Executive Summary of the SCHEV Proposal
Seeking Approval to Establish the School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics

At its November 2023 meeting, the Board of Visitors approved a resolution to create a new school containing the Departments of Applied Science, Computer Science, and Physics, and the program in Data Science.

On March 14, 2024, William & Mary formally submitted a proposal to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) requesting their approval to establish a School of Computing, Data Sciences, and Physics.

Highlights of the various proposal elements include the following:

- The proposal discusses the university's intentional deliberations on the implications of establishing a new school, highlighting the work of the 15-member Steering Committee, the multiple meetings and opportunities for discussion with and receiving feedback from faculty, staff, and students, and discussing possible financial impacts.

- The proposal outlines the rationale for establishing the new school by highlighting a few key advantages that establishing the new school would provide, including the importance of increasing visibility of the disciplines at the regional, state, and national levels.

- Highlighting an analysis conducted by the Virginia Office of Education Economics, the proposal notes that the establishment of the new school at is also needed due to the significant growth rate of data science-related programs at W&M.

- The proposal includes detail regarding budget projections for the first three years after implementation of the new school.

- The proposal includes 14 letters of support, including from the presidents of UVA, VT, and ODU, as well as those from regional, state, and national organizations.

- Next steps and anticipated timeline:
    - April – June: Proposal review by staff at SCHEV, with clarifications and revisions as needed following SCHEV review.
    - July: Anticipated inclusion of the proposal on the SCHEV agenda for approval.