

ONLINE VIRGINIA NETWORK AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

MINUTES

The Online Virginia Network (OVN) Authority Board met on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Present from the Board were:

Speaker Kirk Cox
Delegate James Leftwich
Delegate Nick Rush
Senator Rosalyn Dance
Senator Bill Stanley
Ellen Neufeldt, Vice President, Old Dominion University
Michelle Marks, Vice President, George Mason University
Ron Ripley, ODU BOV Representative
James Hazel, GMU BOV Representative
Andrew Ko, Citizen Member
Karen Jackson, Citizen Member

Absent:

Delegate Lashrecse Aird
Senator Steve Newman
Peter Blake, Director of SCHEV
David Leichtman, Citizen Member
Sharon Morrissey, Vice Chancellor, VCCS

Also present were:

Amna Tayub	Van Wilson
Eboni Cotton	David Kozoyed
Janette Muir	Thomas Shifflett
Sarah Herzog	Ahmad Taheri
Annie Morris	Brian Payne
Kelly Gee	Heather Huling
Jeannie Brown Leonard	Andy Casiello
Steve Nodine	Ellen Davenport

Beverly Covington
David Wu
Greg DuBois
Deborah Swiecinski
Robin Parker
Mark Smith
Rusty Waterfield
Angel Cabrera

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Speaker Cox welcomed the board and thanked Dr. Cabrera and ODU for their great work. President Cabrera welcomed everyone and thanked the General Assembly and Speaker Cox for recognizing the need for alternative ways of delivering education. Board members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF December 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Senator Stanley and seconded by James Hazel, the minutes were approved by all members present and voting.

OVN PRESENTATION

Jane Dané and Dave Burge presented an OVN overview. The enrollment projection for future years was presented. Dané remarked on the one million individuals in the Commonwealth who have stopped out from college and the findings that about 2/3 of those were attending community college and the remainder were at four year institutions or a combination of both. Dané highlighted the liberal arts, business, health, cybersecurity, and health as among the top fields of online study.

Burge remarked on the OVN's priority in identifying and recruiting students. When recruiting a traditional student, access to contact information is far more available. In regards to the adult learners, we are working with our marketing contract and have some great leads. Burge also noted that adult learners face challenges in dealing with both federal and state financial aid. He mentioned the benefit of consortium agreements. Partner institutions have to share information because students submit aid information to all OVN partner schools.

Adult learners also face challenges in dealing with both federal and state financial aid. Most adult learners are independent from their family, generally support dependents, and attend part time. As some of these are not factored in, they often qualify for smaller amounts of aid and don't fully qualify for Full Pell or VGAP.

Dane highlighted the VGAP grant for low income students which is based on academic performance and continued completion of grants. If a student does not increase by an entire grade from year to year and maintain a certain GPA the funds are no longer available. Burge highlighted both institutions' efforts to invest in staff resources to assist veterans and active duty military members. There are often delays in processing and awarding aid.

Wilson thanked the legislature members for their support of Credit to Careers and highlighted the need to evaluate military veteran experiences and how to equate that into post-secondary education. Dane remarked on how Z degree courses are encouraged particularly since no textbooks are charged in addition to tuition.

Hazel inquired as to whether the \$250 credit hour cap ever came up in discussion with Congressional representatives and if not, should it? Also, given the amount of military in the state. Cox remarked that a robust discussion has occurred on VGAP but not on the military piece. Most of the work has been focused on quicker pathways and giving them credit for their experiences. We will have to do some brainstorming on VGAP in the future.

Rush commented that it should be brought up more and Congressman Scott Taylor was recently appointed to a budget committee. Cox remarked that through VGAP we try to front load the scholarship for freshman up front. We incentivize students to take more credits early on in the freshman and sophomore years. There is limited financial aid for part time students and perhaps we can reexamine that fund. Neufeldt commented that it would be beneficial to focus on first time freshman and motivate them to complete and perhaps find a fund for that population.

Ko inquired whether a common app could be created to make this more simplified and streamlined. Marks commented that perhaps Amazon could pursue the project. Burge noted that they will work to continue improving the student facing and the back of house segments particularly in relation to financial aid.

Dane commented that with each incoming partner institution, we need to consider what inventory of courses are currently being offered and which ones would complement those. There is a focus on ensuring that online courses are easily available. Each institution has put in an estimated \$1.5 million of their own funding into OVN. Therefore, we would essentially be getting \$1 million each in terms of state funding.

Dance inquired how we were helping students learn more about jobs and careers through the OVN. Wilson noted that with the onboarding process we do have them think about the career and then map it back to the educational opportunities that support it.

Ko remarked that in their experience with 1500 universities around the world, a lot of tracking has taken place. This could be towards how many are completing the program to how many are obtaining jobs. Amazon now offers free resume reviews to students and we found that enrollment increased.

Dane commented that part of the marketing effort has been toward showing the difference that a bachelor's degree can have on earning power. There is also data on what particular majors and

careers in certain fields and regions of the Commonwealth can generate. Neufeldt stated that a focus on career information will be presented at the next meeting.

Burge presented the proposed budget and gave an overview on the previous \$2 million allocation. Information will be presented at the next meeting regarding an additional \$1 million allocation.

Ripley commented that the original budget was around \$7 million in appropriations but it was cut to \$2 million dollars. Increasing allocations would help the partner institutions and help bring down costs to the student. Ripley also recognized the financial contribution that ODU and GMU have already made toward the development of the OVN system.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET

Speaker Cox moved that the board vote to approve the budget as presented and Stanley seconded the motion. The budget was unanimously approved by all members present and voting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.