

Week 4: February 3- February 9, 2014

Council Meets in Olympia

The fourth week of the legislative session began with the Council's first meeting of 2014, held on Monday afternoon at the State Board for Community and Technical College's offices in Olympia. The Council received an update on the status of legislation with direct alignment to Roadmap strategies, as well as other legislation that would impact student financial aid programs. Council members expressed their support for [Senate Bill 6523](#), the "REAL Hope Act," as well as [SB 5318](#), legislation that would remove the existing one-year waiting period for veterans to be eligible for in-state tuition. Earlier in the day, Council members also met with legislative leaders to discuss the Council's Roadmap work and legislative priorities.

House & Senate Higher Education Committees

This week the House Higher Education Committee held public hearings on a few bills, including [HB 2694](#), which would direct the Council to send high-achieving, low-income high school students information about public and private colleges — including financial aid information and application fee waivers. The Council testified in support of the legislation, as well as in favor of [SB 6436](#), a measure considered in the Senate Higher Education Committee that would create a work group to make recommendations for the continued viability of the College Bound Scholarship Program.

On Wednesday, Rachelle Sharpe, the Council's Senior Director of Student Financial Assistance, gave a presentation to the House Higher Education Committee on student loan debt. The presentation can be found [here](#).

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Following the policy committee deadline in the House on Wednesday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education held several public hearings on measures with a fiscal impact that were previously considered in the House Higher Education Committee. Among these hearings, the Council signed-in in support of [SHB 2383](#), integrating career and college readiness standards into K-12 and higher education policies and practices, as well as [HB 2396](#), addressing barriers for students to participate in the Running Start program.

Cut-off Deadline for Bills

The end of this week marks the cut-off deadline for most bills to be advanced out of policy committees, meaning that the majority of next week will consist of House and Senate floor action leading up to the "chamber of origin" cut-off deadline on Tuesday, February 18th.

Bill Tracker: Status of Legislation with Direct Alignment to Roadmap Strategies (as of 2/9/14)

Bill	Title	Status	Sponsor
HB 2626	Educational attainment goals	H Hi Ed	Rep. Seaquist
HB 2185 /SB 6002	Operating sup budget 2014	H Approps / S Ways & Means	Rep. Hunter / Sen. Hill
HB 2181	Career & college ready reqs	H Education	Rep. Lytton
SB 6092	Credits for HS graduation	S EL/K-12	Sen. Litzow
SB 6083	Precollege placement	S Higher Ed	Sen. Kohl-Welles
HB 2285	Dual credit coursework	H Rules R	Rep. Orwall
SHB 2383	Career and college readiness	H Approps Ed	Rep. Reykdal
HB 2396	Running start participation	H Exec Action	Rep. Orwall
SHB 1858/ SSB 5969	Academic credit/military	H 3rd Reading /S Rules 2	Rep. McCoy / Sen. O'Ban
HB 2400	Mentoring & service learning	H Hi Ed	Rep. Walkinshaw