

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2012
MINUTES**

Mr. Bland called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. in the board room at the offices of Owens and Minor, Mechanicsville, Virginia. Council members present: Gilbert Bland, Whittington Clement, Joann DiGennaro, Mary Haddad, Steve Haner, Gene Lockhart, G. Gilmer Minor, Gary Nakamoto, and Katharine Webb.

Council members absent: Johanna Chase, Julious Smith

Staff members present: Jim Alessio, Peter Blake, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Tod Massa, Kirsten Nelson, and Lee Ann Rung. Mr. John Thomas, Director of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, was also in attendance.

Mr. Bland provided background on SCHEV's leadership over the last few years and indicated that he would like to enhance SCHEV's role. He encouraged members to engage in dialogue about the best way to move forward with an agenda for the coming year. He reviewed the goals for the day's meeting and introduced Mr. Thomas. His role was to serve as facilitator for the meeting and to assist the Council in determining its goals.

Mr. Thomas suggested that the Council focus on 3-4 issues that can be addressed in the coming year that will keep SCHEV as the trusted advocate and voice for higher education in Virginia.

Mr. Blake provided a refresher of SCHEV's roles and responsibilities as enumerated in the *Code of Virginia* and indicated that staff will be working cooperatively with the Secretary of Education and others to review SCHEV's duties. He reviewed the existing staff organizational chart and introduced the executive staff members.

Mr. Bland asked members to consider whether or not the policy discussions on Mondays prior to Council meetings should be continued. If there is an interest in continuing these discussions, Mr. Bland asked members to consider what form the meetings should take and on which issues the Council would like to concentrate.

Council members each provided an opinion on topics of importance to SCHEV, and Mr. Thomas recorded the items into categories.

Mr. Thomas asked the members to prioritize the eleven topics that were recorded and the following four emerged as the most important:

- Academic quality and productivity
- Student success

- Institutional efficiency and innovation
- Clear and measurable goals and results

There was further discussion on how to set up the appropriate structure within SCHEV to address these important issues, including the possibility of creating alliances and partnerships with other organizations to sponsor public events around higher education issues.

Mr. Bland asked members for their thoughts on the use of committees and their structure. The Council's existing committees are Academic Affairs and Executive. In addition, the Council recently established a short-term task force to address the upcoming release of the Virginia longitudinal data system. Mr. Clement mentioned that time is a factor and with separate committees, some items would be discussed twice. Mr. Haner suggested that a work session be held on the Monday prior to the full Council meeting when important items such as the budget recommendations are discussed.

Based on the priorities discussed at this meeting, it was decided that the best structure for the Council would be to organize in such a way to give ample attention to the four priority areas. In addition to committees, Council also may use task forces to address updates to the strategic plan, the Outstanding Faculty Awards, the Boards of Visitors orientation, and other matters.

After reviewing the schedule of campuses visited between 1999 and 2012, Council decided that staff would reach out to either Old Dominion University or James Madison University about the possibility of hosting the Council in March 2013. Radford University has agreed to host the September 2013 meeting.

Mr. Lockhart inquired about the possibility of inviting key legislators or others to the Council dinners when meetings are held in Richmond. Ms. Rung mentioned that this has been done on occasion, and staff will consider it for future meetings.

Ms. Haddad thanked Mr. Bland for organizing the meeting and for providing the Council members an opportunity to address the issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

G. Gilmer Minor
Secretary

Lee Ann Rung
Manager, Executive and Council Affairs