

THE VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION BROADCASTING CONSORTIUM

MISSION STATEMENT

1. The Virginia Higher Education Broadcasting Consortium is a voluntary association of the state's public higher education institutions and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. The consortium is dedicated to demonstrating, through the production of original broadcast programming, the value higher education adds to the lives of Virginians.
2. Consortium members agree that public confidence in the instructional and research excellence of faculty members is essential to the public's willingness to support public higher education's needs. Members put aside parochial interests to illustrate through original broadcast programming the useful, high quality work being done by professors at Virginia's colleges and universities. Members agree to maintain the highest quality editorial and production standards for all programs to encourage the largest audience for the information each shares. Programs specifically avoid topics that listeners might construe as direct advertising or propaganda for higher education as well as public policy issues bearing directly on the financial interests of the colleges and universities.
3. The first project of the VHEBC is to produce *With Good Reason*, a weekly radio interview show designed to share the current research and expertise of university faculty members as a public service outreach.
The show is provided free to public radio stations serving Virginia to aid them in their educational mission and is aired by them at their discretion. Interviews are conducted with the aim of conveying to the public in understandable terms the wide range of new knowledge being produced and shared by Virginia's state-supported colleges and universities.

ORGANIZATION AND BYLAWS

4. Membership in the consortium is open to all Virginia's public higher education institutions and to other organizations invited by the consortium on a majority vote. Members pay annual dues to the consortium to fund production of programs. Dues are set by the consortium and based on the size of each member's faculty or its status as a special organization. Members in good standing are entitled to nominate experts in their fields from their institutions to participate in individual programs. Members may withdraw at any time but forfeit their annual dues for that year.
5. Policies governing the mission and operation of the consortium are established by a majority vote of members' designated representatives when a quorum is present. General meetings of the consortium will be held as needed, and meetings will be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.
6. Operational responsibilities for the consortium are entrusted to a five person executive committee, whose members are elected annually by the full consortium from its membership. Each executive committee members shall serve a two-year term, which may be renewed for one consecutive term. Terms shall be staggered. The executive committee shall elect from its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson. The executive committee shall include the institutional representative designated to serve as the agent of the VHEBC for operational matters. The executive committee will perform duties assigned to it by the consortium, among them to make recommendations on:
 - the annual budget of the show;
 - production arrangements with participating stations;
 - arrangements with the radio studio providing production facilities;
 - maintaining broadcast coverage in all regions of the state;
 - raising private funds to supplement the consortium budgetThe executive committee may not act on any matter bearing on the mission and goals of the show or enter into formal agreements on behalf of the show without the informed consent of a majority of the members.
7. Interview candidates for *With Good Reason* will be proposed and discussed by the institutional representatives at the general meetings. The executive committee shall then propose a play list of interviews for distribution to the members for adoption. Selection of candidates shall be based on the general appeal, news value or curiosity of their particular expertise, and their ability to express themselves engagingly and clearly to a radio audience. The play schedule shall attempt to demonstrate the variety of work in the academic disciplines and the diversity of Virginia's state-supported higher education entities.
In drafting the list, the committee shall make reasonable efforts to ensure fair representation for all members. Institutions shall be represented at least once a year. Shows may include more than one interviewee on topics open to a variety of perspectives. Such cases shall constitute representation. Institutional representatives may appeal to the executive committee and/or the full consortium if they feel their institutions are not receiving fair representation in programming.
Members are responsible for providing the show's host with sufficient and useful background information on candidates selected from their institutions to sustain a 30-minute conversation without additional research. The host may supplement this material with independent research into the topic as needed.
8. Interviews will be edited for unity, coherence, production value, and length. Censorship is strictly prohibited except in cases of obscenity, libel, slander or unsubstantiated criticism of political or institutional individuals or entities.

OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS

9. The operational duties of the consortium, its executive committee, the agent of the consortium, the editorial advisor, the production advisor, and the show's host/producer are defined as follows:

The consortium as a whole, through its institutional representatives, shall be responsible for: establishing and overseeing general editorial policies, electing the executive committee, promoting the program among their constituencies), proposing and selecting interview candidates, providing background research on selected interview guests, setting dues, and adopting an annual budget.

The executive committee of the consortium shall be responsible for: annual personnel performance review and negotiations, maintaining broadcast coverage throughout Virginia, preparing and monitoring the show's budget., and private fund-raising efforts to support the show. The chair of the committee shall call general meetings of the consortium and set the agenda.

The agent of the consortium shall be responsible for: day-to-day personnel management; drafting and managing the budget and production schedule; preparing preliminary playlists for review and approval by the executive committee and full consortium; collecting and managing institutional dues and private contributions and procuring necessary equipment and services as needed for routine production; serving as liaison with the schools and radio stations; promoting of the play schedule; maintaining a program archives and responding to listener requests. The agent, in conjunction with the editorial advisor and/or production advisor, shall have the authority to remove from the play schedule any guest he or she judges to be unsuitable or any interview he or she judges to be of inferior quality. Such decisions may be appealed by the producer or participating institution(s) to the executive committee.

The editorial advisor shall assist in evaluating and safeguarding the editorial content and overall direction of the program. The production advisor, who is the general manager or representative of a participating station, shall assist in evaluating and safeguarding the production quality and the interview performance of the show's host.

The *With Good Reason* host/producer will research topics on the play schedule approved by the full consortium, conduct interviews, edit interviews and produce and distribute to participating stations in an acceptable format a broadcast-quality weekly edition of *With Good Reason* on a production schedule determined by the agent of the consortium. The host/producer also will deliver a broadcast-quality cassette and a complete and error free transcript of each program to the agent of the consortium one week prior to the scheduled broadcast date. Specific job descriptions and performance expectations for the staff will be developed by the agent of the consortium, the editorial advisor, the production advisor, and the *With Good Reason* staff, subject to approval of the executive committee.

10. This document constitutes the complete bylaws and protocols of the Consortium. Amendments to these bylaws and protocols must receive a majority vote of the full consortium to be put into effect.

*ADOPTED March 3, 1994 by majority vote of the consortium.
AMENDED September 14, 1996 by majority vote of the consortium.*