

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
JOINT SCHEV/PRIVATE COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
May 13, 2024**

MINUTES

Mr. Ampy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Boitnott room of the Kline Campus Center at Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Council members present: Ken Ampy, Walter Curt, Jason El Koubi, William Harvey, John Jumper, Jennie O'Holleran, Delceno Miles and Doug Straley.

Council members absent: John Broderick, Victoria Harker and Thaddeus Holloman.

Staff members present: Tom Allison, Lee Andes, Grace Covello Khattar, Joseph DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Tod Massa, Laura Osberger, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon, Bob Spieldenner and Kristin Whelan.

Other notable attendees: Deb Love from the Office of the Attorney General; Nicholas Kent, Deputy Secretary of Education and the Honorable Chris Peace, President, Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia. See list at the end of this document of CICV Presidents who attended.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

On behalf of Council, Chair Ken Ampy welcomed the presidents of the private, non-profit institutions and stressed the importance of their colleges in meeting the goals and needs of the Commonwealth. He asked everyone at the table to introduce themselves. Mr. Ampy introduced Dr. Mary Dane Hinton, chair of the Private College Advisory Board (PCAB) whose opening remarks touched on FAFSA, the enrollment cliff and campus climate. She expressed the group's appreciation for SCHEV's support for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program. She emphasized PCAB's commitment to meet the current challenges in higher education together.

Dr. Alan Edwards, interim director of the State Council of Higher Education, welcomed everyone to the meeting and remarked that the statute that the joint PCAB and SCHEV meeting is based in was written 50 years ago this year.

President of the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV), Chris Peace, welcomed the group and gave an overview of the CICV and the private institutions in Virginia. He discussed the various ways that the CICV supports independent institutions in Virginia.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY REPORT

Fletcher Mangum, founder and CEO of Mangum Economics, shared a presentation of the economic impact of CICV institutions on the state of Virginia. According to his findings, independent institutions impact the communities in measurable and positive ways. CICV

schools are in many rural communities and provide an economic backbone for their localities and have lower unemployment rates.

Students who attend CICV schools are racially and economically diverse. Forty percent of in-state CICV students receive Pell grants compared with 29% of students at the public institutions. These students benefit from the personal education from CICV institutions.

Ms. Miles asked about the number of students who stay in the communities of the CICV institutions after graduation. Mr. Mangum stated that he plans to study that question. President Shushock shared that Roanoke College has studied this and found that 20% of Roanoke College graduates stay in the New River Valley area whereas only 1% of Virginia Tech graduates stay in the area.

VIRGINIA PRIVATE NURSING COLLEGE PERSPECTIVES

Cindy Rubenstein and Lisa Levinson, board members of the Virginia Association of Colleges of Nursing (VACN) shared a presentation about the state of private college nursing programs. The VACN is trying to address a critical shortage in RNs across the Commonwealth. Rural regions have an even greater shortage of nurses and are considered nursing deserts. Shortages are caused by nurse retirements due to age or burnout, a growing aging population, capacity in nursing programs that cannot accommodate all qualified applicants and a decrease in graduate programs.

They described what is needed to support the future nursing pipeline. Among several mentioned strategies, they suggested that faculty shortages can be addressed by including private, non-profit nursing programs in legislative mandated salary increases; and greater financial aid including grants and loan forgiveness.

Dr. Harvey asked some specific questions about the structure of the nursing curriculum. He also asked how many hours each faculty member teaches and what percentage of federal research dollars is awarded to CICV nursing faculty. Mr. Curt asked for further details about the enrollment decline in Virginia.

Eastern Mennonite University President Huxman commented that the CICV programs graduate students who stay in their community but that the CICV institutions struggle with salary competition with public institutions resulting in waitlists for their nursing programs. Shenandoah University President Fitzsimmons commented that the state should contribute to the salaries of the private school faculty for the good of the Commonwealth. Hollins University President Hinton asked for SCHEV's help with data collection.

Deputy Secretary Nicholas Kent offered support from the Secretary of Education. He noted that he went to a small, private, faith-based institution for his undergraduate degree. He also announced that the state budget has just passed. He pointed to the increase in the TAG award. The Governor also signed into legislation a permanent private college representative to SCHEV's board.

RESPONSE AND OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Curt asked about the impacts of the FASFA issues on the private institutions. President Hinton said that it will have lasting impacts and that at Hollins, they make financial award commitments for four years and worry that their calculations could be off because of the FAFSA issues. The presidents also expressed concern about the families who grew frustrated with the FAFSA website and gave up. President Hinton stated that some institutions have had issues passing their budgets.

Mr. Peace made the case for further SCHEV support and advocacy for the CICV.

STATUS OF VIRGINIA TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT (VTAG) PROGRAM

Mr. Andes joined the group to discuss TAG, updates and increases. He described the newly extended application deadlines, the improved application processes and the undergraduate award increases for residential students.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY POLICY AND BUDGET REVIEW

Dr. Khattar gave a brief budget review for the state budget effective, July 1, 2024. She highlighted two bills:

HB713 (Torian): Charges public institutions developing public safety training and contains language that asks SCHEV to encourage the private institutions to follow the same requirements.

HB 1044 (Rasoul): The governor will appointment a former private college president to the SCHEV Council which will take effect July 1, 2025. SCHEV currently has a former private college president on its roster in Dr. William Harvey, Hampton University.

Dr. Khattar was asked about the total General Assembly higher education outlay and the capital projects funding.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Ampy adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Ken Ampy
Council Chair

Kristin Whelan
Coordinator of Board and Executive Operations

Private College President Attendees

Michael Salmeier, Interim President, Bluefield University
David Bushman, Bridgewater College
Susan Schultz Huxman, Eastern Mennonite University
Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
Mirta Martin, Ferrum College
Larry Stimpert, Hampden-Sydney College
Mary Dana Hinton, Hollins University
Kenny Craig (on behalf of Dondi), Liberty University
Irma Becerra, Marymount University
Robert Lindgren, Randolph – Macon College
Stephen Bruce (on behalf of Carlos Campo), Regent University
Frank Shushok, Jr., Roanoke College
Tracy Fitzsimmons, Shenandoah University
Mary Pope Hutson, Sweet Briar College
William Dudley, Washington and Lee University