



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

DON SCOTT
SPEAKER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
RULES (CHAIR)

SPEAKER'S ROOM
STATE CAPITOL
POST OFFICE BOX 406
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218

EIGHTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

May 13, 2024

The Honorable G. Paul Nardo
Clerk of the House of Delegates
State Capitol
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Across the nation we have seen protests and unrest on campuses for higher education. Virginia is not immune. While for the most part, protests have seemed to be peaceful and comply with campus requirements, we cannot ignore the arrests that have resulted. Moreover, claims by students that current protests have connections to antisemitic activity on the campuses of Virginia's colleges and universities must be taken seriously.

It is important moving forward that we have an understanding of the policies in place at Virginia's colleges and universities for allowing students to exercise their protected right to free speech while maintaining campus safety, and the part local and state police have to play in the security ecosystem. It is imperative that we understand the protocol followed and resources used by our local and state police when requests for assistance are made by our institutions of higher education. We should identify areas where we can improve state policies in order to mitigate the incidents of unrest and arrest that we have witnessed this spring.

In order to help address these issues and provide potential legislative recommendations for the General Assembly to consider for the 2025 session, I am appointing a Select Committee on Maintaining Campus Safety and First Amendment Expression.

The Select Committee will be composed of 12 members of the House and will reflect the principle of proportional representation. I am appointing the following members: Charniele Herring (Chair), Terry Kilgore (Vice Chair), Betsy Carr, Marcus Simon, Sam Rasoul, Amy Laufer, Bonita Anthony, Joshua Thomas, Chris Obenshain, Tony Wilt, Amanda Batten, and Jason Ballard.

The Committee will be supported primarily by the House Clerk's Office, with technical and policy support provided by the Division of Legislative Services.

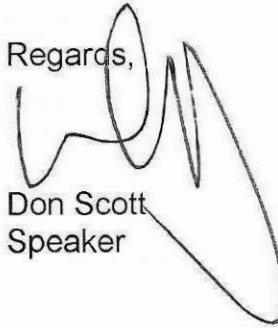
In addition to in-house staff support, the Committee may contract with outside vendors for specific and specialized support at any time during the Committee's work. Further, I authorize the House Clerk's office to pay interim compensation and issue reimbursement for member travel associated with the Committee's work.

The Committee will have an organizational meeting no later than June 30, 2024 and may have as many as four meetings in appropriate venues considering the subject matter. The Committee shall complete its work by December 1, 2024 and present a report to the General Assembly by December 15, 2024

I have full confidence that the select committee members will work together to help combat faith based discrimination, maintain campus security and protect free speech on the campuses of Virginia's colleges and universities and will make recommendations to those ends.

Regards,

Don Scott
Speaker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Scott', written over the printed name.

cc: The Honorable C. Todd Gilbert
The Honorable Charniele Herring