, institutions and students and families to reach the highest levels of performance and accountability; and**

**WHEREAS, budget recommendations for the 2024-26 biennium focus on improving access, affordability, student success, labor market outcomes and institutional efficiencies and effectiveness; now therefore,**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the proposed budget and policy recommendations for the 2024-26 biennium, as amended and adopted on January 9, 2024.**

Mr. Ampy opted to defer receipt of the update on the annual report of the statewide strategic plan.

### **RECEIPT OF REPORT OF THE INTERIM AGENCY DIRECTOR**

Dr. Edwards briefly summarized the written report in the materials and added his gratitude to Council members Harker, Miles and Jumper for their participation in the 2023 Boards of Visitors Orientation. He noted the upcoming Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards (OFAs) in March.

### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR RETIRED AGENCY DIRECTOR**

Mr. Ampy read a resolution in honor of Peter Blake, the recently-retired SCHEV Director. Gen. Jumper motioned, Ms. Harker seconded, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was voiced.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was voiced.

### **RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment had been requested, and none was offered spontaneously.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Ampy adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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Ken Ampy  
Council Chair

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Kristin Whelan  
SCHEV Staff

Items Delegated to Director/Staff [November-December 2023]

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

**Academic Program Actions**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Degree/Program/CIP</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
George Mason University	<b>Graduate Certificate Programs Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Machine Learning for Embedded Systems (11.0102)</li><li>• Microfabrication (15.1601)</li><li>• Smart Grid Technology (14.1099)</li></ul>	Spring 2024
James Madison University	<b>New Degree Program Not Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Media Arts and Design (09.9999)</li></ul>	November 29, 2023
Old Dominion University	<b>Graduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teacher Leadership (13.1299)</li></ul>	Spring 2024
Radford University	<b>Post-Professional Certificate Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational Leadership (13.0401)</li></ul>	Spring 2024
Radford University	<b>Program Modification Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add an online delivery format to the Master of Social Work (MSW) in Social Work (44.0701)</li></ul>	Spring 2024
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	<b>Program Modification Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modify the credit hours of the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Construction Engineering and Management (14.3301) from 134 credit hours to 124 credit hours</li></ul>	Fall 2024

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

### Programs Discontinued

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
George Mason University	<b>Degree Designation Discontinuance Approved:</b> Discontinue the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree designation in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Astronomy (40.0201). [Council Approval Date:05/22/2002]	Spring 2024
George Mason University	<b>Program Discontinuance Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Information Security and Assurance (11.1003). [Council Approval Date: 04/08/2003]</li> </ul>	Spring 2024-Fall 2026
Old Dominion University	<b>Program Discontinuances Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate Certificate in Arts and Entrepreneurship (50.1001)</li> <li>• Graduate Certificate in Health and Humanities (24.0199)</li> <li>• Graduate Certificate in Social Justice and Entrepreneurship (30.9999)</li> </ul>	Spring 2024

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 approved as delegated to staff:

### Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
Old Dominion University	Reorganize the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies to close the <b>Department of Communication Disorders and Special Education</b> . The department closure will “close a department that is no longer needed” as the faculty and academic programs have been relocated to other academic units.	December 15, 2023
Old Dominion University	Rename the Department of Human Movement Sciences to the <b>Department of Human Movement Studies and Special Education</b> . ODU indicates that the rename will “accurately reflect the academic programs offered by the	December 15, 2023



Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	department” and “ensure the location of the special education academic programs is known internally and external to the university.” In addition, the term “studies” is more appropriate as it accurately reflects the academic areas the unit currently oversees.	
Radford University	Rename the School of Nursing to the <b>College of Nursing</b> . Radford indicates that the rename will “ensure the unit utilizes the same nomenclature as the other independent academic units at the university.”	January 15, 2024
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Create the <b>Department of Neurosurgery</b> . The Department will reside in the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. The establishment of the Department will provide an “academic unit, with a department chairperson, that has a focus solely on neurosurgery.” Establishment of the department will align the organizational structure of the medical school Virginia Tech’s SCHEV peer institutions “as all of the institutions, with the exception of two have a department dedicated to neurosurgery.” The establishment of the department will necessitate hiring three (3) staff. The positions are current vacant lines in the school. The cost for the positions is \$1,456,250. The Carilion Clinic will provide all funding needed for the new positions and other costs needed to establish and operate the department in the first three years of operation.	December 1, 2023

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 23.1-213 to 230 and 8VAC-40-31-90 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*, the following items approved as delegated to staff:

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

Institution	Location	Effective Date
1st Providence Healthcare Training	Woodbridge, VA	August 29, 2023
Tidewater Medical Training	Hampton, VA and Virginia Beach, VA	August 29, 2023

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Tidewater Tech – Little Creek	Norfolk, VA	November 15, 2023
Total Cyber Academy	Fairfax, VA	August 29, 2023
Virginia Center for Montessori Studies	Richmond, VA	September 5, 2023

**Institutions of Higher Education Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia—Approval of Additional Location**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)	Fort Lee, VA and Fort Eustis, VA	September 21, 2023

**Institutions of Higher Education Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia—Provisional to Full Certification**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Lincoln Memorial University	Ewing, VA	September 15, 2023