



**Higher Education Equipment Advisory Committee
Roundtable Discussion
Monday, December 1, 2014 11:00 a.m.
General Assembly Building, 3d Floor East Conference Room**

The Higher Ed Equipment Advisory Committee met on December 1 to continue its discussions.

SCHEV reported that it had engaged its financial advisory committee on equipment, and was collecting information on the type of equipment held by each institution. While not all data has been collected, it appears that various equipment ranges in value from \$5,000 to \$1 million. Many institutions are already cataloging their equipment, and they feel that they each have a good approach and structure, but there is enthusiasm for doing this more efficiently for the Commonwealth.

One concern that was raised related to equipment received through federal grants and through tax-exempt bonds. It was suggested that staff find a way to engage the IRS to get clarification on the use of equipment purchased with tax-exempt bonds. Delegate Lingamfelter indicated that the intent of the discussion of the advisory committee is to raise revenues for the universities, and the 10 percent restriction on commercial use seems arbitrary.

Dr. Craig Hillman, CEO & Managing Partner of DfR Solutions, shared his experience in using university equipment in Maryland. He said that while professors are highly motivated to find new business related to research and development, they are not necessarily motivated to ensure that research equipment is used to its highest capacity.

In the course of his business, he works with service centers at Maryland universities. Services centers use equipment that has essentially been removed from faculty research, and is run by professional (not research) staff. He cited University of California at Santa Barbara as an example of a good service center model. For example, it has a microscope service center that is cross-departmental, so that individual departments do not have to each acquire high-powered microscopes.

Delegate Lingamfelter indicated that he would like to hear from University of Virginia and Virginia Tech at a future meeting regarding their use of service centers, and how they engage with private industry. He would also like to look more at issues related to visibility of available equipment, and think of ways to showcase not only the equipment but also the research and development capabilities of our universities.

Delegate Lingamfelter said he would try to schedule one additional meeting before the 2015 Session of the General Assembly convened.