

UPDATE ON SCHEV ACTIVITIES AND PLANNING

Education Subcommittee, Senate Finance Committee

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June 7, 2011

Ongoing Activities: The State Council, comprised of 11 members, generally meets six times per year (January, March, May, July, September, and October); we expect a similar schedule in 2012. At its meetings, the Council acts on recommendations from staff on various statutory matters, including degree-program proposals from public institutions, certificate-to-operate applications from private and/or out-of-state institutions, and staff analyses on system-wide issues such as budget recommendations, faculty salaries, student aid, and capital-outlay requests.

Tuition and Fees: SCHEV issues an annual report on tuition and fees at public institutions every August. For 2011-12 increases appear to be in the range of \$500 to \$1,000 at four-year institutions and \$285 at community colleges. Staff will present a preliminary summary of 2011-12 tuition and fees at the June 23 SFC meeting.

New College Institute: Another of the Council's duties is the review and approval or disapproval of organizational changes at public institutions. In the fall, we anticipate a proposal from Radford, VCU or VSU to create a branch campus out of the New College Institute in Martinsville.

Legislative Related Activities: The 2011 General Assembly tasked SCHEV with reviewing the faculty-salary peer groups of certain institutions regarding potential cost-of-living adjustments; our completion target is September 1. We are also updating the guidelines for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program to conform with 2011 legislative changes to the program's eligibility criteria.

Top Jobs Legislation: New legislation impacts SCHEV in several ways:

- (1) SCHEV is to calculate each public institution's "basic operations and instruction funding need." In addition to the traditional base-adequacy calculation, this funding-need calculation is to include the 60th-percentile faculty salary goal and any other E&G funding included by the legislature.
- (2) SCHEV is to prescribe the "form and manner" of institutions' six-year plans. We have scheduled meetings with staff from money committees, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Finance, Department of Planning and Budget, and SCHEV to meet with each institution to review six-year plans and enrollment projections.
- (3) A committee of at least 11 members – the Higher Education Advisory Committee (HEAC) – is tasked with numerous responsibilities. SCHEV serves on the committee and will be making staff presentations to the committee. On the back end, SCHEV will receive most of HEAC's recommendations and, in turn, will review and make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.