

Week 1 Legislative Update January 20, 2015

Higher Education Work Sessions

On January 13, the House Higher Education Committee held a work session titled “Higher Education System Part 1.” Washington Student Achievement Council Vice Chair Karen Lee presented with Executive Director Gene Sharratt and Director of Policy and Government Relations Maddy Thompson.

The presentation highlighted WSAC’s Strategic Action Plan, which is the foundation of the Council’s 2015 legislative agenda. Members discussed institutional capacity and State Need Grant funding.

The work session included an overview of the state’s higher education system presented by Office of Program Research staff in the House. Paul Francis, executive director of the Council of Presidents and Council member, presented on behalf of the public baccalaureate institutions. Michele Johnson, chancellor of Pierce Colleges presented with Marty Brown, executive director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and Council member, on behalf of the community and technical college system.

Presentations can be found on the [Legislature’s Electronic Bill Book](#) .

On January 15, the Senate Higher Education Committee held a work session that included a presentation from Ways and Means staff on the state budget and the higher education budget. Speakers included:

- Paula Moore, senior budget assistant at the Office of Financial Management, who presented on the Governor’s budget.
- Paul Francis presented on the public baccalaureate institution budget requests.
- Marty Brown and Dr. Ed Brewster, president of Grays Harbor College, presented on behalf of the community and technical colleges.

The work session in the House Higher Education Committee on January 15 included Part 2 of the work session with presentations from:

- The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Executive Director Eleni Papadakis, Legislative Director Nova Gattman)
- Association of Washington Business (Director of Government Affairs for Education Amy Anderson)
- Washington State Labor Council (Field Mobilization Director Lori Province),
- Independent Colleges of Washington (President & CEO Violet Boyer and Vice President Tom Fitzsimmons)
- Northwest Career Colleges Federation (Maria Dezenberg of DeVry University, Dion McNeeley, of Commercial Driver School, Arch Miller of International Air & Hospitality Academy, Gena Wikstrom of Northwest Career Colleges Federation)
- Washington Education Association (Wendy Rader-Konofalski)

- American Federation of Teachers (Bernal Baca)
- Washington Students Association
 - Executive Director Garrett Havens
 - Heather Heffelmire, Associated Students of WWU Legislative Liaison
 - Austin Wright-Pettibone, Director of the Office of Government Relations for the Associated Students of UW
 - Jordan Martin, Legislative Liaison for the Associated Students of EWU)
 - Alexandra Minea and Robert Lasker, Washington Community Technical College Student Association

Dual Credit

On January 14, the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee held hearings on two dual-credit proposals: [SB 5080](#) sponsored by Senator Dammeier and [SB 5086](#), which is sponsored by Committee Chair, Senator Litzow and is an Office of Financial Management Request bill. Both bills would expand access to the College in the High School program with Senator Litzow's proposal prioritizing access for low-income students. Senate staff to the committee presented a [side by side comparison of the bills](#).

Washington Student Achievement Council Director of Academic Affairs and Policy Randy Spaulding and Associate Director Noreen Light presented on dual-credit award by exam programs, followed by a dual-credit presentation by Joyce Hammer of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Other Highlights

Hearings were held in the House and Senate on the Governor's budget, [HB 1106](#), in House Appropriations on Monday January 12 with a focus on the education and higher education portions of the budget. The Senate heard the proposal on [SB 5077](#) on January 14.

On January 15, Senate Ways and Means held a public hearing on [SB 5063](#) - Prioritizing state revenue growth for education.

The Senate Early Learning and K-12 Committee also held a work session that included an overview of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and an update on the ECEAP Expansion Plan to serve all eligible children by the 2018-19 school year presented by the Department of Early Learning. The Washington Institute of Public Policy Outcome also presented their evaluation of ECEAP.

Please see our [Week 2 Schedule](#) for upcoming committee meetings of interest.