

Special Senate Meeting  
Senator Ghazala Hashmi, Ph.D.  
Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 PM, Brault Building #321

1. Introduction and Welcome, Chair Aldous McCrory
2. Introduction and Welcome. Dr. Charlie Errico, CFAF
3. Comments and Introduction, Dr. Anne Kress, NOVA President
4. Updates and Priorities, Senator Hashmi
  - a. The G3 program is supporting the essential needs of students who otherwise may be unable to further their education. Senator Hashmi considers the G3 program and free community college movement a significant step toward equity in higher education.
  - b. Bills directly affecting undocumented students also promote opportunity and equity for DACA students. Legislation allowing DACA students to pay in-state tuition and receive Virginia state financial aid has greatly affected this population.
  - c. Office of Education and Labor Market Alignment- seeks to align K-12 and post-secondary education with the labor market trends using predictive analytics. Falls under VA Economic Development.
  - d. For 2022, Senator Hashmi plans to focus on more transfer discussions. An additional priority area of focus for Senator Hashmi is increasing the availability of credit for prior learning opportunities. Another priority is creation of robust apprenticeship and internship opportunities.
5. Floor opened for questions
  - a. Dr. Edward Creppy, ISSC
    - i. FastForward and G3 address skills gap and attract businesses to the state because of the skilled workforce. Will the new administration continue to support (and fund) these initiatives? Senator Hashmi believes there will be continued support for G3 and Fast Forward regardless of the outcome of the gubernatorial election. Both initiatives passed with bipartisan support and have strong support in the General Assembly.
    - ii. Is there coordination between the labor market/employers and VCCS to assure we are properly targeting the right skills and emerging industries. Senator Hashmi believes the aforementioned Office of Education and Labor Market Alignment can assure these conversations are happening efficiently and effectively at the state level.
    - iii. What is the general assembly doing to update ‘green’ programs at community colleges, including clean energy sources and electric vehicles? Senator Hashmi believes VA must invest in training for the jobs to support this new economy, such as electric auto maintenance, maintenance and support, and development of new technologies.

- b. Trishvi Nguyen, Student Senator
    - i. What is the general assembly doing to support mental health and other services for students? VA is currently experiencing a shortage of mental health counselors and staff. She suggests students advocate for these issues by reaching out to their representatives and asking them to carry legislation. This is an opportunity for students to help craft legislation.
  - c. Dr. Cathy Cogdill, Chair ISSC
    - i. Has the legislature given thought to increasing funding based on FTE, as our four year colleagues receive double the state funding per student? Senator Hashmi believes there has been a greater value placed on the role community colleges play in higher education. Many of the plans to increase resources to higher education for FY21 were tabled due to the pandemic. She is excited that VA has come out of COVID with a strong state budget (and surplus) and there is opportunity to have a greater investment in community colleges for the biennium. The governor's outgoing budget will be in place within the next few weeks, and will hopefully stay in tact with the new administration. She acknowledges there is funding disparity within the VCCS and at some of the 4 year institutions (including GMU).
6. Germaine Andino-Rexach, PSC
- a. Will the additional funding for contract mental health services be directed to community colleges? The Senator has not yet heard the discussion about this issue in relation to the biennium budget yet. There should be more information about this funding line in mid to late November.
7. Jack LeChelt, Vice Chair
- a. In light of the newly formed Government & Community Relations committee, what suggestions would the Senator have for communicating and participating in lobby efforts benefitting community colleges. Senator Hashmi encourages college representatives to be in communication with local representatives, share stories and impacts of the budget. Feedback from constituents is incredible impactful.
8. Shawn Addison, Senator, Chair of CPL Committee
- a. What role do the public schools play in coordination with community college in addressing skills gaps and credit for prior learning? Senator Hashmi believes we need to become more creative about how we define 'credentials.' The college population is different now, and we need to acknowledge the skills they bring. There is some resistance to the concept of CPL from more traditional institutions.
9. Ellen Fancher Ruiz, Dean of Student Success, Annandale
- a. What do we need to know about transfer issues and how we can make the transition to four year schools more seamless? Senator Hashmi states there is a lot of ongoing work around this issue, The Transfer VA group is addressing many of

these issues, but she is hopeful that we'll see great improvements in the next few years.

10. Laura Siko, Secretary

- a. Commentary on G3 guidelines and improvements going forward include addition of more high-demand programs (including transfer programs), consideration of an income cap differential dependent on the area of the state, additional flexibility in financial aid guidelines (i.e., allowing for changes post-census).

11. Meeting adjourned, 2:20 PM