



Peter Blake  
Director

*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA*  
*James Monroe Building, 101 North Fourteenth Street, Richmond, VA 23219*

(804) 225-2600  
FAX (804) 225-2604  
www.schev.edu

January 8, 2015

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe  
Governor of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

Section 23-9.14:1 of the Code of Virginia states that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia “shall develop, in consultation with public institutions of higher education and members of their governing boards, and annually deliver educational programs for the governing boards of such institutions” and “submit an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Council pursuant to this section no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.”

In accordance with this requirement, SCHEV staff held a mandatory orientation session for newly appointed board members on October 21-22, 2014. A copy of the agenda summarizing the topics covered in these meetings is included as attachment 1.

In order to comply with the mandate to develop the orientation “in consultation with public institutions of higher education and members of their governing boards,” SCHEV created a planning committee that included two college presidents, two Council members, one rector, and three college representatives. Representatives from the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and the Office of the Attorney General also participated in the planning sessions.

There were a total of 66 new BOV appointments by the Governor in 2014. A total of 57 new members attended the orientation in October. The new members who were unable to attend the 2014 orientation understand that they will be required to attend the 2015 orientation session.

Following the orientation session, SCHEV staff asked attendees to complete an evaluation survey. Results of the survey indicate that of the 27 new members that responded, all of them rated the program as valuable in providing good examples of best practices for board governance. The 27 respondents also rated the program as valuable in providing useful information regarding national and state issues in higher education.

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If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact me at (804) 225-2611.

Sincerely,

Peter Blake

Attachments

c: The Honorable Anne Holton, Secretary of Education



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## BOARDS OF VISITORS ORIENTATION

*For the Public Good: Stewarding Public Institutions in Changing Times*

October 21-22, 2014

Richmond, Virginia

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### Tuesday, October 21: Capitol Building

3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

#### **CHECK-IN AND NETWORKING**

House Room 3, Capitol Building (Bank Street entrance)

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

#### **Welcome, Introductions and Overview**

- Peter Blake, Director, SCHEV
- Gil Minor, Chair, SCHEV Council

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

#### **Perspectives of the McAuliffe Administration on Board Service**

*Introductions:* Gil Bland, SCHEV Council

- Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia (Video Remarks)
- Ric Brown, Secretary of Finance
- Anne Holton, Secretary of Education
- Nancy Rodrigues, Secretary of Administration
- Levar Stoney, Secretary of the Commonwealth

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

#### **Requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act**

*Introductions:* Steve Haner, SCHEV Council

- Maria Everett, Executive Director, FOIA Advisory Council
- Ron Forehand, Education Section Chief and Senior Assistant Attorney General

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

#### **RECEPTION**

Rotunda, Capitol Building

##### Remarks

- Gil Minor, Chair, SCHEV Council
- Mark Herring, Attorney General of Virginia

## Wednesday, October 22: Capitol Building

- 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.**      **REGISTRATION, REFRESHMENTS AND NETWORKING**  
Senate Room 3, Capitol Building (Bank Street entrance)
- 8:15 - 8:30 a.m.**      **Greetings and Opening Remarks**  
House Room 3, Capitol Building
- Gil Minor, Chair, SCHEV Council
- 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.**      **Current and Future Issues in Higher Education**
- Peter Blake, Director, SCHEV
- 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.**      **Best Practices of High-performing Public-Institution Boards**  
*Introduction:* Gil Bland, SCHEV Council
- Rick Legon, President, Association of Governing Boards (AGB)
- Closing:* Johanna Chase, Secretary, SCHEV Council
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.**      **BREAK**
- 10:45 - 12:15 p.m.**      **Higher Education Finance: State and Institutional Considerations**  
*Introductions:* Gene Lockhart, SCHEV Council  
*Moderator:* Leonard Sandridge, Senior Advisor to the Board of Visitors, University of Virginia
- **Affordability and Costs**  
Del. Kirk Cox, Chair of Higher Education Subcommittee, House Appropriations  
Sen. Walter Stosch, Co-Chair, Senate Finance
  - **Budgeting (including Tuition-setting)**  
Sam Jones, Vice President for Finance, The College of William & Mary  
Ron Tillett, Board Member, Christopher Newport University
- 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.**      **LUNCH**  
Senate Room 3, Capitol Building
- Major Issues and Boards' Responsibilities**
- Peter Blake, Director, SCHEV
- 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.**      **Legal Responsibilities and Institutional Ethics**  
House Room 3, Capitol Building  
*Introductions:* Henry Light, SCHEV Council
- **Roles of Legal Counsel**  
Ron Forehand, Education Section Chief and Senior Assistant Attorney General
  - **Requirements of the Conflict of Interest Act (COIA)**  
Tim Oksman, Opinions Counsel for the Attorney General
  - **Campus Safety and Student Welfare**  
Elizabeth Griffin, Education Section Senior Assistant Attorney General

**2:15 - 2:30 p.m. BREAK**

**2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Effective Institutional Governance**

*Introductions:* Carlyle Ramsey, SCHEV Council

*Moderator:* Rick Legon, President, Association of Governing Boards (AGB)

- Dorcas Helfant-Browning, Chair, State Board of Community Colleges
- Deborah Petrine, Rector, Virginia Tech
- Michael Rao, President, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Paul Tribble, President, Christopher Newport University

**4:00 - 4:30 p.m. Synthesis and Appreciation**

- Peter Blake, Director, SCHEV
- Gil Minor, Chair, SCHEV Council

### Planning Committee Members

Peter Blake, *State Council of Higher Education for Virginia*  
Gil Bland, *State Council of Higher Education for Virginia*  
Fran Bradford, *The College of William & Mary*  
Elizabeth Griffin, *Office of the Attorney General*  
Mike Melis, *Office of the Attorney General*  
Kelly Mercer, *Office of the Governor*  
Keith Miller, *Virginia State University*  
Carlyle Ramsey, *State Council of Higher Education for Virginia*  
Leonard Sandridge, *University of Virginia*  
Mark Smith, *George Mason University*  
Ron Tillet, *Christopher Newport University*  
Dietra Trent, *Office of the Governor*