

1 VIRGINIA TOBACCO INDEMNIFICATION AND COMMUNITY
2 REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

3
4 **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

5 Wednesday, October 30, 2002

6 9:45 a.m.

7 Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
8

9 **Education Committee**

10 Senator Frank Ruff, Chairman

11 Senator Phillip P. Puckett, Vice Chairman

12 Delegate Joseph P. Johnson, Jr.

13 Delegate Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

14 Delegate Kathy J. Byron

15 The Honorable Isiah G. Hopkins

16 Mr. Thomas Arthur

17 Mr. Fred M. Fields

18
19 Anne Marie Cushmac, Senior Assistant Attorney General
20

21 **Commission Staff:**

22 Mary Cabell Sherrod, Manager of Communications & Committee Operations

23 Stephanie S. Wass, Director of Finance

24 Libby Ausband, Special Assistant
25

26
27 **SENATOR RUFF:** Do we need to call roll?
28

29 **MS. SHERROD:** I can do it.
30

31 **SENATOR RUFF:** All right, we know who's here. At the meeting that
32 we had in Roanoke we pretty much dealt with most of the issues, but there were some
33 that were left hanging and some we asked for additional information and changes, so I
34 wanted to get together with you all this morning to try to work out those changes. I think
35 there was a request for a change in the Emory & Henry one.
36

37 **SENATOR PUCKETT:** Mr. Chairman, we have been advised there
38 might be some additional funds that we were not advised of in our last meeting. Based

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1 on the figures Stephanie gave to us yesterday afternoon at the Southwest meeting we
2 have made some adjustments. Delegate Johnson has those figures, and I'd sort of yield to
3 him and maybe plug those in, and they're based on figures Stephanie gave us yesterday
4 afternoon at the Southwest meeting. I think we are in agreement with what we want to
5 do with them. He has those, and he'd like to give those to us.

6
7 **SENATOR RUFF:** Hold that for just a minute, I want to back up a little
8 bit since everybody is here. There's some money we left unallocated for various reasons,
9 and one of those was that there were several projects we needed information on, and
10 secondly, there were some issues that maybe we wanted to spend some more money on
11 and in scholarships for forgivable loans. The three members from Southwest Virginia
12 had talked about it, and they would prefer to not have any more money in scholarships
13 and to fund their projects a little more. Does anyone have any problem with that
14 concept?

15
16 **SENATOR PUCKETT:** Mr. Chairman, let me just explain to you why
17 we have excess money right at the moment that's available for scholarships that's still on
18 the table. We verified that with the Higher Education Center, so we didn't feel like it was
19 appropriate to put more money in the scholarships at the present time because it's from
20 the Southwest and not Southside, if they want to do something different that's okay. We
21 felt that the grant process we'd gone through deserved whatever surplus we had, and
22 that's why we made the recommendation that Delegate Johnson has.

23 **SENATOR RUFF:** I don't think there's been any objection.

24
25 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** The Southwest Virginia Community College
26 Training Center, two hundred thousand; the Virginia Highlands Community College
27 Greenhouse Project, three hundred thousand; the Mountain Empire Southwest Virginia
28 Community College, three hundred thousand with two hundred and fifty thousand
29 earmarked for Mountain Empire Community College; Emory & Henry College, seventy
30 thousand, that's raising it from twenty thousand. We have an additional fifty thousand
31 which is going for Virginia Intermont College Projects.

32
33 **SENATOR RUFF:** Let's go through those one more time. The first one
34 is Emory & Henry, you changed it from fifty thousand to seventy thousand?

35
36 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** Yes, sir.

37
38 **SENATOR RUFF:** Mountain Empire/Southwest Virginia, the total is
39 three hundred thousand?

40
41 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** Yes.

42
43 **SENATOR RUFF:** Virginia Highlands, the last one before Greyline,

1 would be three hundred thousand?

2

3 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** Yes, sir. It raises it from two to three, yes, sir.

4

5 **SENATOR RUFF:** The last one of the second group is Virginia
6 Intermont, fifty thousand?

