

Review of the Council's "Essential Functions"  
March 18, 2013

1. In the 2013 General Assembly Session, the Governor and General Assembly approved House Bill 2311, which has the following features:
  - Affirms SCHEV's role in state-level strategic planning, policy development and implementation, higher education research and analysis, institutional collaboration, and board development.
  - Increases membership to 13 by adding the president of the Virginia Economic Development Authority and a school superintendent.
  - Requires that at least one member be a former president of a public college or university.
  - Requires that the Council "shall involve the presidents of the public institutions of higher education in its agenda" at each meeting. Further, the Council may involve other groups in its agenda.
2. Over the past two years, the Council has been engaged in a fundamental reassessment of its roles and responsibilities in light of legislative changes and emerging needs.
3. We anticipate that the Governor will ask the Council to undertake a further review of its essential functions with the aim of enhancing its ability to meet the priorities established by the recent legislation.
4. The review should involve multiple stakeholders, including representatives from public and private institutions, legislators, legislative and executive branch staff, business leaders, former Council members, K-12 community, and other key education policy makers.
5. The Council will present a report to the Secretary of Education in the fall.
6. Council chair has asked Council member Joey Smith to lead the organizational review. Mr. Smith will discuss the status of the review at each Council meeting.
7. Council chair is recommending that Council members engage with others in the education and business community regarding this review. He also is recommending that Council members meet in more formal and regular ways with college and university officials, including attending meetings of advisory councils (presidents, chief academic officers, and chief finance officers, among others).
8. *The test of the new Council responsibilities clearly lies ahead. The Council and its staff must evaluate carefully those increased responsibilities and develop an effective strategy to exercise them. In short, the Council and its staff must produce the results hoped for by all those who considered the Council the most appropriate agency to bring coordination to Virginia higher education.*