

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

September 15, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. | Zoom Video Conference

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656 and enter meeting ID 894 6287 5324

Passcode to join by video: 742268

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Chairman's Report**
- III. Chancellor's Report**
- IV. Approval of Minutes.....Page 2**
- V. Approval to Repeal Series 46, Procedural Rule, Standards for Subject Area Content in Secondary-Level Teacher Preparation Programs.....Page 18**
- VI. Additional Board Action and Comment**
- VII. Adjournment**

DRAFT MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

June 16, 2023

I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on June 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the David K. Hendrickson Conference Center, Room 1220, Building 2000 of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, 2001 Union Carbide Drive, South Charleston, West Virginia, and by Zoom videoconference and conference call. The following Commission members participated: James W. Dailey; James Denova, Michael J. Farrell; Andrew A. Payne; David L. Roach, Ex-Officio, State Superintendent of Schools; and Donna L. Schulte. Other participants included university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, and Commission staff.

Chairman Payne secured a quorum and welcomed all participants to the meeting.

II. Chairman's Report

A. Oath of Office

Chairman Payne administered the Oath of Office to new member James Denova and welcomed him to the Commission.

B. Election of Officers

Commissioner Dailey recommended the following slate of officers:

Chairman: Andrew A. Payne
Vice Chairman: Michael J. Farrell
Secretary: Diane Lewis Jackson

Chairman Payne entertained a motion to approve the slate of officers for the upcoming year.

Commissioner David Roach moved to approve the nominated candidates to serve as officers of the Higher Education Policy Commission from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker reported that Commission staff have been working on a number of special projects, including rule changes for the implementation of the first statewide dual enrollment program effective this fall. The Division of Finance and Facilities is working on a process for distributing approximately \$209 million in

funding for deferred maintenance. Later this month, the GEAR UP program is hosting the GEAR UP U! Summer Academy on the campus of Marshall University, with more than 200 middle school students expected to attend this four-day college prep academy.

Chancellor Tucker proceeded to welcome Misty Price as the new Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities. She then thanked Dr. Cynthia Persily for her invaluable service as the Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences, and wished her well in her role as Cabinet Secretary of the newly created Department of Human Services. In addition, Dr. Tucker recognized Commissioner James Denova and stated that she looks forward to working with him.

IV. Consent Agenda

Chairman Payne entertained a motion to approve items A through E on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following items:

- A. Approval of minutes from the December 16, 2022 and March 8, 2023 Commission meetings.
- B. Approval of 2024 meeting schedule.
- C. Approval of appointments to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board.
- D. Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 WVNET budget.
- E. Approval of fiscal year 2024 Higher Education Policy Commission division operating budgets and higher education system initiatives.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

V. Approval of Provisional Reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University

Chairman Payne announced that action on the provisional reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University is postponed until additional information regarding the university's financial status is secured.

VI. Approval of Annual Reauthorization of Four-Year Degree-Granting Private Institutions

Vice Chancellor Corley Dennison gave an overview of the proposed annual reauthorization of four-year degree-granting private institutions.

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves

annual reauthorization for Appalachian Bible College, Bethany College, Catholic Distance University, Davis and Elkins College, Future Generations University, University of Charleston, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Wheeling University, American Public University, Salem University, and Strayer University.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Approval of Master of Business Administration

Vice Chancellor Dennison gave an overview of the proposed Master of Business Administration as requested by the institution.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Master of Business Administration at Glenville State University for implementation in fall 2023. This approval expires two years from the date of Commission approval if the program is not fully implemented.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIII. Approval of Institutional Eligibility for the Promise Scholarship

Ms. Tana Pendell, Financial Aid Manager, gave an overview of the proposed institutional eligibility for the Promise Scholarship.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves Huntington Junior College to become an eligible institution for the Promise Scholarship starting with the 2023-24 award year.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IX. Review of Tuition and Fees

Vice Chancellor Misty Price provided a detailed summary of tuition and fees for the 2023-2024 academic year. She noted that none of the institutions exceeded the threshold that requires approval by the Commission.

X. Approval of Institution Capital Assessments for Fiscal Year 2024

Vice Chancellor Price gave an overview of the proposed institution capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2024.

