

SCHEV Priorities for 2012-13

UPDATE: Activities since Council Meeting (March 20 – May 17)

1. **ACADEMIC QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY**

(Program approval, viability and relevance; Preparation for life and work)

- Represented Virginia at national and regional meetings on reciprocal state authorization of distance education offerings. Efforts will result in legislation for the 2014 General Assembly and an administrative structure that will satisfy the developing national reciprocity standards.
- Reviewed, and prepared for Council consideration and action, public-institution program proposals and proprietary-institution certification applications.
- Revised for Council review and action the policies for public-institution proposals of new academic degree programs and of organizational changes.
- Began development of a guidance document on the certification of online institutions to operate in Virginia, with Council action anticipated in July 2013.
- Conducted a workshop for public and private institutions on the Outstanding Faculty Award (OFA) nomination and selection process.
- Conducted the annual NCLB-higher education grant competition. Ten grantees from Virginia institutions were awarded a total of approximately \$1.2M.
- Conducted orientation sessions for individuals/entities interested in seeking certification to operate non-public institutions/schools in the Commonwealth.

2. **STUDENT SUCCESS**

(Readiness, P-20 alignment: Changing demographics; Student support services)

- Completed and submitted to the US Department of Education annual reports for both the College Access Challenge Grant (May) and GEAR UP (April).
- Received acceptance of two GEAR UP Virginia proposals for sessions at the 2013 National Council for Community and Education Partnerships/GEAR UP Annual Conference in July; topics: (1) communicating with Spanish-speaking families; (2) GEAR UP Virginia components' impacts on student readiness.
- Conducted discussions with Princeton Review on a possible collaboration to support students from disadvantaged school districts in the transition from high school to college.
- Promulgated guidelines on priority course registration policies (approved by Council in March 2013) to Virginia public institutions.
- Continued collaborative deliberations with institutions on a military credit acceptance policy mandated by the General Assembly (Council action anticipated in July 2013).
- Met with the State Committee on Transfer and charged it with reviewing and recommending revisions to the State Policy on College Transfer.
- Coordinated the nomination and application process for the first-ever Governor's (Undergraduate) Business Plan Challenge; collected materials from

SCHEV Priorities for 2012-13

21 nominated students/groups; transmitted to Governor's Policy Office; assisted with execution of the event.

- Convened the final 2012-13 Student Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting; members advised the College Access Challenge Grant director on coordination and creation of campus-level access programs for high school students.
- Maintained and updated the financial-aid information on the agency website, including the SCHEV Financial Aid Blog.
- Responded to numerous financial aid inquiries and/or complaints from current and prospective students/families; resolved multiple appeals for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program.
- Supported campus-safety-related initiatives and outreach:
 - Provided staff support, research and preparation of evidence-based recommendations to the Education Workgroup of the Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force;
 - Established a relationship with the new statewide Campus Safety Coordinator (Department of Criminal Justice Services); facilitated his participation in the April GPAC meeting and May Council meeting; and
 - Assisted the Department of Health in disseminating information to public and private institutions regarding the recent Mumps outbreak.

3. EFFICIENCY, INNOVATION AND INCENTIVES

(Cost control, including auxiliary; Optimal use of institutional assets; Partnerships, collaboration, "scale economies")

- Coordinated a meeting of public-institution provosts with the director of the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) on Virginia's new 29-hour part-time employment rule and the federal Affordable Care Act.
- Released the third edition of the "Innovations in Higher Education" web page, highlighting innovative institutional programs that meet the goals of TJ21.
- Assisted in the creation of a Communications Subcommittee for the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) to coordinate and improve the dissemination of information among the partnering agencies and to the public.
- Convened an external workgroup to advise on planning and conducting the legislatively-expanded Boards of Visitors (BOV) orientation/training session in October (Oct. 21-22).
- Signed a memorandum of agreement with officials from the Taiwan Ministry of Education, the National Science Council, the National Taiwan University, and others to promote educational and academic activities and partnerships.
- Provided detailed Virginia operating-budget data to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in support of its annual state-data exchange.

SCHEV Priorities for 2012-13

- Worked with institutional and legislative money-committee staffs on the collection and analysis of 2013-14 tuition and fee data.
- Collaborated internally and with other central-agency administrators to produce the latest version of the Six-Year Plan template, which has been distributed to the public institutions for submission this summer.
- Reviewed facility-inventory data submitted by the institutions and recommended necessary adjustments, as part of development process for the 2014-16 capital outlay budget recommendations in fall 2013.
- Advised the Education Secretariat prior to the legislative veto session regarding issues related to the higher education budget and to tuition and fees.
- Met with representatives of the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA):
 - Reviewed SCHEV's role in the capital-outlay budget process (April); and
 - Discussed SCHEV's role in the higher-education operating budget process to inform APA's future audits of public institutions (May).
- Responded to academic- and budget-data requests and questions from, and met with, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study team reviewing efficiency in public higher education.
- Participated with the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) chancellor and other VCCS officials in two campus visits to learn more about community college facility needs; attended meetings on the Success Coach initiative.
- Provided liaison support to the Governor's Rural Jobs Council (RJC); attended meetings of the RJC and its Infrastructure and Workforce/K-12 Education subcommittees.
- Convened a workgroup focused on undergraduate tuition and financial aid:
 - Met individually with staff from the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) and the legislative money committee on the issues; and
 - Drafted recommendations related to reporting-process improvements and possible policy changes (following ongoing review by institutional and central-agency workgroup members, the recommendations will be distributed to the various advisory groups later this spring).
- Reviewed and commented on a request from Radford University for an administrative increase to its appropriated tuition revenue, as required in section 4-2.01b.5.d., in the General Provision of the Appropriation Act.
- Collaborated with the Virginia Business-Higher Education Council (VBHEC) on potential funding scenarios related to the Two-Year College Transfer Grant program and to work-study programs.
- Provided training regarding the determination of in-state domicile status to staff at Northern Virginia Community College (statewide workshop is in planning).
- Updated institutional financial-aid representatives concerning changes in state financial aid as a result of the 2013 legislative session.

SCHEV Priorities for 2012-13

- Presented information at state association of financial aid administrators and provided updates on matters related to financial aid.
- Worked with the Office of the Attorney General to resolve several requests regarding institutional TAG participation, definition of a veteran, etc., as well as to create guidance for institutions regarding the photocopying of military ID documents.
- Worked on renewed maintenance contract for the GEAR UP scholarship data base.
- Reviewed and approved requests for disbursement of funds for the Two-Year College Transfer Grant program.
- Initiated review of the Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program (VSFAP) regulations and scheduled meetings with institutional financial aid staff.

4. CLEAR AND MEASURABLE GOALS AND RESULTS

(State-level measures; Alignment of state and institutional goals)

- Presented Virginia data and analysis at the IPEDS conference in Washington.
- Discussed better measurement and tracking of student success for both informational and accountability purposes at a U.S. Senate Economic Mobility Caucus event in Washington.
- Presented information on SCHEV data tools useful in institutional reaffirmation of accreditation at the spring meeting of the Virginia Association for Management Analysis and Planning (VAMAP); discussed accreditation reviews.
- Facilitated the applications for Level II associated education-related (Restructuring) measures for the University of Mary Washington (UMW) and Virginia State University (VSU).