

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2014
MINUTES**

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Madison and Jefferson conference rooms, Richmond Marriott Hotel, 500 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. Committee members present: Gil Bland, Johanna Chase, Heywood Fralin, Steve Haner, Gene Lockhart, and G. Gilmer Minor, III.

Staff members present: Peter Blake, Beverly Covington, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Wendy Kang, Kirsten Nelson, Lee Ann Rung, and Susan Wood.

Others present: College Presidents (see attached list).

DISCUSSION OF STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Blake distributed the Council's budget recommendations, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) recommendations, as well as the framework for the statewide strategic plan.

Mr. Minor provided background information about the feedback received at the joint meeting with Council and presidents in September, and indicated that the Council incorporated those suggestions in the strategic plan. Mr. Minor said that while the Council has not yet decided on all of the initiatives in the strategic plan; all institutions will play a role in it.

Mr. Minor reviewed the four goals of the strategic plan and solicited input from the presidents.

Dr. Cabrera expressed appreciation for the essential advocacy role of SCHEV but suggested that more active engagement from other organizations was needed to promote economic development. He also said SCHEV should determine if the state has the right numbers and types of institutions and if they are in the right locations. While he appreciated the emphasis on pathways and strategies, Dr. Cabrera said the plan should be more ambitious to position Virginia as a leader in college achievement, which he felt was the best way to compete in the 21st century.

President Kyle and President Reveley III, expressed concern about the difficulty in striking a balance between aspirational goals and keeping tuition rates below the national average.

President Sydow said the progress indicators of student success have unintended consequences. Many students in rural and economically depressed areas, students work and have many commitments. She urged that students be provided with more options and flexible pathways.

Mr. Minor reminded presidents that the plan will be a work in progress. The Council plans to continue to communicate with presidents and others, including the business community, and will be reaching out to school superintendents.

Mr. Fralin said that the goals in and of themselves may not seem very exciting, but what is exciting is that Council continues to stress bold and visible ways to enforce the plan, which may include a new funding model. He also said higher education is the leading factor of economic development in the Commonwealth but often the public is unaware of the facts. He stressed the need to create a demand for higher education in public's mind which would create a reaction from legislators.

President Sands stressed a need for a compact between the Commonwealth and industry. He suggested that the business community be challenged to partner with higher education to create paid internships in a Virginia organization for all students not continuing on to graduate school.

President Reveley III said he was encouraged that SCHEV wants to play a major role in getting something done. He felt that the ways to do it will evolve and this was a wonderful change in attitude. President Kyle stressed that colleges need support from SCHEV.

Mr. Blake provided closing comments, and distributed a sample document of possible initiatives and requested feedback.

General Peay expressed concern that institutional autonomy will be lost when the legislature reviews the JLARC report. Mr. Fralin stressed the need to do a better job of controlling the publicity and keeping legislators informed to help them understand the issues.

Mr. Minor asked the three newest presidents for their input on the JLARC report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Johanna Chase
Secretary

Lee Ann Rung
Director, Executive & Board Affairs

Presidents attending November 24, 2014, meeting

President Eddie Moore, Norfolk State University
President Jon Alger, James Madison University (also Charlie King)
President Timothy Sands, Virginia Tech
President Debbie Sydow, Richard Bland College
President Penny Kyle, Radford University
Superintendent General J. H. Binford Peay (also BG Bob Green)
President Ted Raspiller, John Tyler CC
President Angeline Godwin, Patrick Henry CC
President Angel Cabrera, George Mason University
President Taylor Reveley IV, Longwood University
President Paul Tribble, Christopher Newport University
President Al Roberts, Southside Virginia Community College
President Keith Miller, Virginia State University
President John Dever, Thomas Nelson CC
President Taylor Reveley III, The College of William & Mary

Martin Wilder, University of Mary Washington (for President Rick Hurley)
Elizabeth Kersey, Old Dominion University (for President Broderick)
Matt Conrad, Virginia Commonwealth University (for President Rao)