



Virginia's Voice for Access

**Virginia College Access Network Board
September Meeting Minutes**

Friday, April 9th
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Hosted virtually via Zoom

Present: Joy Pugh (President); Scott Kemp (Vice President); Paula Crow (Treasurer); Lyons Sanchezconcha (Secretary); Reshaud Rich; Anne Michie; Ashley Woodous; TeCarla Moore; Erin McGrath; and Sarah Bazemore.

Absent: Tierney Jackson

- **Joy Pugh calls meeting to order at 2:02pm**
 - Approval of December Meeting Minutes
 - Anne moves to approve, February minutes as shared
 - Lyons seconds
 - 11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
 - Passes unanimously
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - VCAN Account Balance: \$68,265.07
 - 4,464.00 spent for SHEV on Calendly
 - Once reimbursed, we'll be back at 72,729.00
- **Statewide FAFSA Initiative**
 - Access members came together to address decline in FAFSA completion
 - As of Monday, 90 FAFSA had been submitted, 30 this week
 - Data is compiled by Tomika Brown
 - Specific outreach is taking place
 - Only problem identified is "no-shows" for appointments
 - Many factors could contribute to this
 - intimidation factor of not knowing who is there
 - other reasons
 - Having more Spanish speakers to help with FAFSA
 - Other states have reached out to us about this initiative
 - Speaks to VirginiaCAN's spirit of collaboration
 - Opened up an opportunity for an NCAN grant
 - Other stats
 - Over 60 advisors currently
 - most 1 advisor has advised in 5, so very low commitment
 - The program will only continue through June 30th
 - Unless we see a big influx, no need for more advisors currently

- Suggestions
 - Joy: data collection, analyzing impact & reach
 - Sarah: feedback survey, choose times, follow-up
 - Reshaud: partnering the initiative with other efforts
 - TeCarla: ensuring no-shows are helped (maybe locally)
 - Replication Efforts
 - Governor & Secretary will likely want to want to do this annually
 - Looking at funding, expectations, responsible entity
 - Joy & Erin sitting on state-wide FAFSA task force
- **Committee Reports**
 - Executive - Scott
 - Nothing to report
 - Conference - Jan and Jordan join call
 - Jan: Introduce theme “Momentum,” timeline, planning, etc.
 - Jordan: Content and plan for encouraging networking
 - Updates
 - Board will remain with decision to stay virtual
 - Survey to stakeholders for more intel
 - Hotel Madison negotiations still up in the air
 - Would we have a cost if staying virtual
Laura Clark leaves call
 - Can we broadcast from ballroom
 - team shares who all is in the committee
 - Governance - Anne
 - VA 529 Spot - waiting on Mary’s recommendation
 - Board Matrix and looking at renewed service
 - Scholarship - Erin
 - We will be using Going Merry platform
 - More information to follow
- **Other/Open Agenda**
 - College Access websites & initiatives
 - RFP for online education course
 - Collaboration due to launch by August 1st
 - SHEV Website redesign
 - How to finance college course
 - What is currently working, etc.
 - State financial aid for Undocumented students
 - No FAFSA
 - Other way to assess financial aid development
 - Looking at what other states are doing
 - Launch, marketing, and roll-out to be widely accessible
Ashley Woodous leaves call
 - Erin on evolution of the RFP
 - Fourth Gear-Up VA Grant
 - Quick RFP to address issues brought up
 - Looking at other states
 - Gap analysis and Strategic Plan
 - Branding and Communication Plan

- Group will need an advisory
 - Potentially VCAN can serve as this
 - Similar to executive roundtable
- **Other Updates**
 - Admissions - up overall in confirmations but not applications (ODU)
 - Campus visit struggles
 - Smaller, more costly privates or expensive privates hurting
 - Gap-year trend
 - More recent admits, just wrapped up a gap year
 - SAT Requirement drop trends
 - Has helped with admission trends
 - Rolling admission moves
 - VCCS Looking food for this summer
 - VCCS Role in reopening
 - G3 as a stimulant
 - Unemployment, REV Grant for sought-after credentials
 - High schoolers will likely not qualify
 - Extended eligibility for SNAP
 - Next Meeting
 - June 11th at 2pm via Zoom
- **Board Meeting Adjourns at 3:09pm**
 - Lyons motions, Scott seconds: unanimous vote in favor

The mission of the Virginia College Access Network is to support and enhance post-secondary education access and attainment for residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia. To accomplish this mission, VCAN will support access programs and foster new initiatives; develop information and financial resources for students and families; and promote the benefits of greater access to postsecondary education.