Commissioner Schulte moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the institution capital assessments for Fiscal Year 2024 as shown in Table 2 of the

agenda book.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XI. Review of Institutional Operating and Capital Budgets and Approval of Institutional Capital Budgets

Vice Chancellor Price provided an overview of the institutional operating and capital budgets.

Commissioner Schulte moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2024 institutional capital budgets.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XII. Approval of Presidential Compensation for West Liberty University

Kristin Boggs, General Counsel, gave an overview of the proposed presidential compensation for the new president of West Liberty University.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation contract for Dr. Timothy Borchers as President of West Liberty University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIII. Approval of Amendments to Commission Rules

General Counsel Boggs provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the following Commission rules:

A. Series 5, Legislative Rule, Employing and Evaluating Presidents

Commissioner Schulte moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves amendments to Series 5, Legislative Rule, Employing and Evaluating Presidents to be filed with the Secretary of State for the 30-day public comment period and if no substantive comments are received, that the Commission extends its final approval.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Series 6, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Adult Part-time Student (HEAPS) Grant Program

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the amendments to Series 6, Legislative Rule, Higher Education Adult Part-time Student (HEAPS) Grant Program, to be filed with the Secretary of State for a 30-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, extends its final approval.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Series 7, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-state Student Excellence (PROMISE) Scholarship Program

Commissioner Schulte moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the amendments to Series 7, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-state Student Excellence (PROMISE) Scholarship program, to be filed with the Secretary of State for a 30-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, extends its final approval.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Series 19, Procedural Rule, Guidelines for College Courses for High School Students

Commissioner Denova moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the proposed amendments to Series 19, Procedural Rule, Guidelines for the Offering of Early Enrollment Courses for High School Students, to be filed as an Emergency Rule with the Secretary of State in accordance with W. Va. Code § 18B-14-4.

Further Resolved, That the Commission approves the proposed amendments to Series 19, Procedural Rule, Guidelines for the Offering of Early Enrollment Courses for High School Students, to be filed with the Secretary of State for a 30-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, extends its final approval.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Series 28, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship Program

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the amendments to Series 28, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Engineering,

Science and Technology Scholarship Program, to be filed with the Secretary of State for a 30-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, extends its final approval.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

F. Series 42, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

Commissioner Dailey moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the amendments to Series 42, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program, to be filed with the Secretary of State for a 30-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, extends its final approval.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

G. Series 58, Legislative Rule, Nursing Scholarship Program

Commissioner Denova moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves amendments to Series 58, Legislative Rule, Nursing Scholarship Program, to be filed with the Secretary of State for the 30-day public comment period, and if no substantive comments are received, extends its final approval.

Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

XIV. Executive Session Under the Authority of W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4 to Discuss Personnel Issues

Executive session was not held.

XV. Additional Board Action and Comment

A. Annual Chancellor's Evaluation

Results from the evaluation of Chancellor Tucker indicate that the Higher Education Policy Commission is highly satisfied with her job performance. She is praised for her communication skills, caring for students, and the partnerships she has created with the state colleges and universities along with business and industry. Commissioners gave her high marks for getting several key initiatives through the legislative process in the past year including funding for deferred maintenance and the dual enrollment pilot project. She was commended for her vision and leadership.

XVI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Dailey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Andrew A. Payne, Chairman

Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary

DRAFT MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

June 28, 2023

I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a special meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on June 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., by teleconference and Zoom video. The following Commission members participated: Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio, Chair of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education; James W. Dailey; James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; and Andrew A. Payne. Other participants included public and private college and university representatives, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Commission staff, and others.

Chairman Payne secured a quorum and gave a brief overview of the agenda.

II. Approval of Appointments to the West Virginia Regional Park Board of Directors

Chancellor Sarah Tucker presented the following individuals for appointment to the West Virginia Regional Park Board of Directors:

Reappointments ending June 30, 2024

- Rudy Henley
- Ron Pearson

Reappointments ending June 30, 2025

- Anne Cavalier
- Jack Rossi

Reappointments ending June 30, 2026

- Mike Farrell
- Sarah Tucker
- Kevin DiGregorio
- Steve Hedrick

New appointment beginning June 30, 2023 with a term ending June 30, 2025

- Tim O'Neal, Global Director for Operations Information Technology/Operations Technology, Dow

Commissioner Lewis Jackson moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the appointments to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Board of Directors.

Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Presidential Compensation at Fairmont State University

General Counsel Kristin Boggs gave an overview of the proposed compensation for the new president of Fairmont State University.

Commissioner Cameron moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation contract for Dr. Michael Davis as President of Fairmont State University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Approval of Presidential Compensation at Concord University

General Counsel Boggs gave an overview of the proposed compensation for the president of Concord University.

Commissioner Denova moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the compensation contract for Dr. Kendra Boggess as President of Concord University as proposed by the institutional board of governors.

Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

V. Executive Session Under the Authority of W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4 to Discuss Licensure

A. Provisional Reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University

Executive session was not held. The Commission has asked administrators at Alderson Broaddus University to submit by July 7th additional information for their review before they can act on reauthorization of the institution. The Commission will meet on July 12, 2023.

VI. Additional Board Action and Comment

There was no additional board action or comment.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Cameron moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Andrew A. Payne, Chairman

Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary

DRAFT MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

July 12, 2023

I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened a special meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on July 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in the Ninth Floor Conference Room at 1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was also accessible by teleconference and Zoom video. The following Commission members participated: Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio, Chair of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education; James W. Dailey; James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; Andrew A. Payne; and Gail Pitchford. Other participants included representatives from Alderson Broaddus University, state college and university administrators, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Commission staff, and others.

Chairman Payne secured a quorum and gave a brief overview of the agenda.

A. Oath of Office

Chairman Payne administered the Oath of Office to new Commissioner Gail Pitchford and welcomed her to the Commission.

II. Reauthorization Application of Alderson Broaddus University

Chairman Payne provided an overview of the status of the reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University. He stated that the Commission has twice postponed the reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University to allow the institution and the Commission's staff time to gather and analyze additional financial and enrollment information for the 2023-24 academic year. He further stated that the Commission continues to be concerned about the university's financial viability and whether it can survive through the coming academic year.

Mr. Payne explained that the Commission's first concern, and statutory duty, is to protect the students who have paid to receive a quality education. He emphasized that the Commission expects to receive truthful and complete oral and written statements from those who come to testify on behalf of the institution. He stated that representatives of Alderson Broaddus University and its Board may be invited to join the Commission during executive session.

Following the chairman's remarks, Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the Commission's statutory authority for

reauthorization and the timeline of agency interactions with the University. He also explained the academic effects of a potential mid-semester closure.

Ms. Misty Price, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities, reported on the financial matters at the University.

The following representatives from Alderson Broaddus University were invited to publicly respond and answer questions:

Dr. Andrea Bucklew, Interim President
Dr. James Owston, Provost & Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Greg Cascione, Interim Vice President for Advancement
Ms. Carrie Bodkins, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Athletics
Mr. James Garvin, Board Chair

III. Executive Session under Authority of W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4 to Discuss Licensure

Chairman Payne entertained a motion to move to executive session.

Commissioner Farrell moved that the Higher Education Policy Commission move into executive session to discuss matters related to the reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University. Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Additional Board Action and Comment

Chairman Payne entertained a motion to rise from executive session.

Commissioner Cameron moved that the Higher Education Policy Commission rise from executive session and resume the business meeting. Commissioner Denova seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Payne stated that no action was taken during executive session. He proceeded to entertain a motion to act on the reauthorization of Alderson Broaddus University.

Commissioner Farrell moved approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission provisionally reauthorizes Alderson Broaddus University.

Further Resolved, That the Commission authorizes the Chancellor to enter an order directing the steps Alderson Broaddus University must take to remain provisionally authorized, including, but not limited to:

- Submitting to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs appropriate plans related to the teach-out and/or transfer of currently enrolled students;

- Making arrangements to secure transcripts and financial aid records;
- Submitting monthly to the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities information showing financial performance and operational stability; and
- Provide any other information requested by the Chancellor.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Pitchford moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Andrew A. Payne, Chairman

Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary

DRAFT MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING

July 31, 2023

I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened an emergency meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on July 31, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., by teleconference and Zoom video. The following Commission members participated: Michelle Blatt, Ex-Officio, West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools; Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio, Chair of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education; James W. Dailey; James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; Andrew A. Payne; and Gail Pitchford. Other participants included representatives from Alderson Broaddus University, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Commission staff, and others.

