



**Cybersecurity Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
Wednesday, July 8, 2015 1:00 p.m.  
3 East, General Assembly Building**

The JCOTS Cybersecurity Advisory Committee held its second meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2015. Advisory Committee members Delegates Glenn Davis (chair), Kathy Byron, Dave LaRock, and Tom Rust and Senator Steve Martin were present. Representatives from private cybersecurity companies, public and private institutions of higher education, and other state agencies also attended the meeting and participated in the discussions.

Wendy Kang, Director of Higher Education Innovation at the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), provided a presentation concerning a feasibility study to develop a higher education research network. While SCHEV's feasibility study is not cybersecurity-specific, the concept of developing a network to highlight the research assets and capabilities of the Commonwealth's state institutions of higher education is very relevant to the issues being reviewed by the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.

Ms. Kang shared that the feasibility study is being driven by several issues: federal research funding is shrinking, the business community often struggles to find the "front door" into the various research institutions in Virginia, and it is difficult to assess and promote Virginia's research assets in an economic development setting. A research network can help address these issues by establishing a web portal of research expertise and equipment at institutions of higher education that also provides state-level and institution-level points of contact. Such a network could be used as both an economic development and a collaboration tool.

Ms. Kang is in the process of studying the efforts of North Carolina, Michigan, Florida, and Texas to set up such a network. The study includes (i) talking with stakeholders from each of these states regarding the establishment and maintenance of that state's network; (ii) identifying the costs and benefits of establishing a network; (iii) reviewing the technology, staffing, and communications infrastructure necessary to support a network; and (iv) looking at various implementation options. She hopes to have a final report available by the end of September. A copy of Ms. Kang's presentation is available on the JCOTS website.

In response to questions raised at the first Cybersecurity Advisory Committee meeting, staff provided an overview of current efforts in other states to promote cybersecurity. The presentation focused on Maryland, Florida, Massachusetts, Texas, Michigan, and California, each of which aims to become a hub of cybersecurity-related research and economic development. A copy of the staff presentation is available on the JCOTS website.

At the conclusion of the presentations, Delegate Davis opened the meeting to general discussion. It was noted that in the area of cybersecurity, working with state universities could sometimes present a challenge: Separate facilities are sometimes needed to conduct classified research, and graduate students assisting with such research are required to be United States citizens. Additionally, the Freedom of Information Act sometimes presents issues.

The discussion turned to the question of whether Virginia should seek to identify and pursue a niche in the very broad field of cybersecurity. University representatives cautioned against being too prescriptive, because no one knows what the next big threat will be, and suggested that Virginia universities be allowed to remain flexible in tailoring research programs that can be responsive to whatever that threat may be.

Discussion also focused on workforce development and the need to get high school students interested in information security. There was general agreement that businesses also need to make more of an effort to demonstrate the opportunities available for careers in cybersecurity in Virginia, as many undergraduates in Virginia do not stay in-state after graduation.

Delegate Davis closed the discussion with a reminder that the purpose of this meeting was high-level discussion about cybersecurity. He noted that he hoped that at the next meeting, scheduled for October 20, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., the Advisory Committee and meeting participants could begin to talk about specific proposals to advance the Commonwealth as a cybersecurity hub and to promote public-private collaboration in cybersecurity research and development.