7

8 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** Yes, sir.

9

10 **SENATOR RUFF:** That's the motion, is there a second?

11

12 **MR. FIELDS:** On the last one, Southwest Virginia, I think, you said it
13 was next to the last –

14

15 **SENATOR PUCKETT:** It doesn't change that, it stays the same.

16

17 **MR. FIELDS:** Second.

18

19 **SENATOR RUFF:** All in favor say, aye? (Ayes) Opposed?
20 (No response) All right. Moving on, Delegate Hogan, you wanted to talk about Halifax
21 a little bit?

22

23 **DELEGATE HOGAN:** Just to say that I see where the Mentor/ Role
24 Model Program has an application, and I think it's pending, and I just want to talk about
25 this program for just a second. It's a bare bones program that was put together by four or
26 five retired educators four or five years ago. They're serving, I believe, a hundred and
27 fifty at-risk youths on a wing and a prayer. It has had a lot of success and had this
28 application in to do some other things in that program. We think we can measure the
29 success whether that money actually gets us anything after a year. I'd ask you to fund it,
30 and if you can't fund it to the full amount, I've talked to the people who are running it and
31 they feel like they can do it for twenty-five thousand dollars with some other gifts and
32 obligations or whatever you want to call it. So I'd ask you to do if you can.

33

34 **SENATOR RUFF:** You fully understand that if we did that it would have
35 to come out of the Halifax County area's –

36

37 **DELEGATE HOGAN:** -- Yes.

38

39 **SENATOR RUFF:** Libby, can you tell us what was said in that, among
40 your staff folks?

41

42 **MS. AUSBAND:** There was support for the program, but like we talked
43 about at the last meeting, we wanted to make sure, because the salary seemed to be the

1 main portion of the budget, and we wanted to make sure that the program would last
2 beyond this funding year and have some way or incorporate some contingency and report
3 back to the Committee so we would know you have funding or some accountability there.
4 We also wondered about the selection of students, and those were the two main questions
5 we had. The fact that the majority of the budget was salary or we wanted to make sure
6 this would last through the funding year and wanted some information on the selection of
7 the students.

8
9 **DELEGATE HOGAN:** I think the selection of the students, we were
10 basically trying to serve the at-risk population. Are we going to serve every child in
11 Halifax County? That's a qualified no, but I think we can feel comfortable that the people
12 that are enrolled in the program are going to be deserving, and I think it would be
13 possible to look at this a year from now and say, we've done this for a year and do we
14 have anything to show for it, and if we do, then we'll figure out what to do to keep it
15 running from there. These folks raised some of this money privately, like forty or fifty
16 thousand a year to run this program and a little bit here and a little bit there, and it's really
17 been a good job. A bunch of friends who are mentors and work with these children and
18 try to bring a little more structure to their life and focus on these children's education in a
19 little bit more targeted way than they have been.

20
21 **SENATOR RUFF:** Do you believe the twenty-five thousand dollar
22 reduction in the Halifax Education Foundation will not do any damage?

23
24 **DELEGATE HOGAN:** I think we can stand it.

25
26 **SENATOR RUFF:** Do I hear a motion to that effect?

27
28 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** So moved.

29
30 **SENATOR PUCKETT:** Second.

31
32 **SENATOR RUFF:** All in favor say, aye? (Ayes) All right, the motion
33 passes. Libby, you spoke about the proposal that Prince Edward put in place.

34
35 **MS. AUSBAND:** This is the Family Literacy Learning Center. We got a
36 lot of positive feedback from Dr. Osei regarding the benefits for adults to learn with
37 children. The only significant question she had was that these programs often sort of
38 delve into sort of a Social Services program as well. So we wanted input as to the
39 percentage of time that it dealt with literacy. We also wanted to make sure that there was
40 feedback given to the Committee, information on the resources used for education of
41 children and adults, because they need to have different content, even though they may
42 be on the same reading level they need to have different substance to keep the interest of
43 the children and the adults. If you'll notice at the bottom, salaries were about half the

1 amount of money or over half of the request, so we wanted to make sure that there was
2 other funding available for the last, past this funding year. This is Prince Edward County
3 Public Schools.