Chairman Payne secured a quorum and asked Chancellor Tucker to provide an update on the status of Alderson Broaddus University. Chancellor Tucker gave a detailed summary of the financial situation of the University and the reasons for the staff's recommendation that its authorization to confer degrees in West Virginia be revoked.

At the conclusion of the Chancellor's report, Chairman Payne invited representatives from Alderson Broaddus University to respond. Chairman James Garvin spoke on behalf of the University. He strongly objected to the emergency meeting stating that the Commission's planned action to revoke the school's degree-granting authority felt rushed, that it lacked due process, and he asked for a two-day continuance so it could address each of the Commission's concerns. President Andrea Bucklew concurred with Mr. Garvin's statement. She said that the institution has been transparent and submitted all requested information, that enrollment for the fall semester is as expected, and that "We do not agree there is an imminent financial loss."

Commissioner Cameron asked if the institution had received a termination notice from the City of Philippi for non-payment of utilities. Chancellor Tucker responded that it was received by the institution on July 19, 2023.

Chairman Payne concluded in consultation with counsel that the emergency meeting is valid, and that the University has the right to appeal the Commission's decision. He entertained a motion to revoke authorization of Alderson Broaddus University to offer degrees in West Virginia.

II. Revocation of Alderson Broaddus University's Authorization to Confer Degrees in West Virginia

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission revokes Alderson Broaddus University's authorization to confer degrees in the State of West Virginia effective December 31, 2023.

Further Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission authorizes the Chancellor to enter an order directing the steps Alderson Broaddus University must take to wind down its operations pending loss of its authorization, including, but not limited to:

- Not accepting, admitting, or enrolling new students beginning with the Fall 2023 semester;
- Not returning any current students to campus for the Fall 2023 semester, except for seniors scheduled to graduate at the end of the semester who wish to return to complete their degrees;
- Developing and executing appropriate plans related to the on-line teach-out and/or transfer of currently enrolled students;
- Immediately ending all athletic and extracurricular activities;
- Notifying all currently enrolled students of this loss of authorization and a detailed explanation of how this action directly affects them, what support services are being provided to them, and what actions they must take to obtain transcripts to transfer to another institution or complete graduation requirements at the University;
- Make advisors accessible and post those hours to meet with all currently enrolled students, either virtually or in person, to advise them of options to transfer to other institutions of higher education;
- Providing transcripts and financial aid records and/or assistance to students;
- Distributing degrees and certificates to students who have completed program requirements;
- Reimbursement to students, except those seniors who return for the Fall 2023 semester to complete their programs of study, of any payments that have been made for tuition and fees for the Fall 2023 semester; and

- Any other necessary and appropriate student services as specified by the Chancellor.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Dailey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Andrew A. Payne, Chairman

Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary

**West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
Meeting of September 15, 2023**

ITEM: Approval to Repeal Series 46, Procedural Rule, Standards for Subject Area Content in Secondary-Level Teacher Preparation Programs

INSTITUTIONS: All

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION: *Resolved*, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the repeal of Series 46, Procedural Rule, Standards for Subject Area Content in Secondary-Level Teacher Preparation Programs and directs its staff to proceed with the Secretary of State's process to effectuate such repeal.

STAFF MEMBERS: Corley Dennison and Kristin Boggs

BACKGROUND:

This procedural rule establishes minimum standards for subject area content in secondary-level teacher preparation programs. It has existed without update or revision since 2004, and its provisions are now long outdated.

Teacher preparation programs in West Virginia are governed by W. Va. Code § 18A-3-1, which provides that, "The education of professional educators in the State is under the general direction and control of the State Board [of Education]." This fall, the Department of Education is revising its Policy No. 5100, *Approval of Educator Preparation Programs*, which is one of the policies the State Board of Education uses to implement its statutory authority cited above. The Commission's rule proposed herein for repeal conflicts with the State Board's policy, which is the governing authority on the topic, and it otherwise no longer provides meaningful guidance to the institutions of higher education in the operation of their teacher preparation programs.

Therefore, we recommend that the Commission approve the repeal of 133 C.S.R. 46 and that the agency be allowed to proceed with the Secretary of State's repeal process.

