

Joint Subcommittee on the Future
Competitiveness of Virginia
Higher Education

June 8, 2015

Subcommittee Organization / Mission / Timeline

- Four members appointed by the Chairman of each Committee.
 - House – Delegate Jones, Cox, Massie and Hester.
 - Senate – Senator Norment, Colgan, Saslaw and Alexander.
- Joint Subcommittee will need to elect Co-Chairs.

Subcommittee Organization / Mission / Timeline

- Joint Subcommittee may:
 - Review ways to maintain and improve the quality of higher education, while providing for broad access and affordability;
 - Examine the impact of financial, demographic, and competitive changes on the sustainability of individual institutions and the system as a whole;
 - Identify best practices to make the system more efficient, including shared services, institutional flexibility, and easily accessible academic pathways;
 - Evaluate the use of distance education and online instruction across the Commonwealth and appropriate business models for such programs;
 - Review current need-based financial aid programs and alternative models to best provide for student affordability and completion;
 - Review the recommendations of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission on the study of the cost efficiency of higher education institutions and make recommendations to their respective committees on the implementation of those recommendations;
 - Study the effectiveness and value of transfer students;
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of dual enrollment in reducing the cost of higher education; and,
 - Study the effectiveness of preparing teachers to enter the K-12 system.

Subcommittee Organization / Mission / Timeline

- During this analysis, the Joint Subcommittee shall consider the mission, vision, goals and strategies outlined in the statewide strategic plan for higher education developed and approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.
- The Joint Subcommittee may seek support and technical assistance from:
 - the staff of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees,
 - the public institutions of higher education,
 - the staff of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission,
 - and the staff of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.
 - Other state agency or higher education representatives shall provide support upon request.
 - May contract for consulting services.
- Report Due Dates:
 - Interim Report due November 2016.
 - Final Report due November 2017.

Future Meetings

- Staff recommends a total of nine additional meetings with exact dates and times TBD.
 - Recommend that at least five of the meetings be held outside of the Richmond area.
- Three meetings in calendar 2015 as follows:
 - September 2015 – Richmond metro area
 - October 2015 – Danville (Institute for Advanced Learning & Research)
 - December 2015 – Richmond (General Assembly Building)
- Six meetings with locations to be determined as follows:
 - May 2016
 - September 2016
 - December 2016
 - April 2017
 - June 2017
 - October 2017

Tentative Agenda Items

- September 2015:
 - Shifting higher education demographics/pipeline
 - Student Performance
 - Virginia Strategic Planning
- October 2015:
 - Recent JLARC report
 - VCCS workforce training credentials / certifications plan
 - Role of higher education centers
- December 2015:
 - Wrap up of current year
 - Potential issues for 2016 Session

Potential Issues for the Joint Subcommittee

- Innovation in Higher Education
- Affordability/Access (Enrollment, Financial Aid, etc.)
- Pathways/Online Instruction
- Sustainability
- K-12 Issues (Dual enrollment, Teacher Preparation, etc.)
- Review of Assessments of Other States or Similar Institutions/
Best Practices

Member Feedback