



*Virginia's Voice for Access*

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

Friday, February 12th

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Hosted virtually via Zoom*

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

**Absent:** Laura Clark

- **Joy Pugh calls meeting to order at 2:03pm**
  - Initiates opening activity
    - Lyons: defund ICE, first snow in US memories
    - TeCarla: silicon, big, ice cube tray is a life-changer
    - Anne: inspired to put some ice and more in a cocktail shaker
    - Ashley: fun fact: ice can make anybody fly when you hit it just right
    - Tierney: fun yet serious story about skiing that connected her to husband
    - Erin: when skiing people scream pizza to adjust skis to be in a triangle
    - Sarah: adopted a very cute puppy who newly experienced snow
    - Reshaud: a freezing rain related production found [here](#)
    - Paula: grew up just outside Syracuse, NY and prefers VA weather
    - Scott: loves driving his truck in snow and doing donuts in the parking lots
    - Joy: Gave a middle-school performance on trumpet of Vanilla Ice's big hit
  - Approval of December Meeting Minutes
    - Anne moves to approve, December minutes as shared
      - Paula seconds the motion
    - 11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
      - Passes unanimously
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - VCAN Account Balance: \$73,004.07
    - Not a lot of activity in our account
    - Joy: healthiest balance VirginiaCAN has had in recent history
  - Reshaud: can we explore ways to move that money in a way so that it can grow?
    - Paula and Anne: not certain it would be worth the effort
    - This might, however, be worth exploring in the future
- **Governance Committee Report**
  - Election results favors incumbents
    - President: Joy, VP: Scott, Treasurer: Paula, Secretary: Lyons

- Note that Joy and Paula reach term limits at the end of the year
    - Let's prepare for new folks in leadership positions
  - Checking with VA 529 and waiting to get representation on VCAN Board
    - In conversation with Mary Morris
- **2021 Committees - Scott Report**
  - With a new year, let's look at who is serving on which committees
    - Executive: consist of president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, all set
    - Governance: Ashley, Reshaud, and Anne chairs, all set
    - Conference: new chair Jan Smith, mostly non-board members, mostly set
    - Scholarship: Tierney and Erin will co-chair, Sarah will also join, all set
      - Newly using "Goingmerry" for application process
      - It will be good to have more folks, as workload can be a lot
- **Board Responsibilities Document - Lyons Report**
  - Shared via email, and available on Board Portal, document outlining the responsibilities of serving as a member on the board of directors for VCAN
    - This will be sent out via DocuSign
    - Annual requirement, this document is valid through this time next year
- **Conference Report**
  - Jan Smith will co-chair with Jordan Meadows (John Tyler CC)
  - Conference Contract for 2021 Conference @ JMU
    - VCAN is on the hook for \$44K if we cancel
    - We have to have at least 150 registrations
      - We also have a certain amount of rooms booked
    - Looking at other conferences
      - Not offering virtual option
        - Recordings available af
      - Less registrations and at a lower cost
  - Thoughts from Board members considering the contract intricacies
    - TeCarla doubtful of have in-person
    - Scott feels optimistic that conditions will favor in-person component, but only supportive of this route if it's safe to do so
    - Ashley curious about all options at hand
    - Paula unsure about what people feel regardless of other factors
    - Sarah is currently advised to not travel by VDOE
    - Anne says GRASPs would likely still send folks, but less
    - Lyon shares thoughts and updates from the high school perspective
    - Most seem to want to air on the side of caution
  - Theme: Momentum
    - Song: Ain't No Stopping Us Now
  - Paula to get a Board consensus on how to proceed
    - 1st choice: to try and postpone to 2022
      - All, but Joy, Scott, and Paula agree
    - 2nd choice: reduce requirements or loss if cancel
    - 3rd choice: proceed with an in-person version of conference

\*Paula leaves at 3pm\*

- **Reflections on decrease on FAFSA completion**
  - Anne shares how GRASP advisors have been faring with FAFSAs
  - Ashley reflects on experiences and suggests standardizing a strategy
  - TeCarla mentions ODU partnering to host FAFSA nights
    - Admissions-end is trying to facilitate the process in regards to FAFSA
  - Erin & Tierney looking at data-tracking initiatives from the SCHEV-end
    - Seeing significant discrepancies in the Department of Ed. data
      - New hire to work on this before publicizing
      - Sometimes spelling of school name can create discrepancy
    - Virginia ranked 22 - shared [link to tracker](#)
  - Anecdotal observations vs what the data says
    - Access providers to complete whenever possible
  - Exploration of an RFP process with state to have access-providers

- **Next dates**

- All board meetings for the year are already set

- **Open Agenda**

- Scott explains Education Loan Course rolling out soon to help educate students about college financing in general and student loans in particular
  - Looking at a June 1st launch of this tool
  - Would want to help promote as more information comes
- Tierney shares story [here](#)

\*Tierney leaves at 3:30pm\*

- TeCarla shares that ODU just announced a new president
  - Brian Hemphill
    - Coming from Radford University

\*Ashley leaves at 3:31pm\*

- **Board Meeting Adjourns at 3:32pm**

*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.*