4

5 **SENATOR RUFF:** The original proposal was Prince Edward County for
6 Prince Edward County students, and they changed it to say Buckingham, Cumberland,
7 Charlotte, to make it a regional project.

8

9 **MS. AUSBAND:** I believe that's correct, yes.

10

11 **SENATOR RUFF:** Did you talk to them about the issue of not including
12 salaries?

13

14 **MS. AUSBAND:** I talked to them about which positions were necessary,
15 and they said they'd be willing to drop twenty thousand dollars from the budget and that
16 would eliminate the educational aide positions. They're willing to reduce their request to
17 sixty-nine.

18

19 **SENATOR RUFF:** Is there any motion to approve the request at sixty-
20 nine thousand three fifty-six?

21

22 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** So moved.

23

24 **MR. FIELDS:** Second.

25

26 **SENATOR RUFF:** Any discussion? All in favor say, aye?

27 (Ayes) It passes.

28

29 At the request of Patrick County, part of the folks from Patrick County, if there is
30 no objection from the Committee I'd like for us to let them make sure they're on the same
31 wave length and have a special meeting to deal with the issues in Patrick County in the
32 very near future, is that agreeable?

32

33 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** So moved.

34

35 **SENATOR PUCKETT:** Second.

36

37 **SENATOR RUFF:** All in favor say, aye? (Ayes) All right, that takes
38 care of that.

39

40 That would appear to leave the issue of Longwood on the table. Libby, what can
41 you tell us?

41

42 **MS. AUSBAND:** This one, again, did not receive a recommendation for
43 funding from the panel, even with the review and the revised proposal. As Dr. Osei

1 pointed out the program has the same content for adults and children. My comments are
2 simply from the docket sheet. Another problem we found, it's probably too reliant on the
3 Internet, the availability of classes based on the Internet, but it doesn't show the
4 community members have computers or are computer literate or have providers. There's
5 also a question of how many people would be served, in the breakdown, the adult
6 learners that would be served versus the amount of
7 K-12 students that would be served. With those problems the panel did not recommend
8 funding.

9
10 **SENATOR RUFF:** The original request was for three hundred and fifty
11 thousand, and the amended request was for thirty-five thousand. You have heard Libby's
12 report, does anyone want to make a motion?

13
14 **DELEGATE JOHNSON:** Does anyone want to make a motion?

15
16 **SENATOR RUFF:** Hearing no motion, then we will not deal with that
17 one today.

18 The only other question we have is that, we have the issue of scholarship money,
19 we opened it up for four-year schools and education at the last meeting and for the
20 second semester. The question was raised should we include community colleges' tuition
21 there in that program and should we expand to medical fields. Tucker, if you don't mind
22 relaying that message.

23
24 **MR. WATKINS:** I have a number of constituents that are the middle
25 income people. It seems like the lower income people don't have a problem getting
26 funded and getting all the money they want, but it's the middle income people that have a
27 problem. They're trying to send their children to the community colleges for the first two
28 years, and it would be greatly assisted at the community colleges, some statement of
29 intent that said they want to be teachers, and that funding would help the middle income
30 people a lot. There's one or two cases, one of the people is a deputy sheriff working, and
31 the mother's working actually in the community college, and they don't have enough
32 money between them for three children to try to get the children in the program. The
33 program doesn't allow funding for someone that wants to teach the first two years in the
34 community college. I've actually had three or four calls to that effect.

35
36 **SENATOR RUFF:** You've heard that explanation, would anyone like to
37 make a motion? Mr. Arthur.

38
39 **MR. ARTHUR:** Mr. Chairman, are they required to expend all other
40 efforts for other scholarships, if there's no other scholarships are we going to make this
41 available to them?

42
43 **DELEGATE WRIGHT:** Mr. Chairman, at our last meeting we discussed

1 Tom wanting to expand on this, to expand the medical field, expand it to medical and
2 teachers.

3

4 **SENATOR RUFF:** Let's break it down. First, let's deal with the teacher
5 part of the community college, is that a motion?