~~TITLE 133
PROCEDURAL RULE
WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

SERIES 46
STANDARDS FOR SUBJECT AREA CONTENT
IN SECONDARY-LEVEL TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS~~

~~§133-46-1. General.~~

~~1.1. Scope.—This rule establishes minimum standards for subject area content in secondary level teacher preparation programs.~~

~~1.2. Authority.—W. Va. Code §18B-1B-4~~

~~1.3. Filing Date.—November 23, 2004~~

~~1.4. Effective Date.—December 23, 2004~~

~~§133-46-2. Purpose.~~

~~2.1. The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission is committed to doing its part in improving the quality of education in the schools. It shares the conclusion of the Teaching Commission report, Teaching at Risk, one of many recent reports on the importance of teacher quality, “All good schools have one thing in common: good teachers. Top quality teaching fosters high achievement and high achievers can harness their talents and energies to become successful contributing citizens.” Clearly, good teachers who have a solid grasp of the subjects they teach are essential in the educational process to the attainment of a well educated, highly skilled citizenry.~~

~~The Commission concurs with the conclusion of the National Council on Teacher Quality that an alarming number of teachers are insufficiently grounded in the subjects they teach. This rule is designed to help address the issue of adequate preparation in content fields.~~

~~2.2. The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission established a Task Force on Content Majors in Teacher Preparation to recommend ways to improve the quality of teacher preparation in secondary level subject content areas. The provisions of this rule are an outgrowth of the recommendations of the Task Force. The rationale of the Task Force in shaping its report was:~~

~~2.2.1. Teacher quality is the major single determinant in improving student learning,~~

~~2.2.2. All teacher preparation programs must be academically rigorous, and~~

~~2.2.3. Extensive content preparation for prospective teachers is a key factor in improving quality.~~

~~2.3. The standards which follow are designed to assure minimum levels of subject area preparation in secondary level teacher preparation programs. A higher education institution under the jurisdiction of the HEPC may implement more extensive and rigorous programs for preparation of secondary level teachers, including requirements for a baccalaureate degree in the content field, dual baccalaureate degrees in education and in the content area, and baccalaureate degree in field and a master’s degree in education.~~

~~§133-46-3. Standards for subject area content preparation.~~

~~3.1. Each college or university with secondary level teacher preparation programs shall provide that~~

~~its secondary level programs (those programs emphasizing the secondary level grades and including licensure to teach grades 10-12) in core academic areas require at least the equivalency of corresponding content majors in terms of academic rigor and credit hours completed in the content areas.~~

~~3.2. Secondary level education certification areas for which equivalency in content majors would be required are: biology, business education, chemistry, English, general science, mathematics, modern foreign languages, physics, and social studies.~~

~~3.3. Each secondary level certification area referenced in Section 3.2 must include an equivalent number of credit hours of subject area content course work to the institution's baccalaureate major in the corresponding content field, with the following exceptions:~~

~~3.3.1. For a baccalaureate major in a content field in which the credit hours for content course work exceed 48 credit hours, the number of content credit hours in the corresponding secondary level teacher preparation program shall not be less than 48 credit hours.~~

~~3.3.2. For secondary level teacher preparation programs in social studies and general science, areas in which there is typically no corresponding baccalaureate degree, the minimum number of required credit hours in the content area shall not be less than 48. While the number of content hours in other secondary level teacher preparation programs for certification areas listed in section 3.2 is to be at least the equivalent of corresponding baccalaureate degrees, in no instance shall the number of credit hours in the content area of a secondary level teacher preparation program be less than 36.~~

~~3.4. Each secondary level certification area referenced in Section 3.2 must meet expectations of academic rigor similar to that of the corresponding baccalaureate degree programs. While the subject area curriculum of the teacher preparation program may vary somewhat from the subject area curriculum of the baccalaureate degree program, it must include some form of culminating educational experience in the content area, such as a capstone course. At the discretion of the institution, the curriculum may include applied courses in the content areas as deemed appropriate.~~

~~3.5. All content course work in a secondary level teacher preparation program must be taught by faculty with appropriate in-field academic credentials. Typically, the faculty would serve in the academic department.~~

~~3.6. At the discretion of the institution, the secondary level teacher preparation program could be administered in the appropriate academic department or the school/college of education.~~

~~3.7. At the discretion of the institution, the degrees awarded for successful completion of the secondary level teacher preparation program could be in the appropriate academic field or in education.~~

~~3.8. Each institution will file a copy of revised secondary level teacher preparation curricula with the Higher Education Policy Commission office.~~