

**VHEAD**  
**VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**ADVOCACY DAY**  
**2020**

**Diversity, Inclusion,  
Transparency**

***REPRESENTING VIRGINIA COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY FACULTY***

**Virginia Human Rights Act**

Virginia's faculty members are opposed to undue discrimination in employment, and support **HB 21** (Delegate Lindsey) and **SB 159** (Senator Boysko), which would add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes for public employment to the Virginia Human Rights Act.

**In-State Tuition Expansion of Eligibility**

Virginia residents deserve access to higher education, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. We support **SB \_\_\_** (Senator Boysko). This bill is an administration bill, backed by Governor Northam.

**Transparency in University Donations**

Donations to institutions of higher education are an important part of the funding model and help connect the institution to an engaged public interested in institutional success. However, donors should not unduly seek to direct higher education or interfere in core functions, such as academic decision-making. We support **HB 510** (Delegate Bulova) and **SB 140** (Senator Stuart), which remove the exemption from Virginia Freedom of Information Act disclosure for anonymity by a donor if the donation imposes terms or conditions related to academic decision-making. This bill comes as a recommendation by the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

**Shared Governance**

Shared governance by the Board, administration, and faculty is a key principle of university governance, described in the joint "[Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities](#)," by the AAUP, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Facilitating Board-faculty communication advances shared governance principles and enhances the Board's ability to exercise its fiduciary responsibilities. We support **HB 397** (Delegate Keam), which requires the Board of Visitors to solicit input from the Faculty Senate or its equivalent twice yearly, and on presidential searches.

**Freedom of the Press for Student Journalists**

Student journalists provide an invaluable service to transparency and accountability in public life. However, they are particularly vulnerable to control and censorship by the very institutions they cover. Administrations may seek to control news content, punish journalists and especially their academic advisors. According to the Student Press Law Center, fourteen states provide legal protections to student journalists' First Amendment rights. We support **HB 36** (Delegates Hurst and Roem) and **SB 80** (Senator Marsden) which provide First Amendment protections to student journalists and protects student media advisers who take reasonable and appropriate actions to protect student journalists' First Amendment conduct.