6

7 **DELEGATE WRIGHT:** Yes.

8

9 **SENATOR RUFF:** Is there a second? All right, it's seconded. All in
10 favor say, aye? (Ayes)

11

12 **MS. WASS:** Mr. Chairman, you might want to check with Dr. Fowlkes
13 and see about the problems logistically with having to change the program. She's
14 expressed some concerns that expanding the program or changing the program in mid-
15 year that could create a problem for the Southwest Higher Ed, as far as administering the
16 loan program.

17

18 **SENATOR RUFF:** Do you want to change your motion to indicate that?

19

20

21 **DELEGATE WRIGHT:** Do you want to restate that motion? You've got
22 it down pretty good.

23

24 **SENATOR RUFF:** It would include those young people who are willing
25 to sign a statement that they are going into education in Southside Virginia in the flue-
26 cured area, and they'd be eligible for scholarships at the community college. Assuming
27 and conditioned that we get over all the hurdles necessary to make it workable.

28

29 **DELEGATE BYRON:** Mr. Chairman, we talked about the need for
30 nursing and medical. I know quite a few people that take some of those same courses at
31 the community college, they're introductory courses, before they go on to other four year
32 colleges. Do you want to limit it to education?

33

34 **SENATOR RUFF:** I don't mind dealing with that, but I think we ought to
35 deal with it on a separate vote, because there may be different hurdles when talking about
36 the medical field than educational fields.

37

38 **DELEGATE BYRON:** If you approve it, then the hurdles will apply no
39 matter which hurdle you're going over.

40

41 **SENATOR RUFF:** Would you like to deal with it at one time, the
42 Committee rules?

43

1 **MS. WASS:** The difference is that the teachers' forgivable loan program
2 is already established and the criteria for that are already set. If you expand it to a
3 different field of study you may have to set different criteria in the establishment of a new
4 program.

5
6 **MR. ARTHUR:** I don't see the criteria as any different at all, if you want
7 to come back to the area. The biggest problem is keeping up with them so you know
8 they're doing what they said. That's a problem when you get out of education. If you
9 stay in education they can track you pretty good. The only hurdle that I see that we've got
10 to find a way to overcome is to be able to track the students after they get out of college.
11 That's going to be a hurdle anytime we look at it.

12
13 **DELEGATE WRIGHT:** I call for a vote on my motion, and we can do
14 that separately.

15
16 **SENATOR RUFF:** Do you agree to the change?

17
18 **DELEGATE WRIGHT:** Yes.

19
20 **SENATOR RUFF:** All in favor say, aye? (Ayes) All right.
21 That takes us to the issue of medical, do you all want to deal with that today?
22 They're going to be complaining if we don't get downstairs. We can do that, or we can
23 get back together at Patrick Henry and deal with it then.

24
25 **MR. ARTHUR:** Mr. Chairman, my complaint on this has been that I
26 wanted to expand it to other fields. I'm willing to let us take it up in a new school year,
27 not mid-season. I just want to make sure we put it in place, and this will give us some
28 time to do it. Mid-season is not a good time to try to change the program. I'd like to
29 make sure that we do it by next school year.

30
31 **DELEGATE BYRON:** If we're not already doing that, and if we can
32 investigate some of these hurdles, one in particular going to Emory & Henry. If they
33 were living in Southwest they would have been not having any problems, but because
34 they lived in Southside it didn't apply to them. We're getting a little feedback from that
35 type of different criteria we have in the two areas. We can look at that when we go to
36 address it.

37
38 **MR. ARTHUR:** I want to make sure we get in on the agenda.

39
40 **SENATOR RUFF:** At the Committee's request then, Libby, would you
41 all work with Dr. Fowlkes and see if you can come up with a solution that would work in
42 the coming weeks?

43

1 **MS. AUSBAND:** Yes.

2

3 **SENATOR RUFF:** All right. Anything else to come before the
4 Committee? Thank you.

5

6

PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.

7

8

9