

March 26, 2013 Council Meeting

Participants

Council Members: Brian Baird, Scott Brittain, Marty Brown, Paul Francis, José E. Gaitán, Lindsey Jahn, Ray Lawton, Jay Reich

Council Staff: Don Bennett, Jim Reed, Aaron Wyatt, Blake Chard, Rachelle Sharpe, Randy Spaulding, Christy England-Seigerdt, Noreen Light, Jim West, Daryl Monear, Larry Lee, Coke Putnam

Guests: Melissa Beard, Education Research and Data Center; Kathy Harrigan, South Puget Sound Community College; Kim Kettel, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Michelle Andreas, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; Violet Boyer, Independent Colleges of Washington; Jane Sherman, Washington State University/Council of Presidents; Annette Anderson, University of Washington-Bothell; Robert Corbett, University of Washington; John Bowden, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee; Eric Whitacker, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee; Kevin Asman, AFT Washington; Karen Strickland, AFT Washington; Kristin Elia, AFT Washington; Bryan Wilson, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Greetings and Action Items

Council Chair Brian Baird opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. He introduced Jennifer Fellingner, Vice President for Marketing and Communications of St. Martin's University. As a representative of the University, Jennifer welcomed the Council and its guests and shared the University's appreciation for the opportunity to host a Council meeting.

Action: Constance Rice moved to approve the preliminary meeting agenda; Jay Reich seconded the motion. The agenda for the March 26 Council meeting was unanimously approved.

Action: Jay Reich moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2013 Council meeting. Scott Brittain seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted.

Action: José Gaitán moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 Council teleconference meeting. Constance Rice seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted.

Brian Baird introduced two new Council staff: Aaron Wyatt hired to fill the vacancy of Communications Director and Blake Chard as the new Director of Government Relations.

As chair of the Council's executive director selection committee, José Gaitán introduced Gene Sharratt as the newly selected executive director of the Council's staff. Dr. Sharratt had been selected by Governor Inslee from three candidates nominated by the Council. He spoke of being very pleased to have the opportunity to work with the Council and its staff and was looking forward to returning to Olympia where he had an earlier career as a teacher.

José complimented the staff of Diversified Search, noting their outstanding assistance to the Council in the nationwide search for an executive director.

Action: José Gaitán moved to prepare a letter of thanks to Diversified Search. Constance Rice seconded the motion. It was unanimously passed, with José offering to draft the letter.

Brian Baird then complimented Don Bennett for his service as the Council's executive director – for his leadership during the recent time of transition from Board to Council and for keeping the staff focused and motivated to continue to do good work.

Action: Constance Rice moved to praise Don Bennett with a commendation for his service and outstanding work as executive director. Jay Reich seconded the motion. It was unanimously passed.

Legislative Session Update

Blake Chard provided an update of legislative activities. He pointed out that it was the 11th week of the regular legislative session. He cited that Senate Bill 5195 (which would allow students at the Western Governor's University to be eligible for State Need Grant) is ready to be passed out of the Senate Higher Education Committee. He also is tracking Senate Bill 5615, which would direct the Council's Student Financial Assistance to contract with outside vendors to fund-raise for the Health Professional Loan program. Also discussed was the "dream act" and its implications to allow certain undocumented youth to be eligible to receive a State Need Grant and pay in-state tuition. Rachelle Sharpe of the Council staff reported that the fiscal impact would be \$5 million if WGU students were eligible and funded SNG awards and the dream act would impact 600 students taking advantage of in-state tuition.

Blake noted that, later in the day, Constance Rice would be attending her Senate confirmation hearing and that April 2 is scheduled for the confirmation of the remaining four citizen members of the Council.

10-Year Roadmap

Jim Reed of the Council staff reviewed the 2013 schedule to develop materials to progress towards creating the mandated 10-year roadmap. The action plan for the five challenge areas outlined the “Critical Crossroads” publication consists of nine different work groups comprised of Council members, Council staff, and outside stakeholders. Each work group is scheduled to have the opportunity throughout the year to present updates and briefings to the Council at large. This meeting will include the first three briefings on (1) early learning, (2) assessment of skills, knowledge, and experience; and (3) remedial education.

Report on the Listening Tour

Matthew Landkamer of the Coraggio Group provided the Council with a summary report outlining the activities of the listening tour that included visiting ten cities in eight days. The report displays a number of themes derived from the numerous community meetings, aligning them with the five challenge areas noted in the Council’s strategic action plan:

- (1) Collaboration and innovation happen at the local level, but must be enabled and encouraged statewide.
- (2) We should support “systems thinking” to better support students in their transitions between institutions, or between school and work.
- (3) While change is necessary, it can be costly, create widespread frustration, and sometimes result in outcomes that do not improve student achievement.
- (4) Educational institutions, like individual students, are unique. “One size fits all” solutions often fall short when this isn’t taken into account.
- (5) Socioeconomic factors are integral to any solution.
- (6) Funding focus and prioritization will be critical to improving educational outcomes for Washington students over time.

Following Mr. Landkamer’s presentation, Aaron Wyatt of the Council staff provided a communications plan designed to support the conclusion of the listening tour component of the 10-year roadmap. The plan will include the capacity to continue to receive input from employers, educators, the public, and other outside constituents.

Action: Constance Rice moved to accept the Listening Tour Summary report prepared by the Coraggio Group. Jay Reich seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Planning Briefings

Early Learning

Presentation Panel:

- Randy Spaulding, Director for Academic Affairs and Policy, Washington Student Achievement Council
- Bette Hyde, Director, Department of Early Learning
- Gail Joseph, Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology and Early Childhood and Family Studies, University of Washington
- Sally Holloway, Early Childhood Education Project Director, Whatcom Community College

(Note: Gail Joseph joined the panel presentation via telephone.)

In addition to the panel presentations, the Council was presented with an issue briefing identifying the challenges of student readiness, early learning policy issues, and the state's early learning needs and gaps.

Assessment of Skills, Knowledge, and Experience

Presentation Panel:

- Daryl Monear, Associate Director for Policy and Research, Washington Student Achievement Council
- Tim Stokes, President, South Puget Sound Community College
- Catherine Riordan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Western Washington University
- Robert Duniway, Assistant Vice President for University Planning and Director of Institutional Research, Seattle University

In addition to the panel presentations, the Council was presented with an issue briefing that begins to explore the core academic skills necessary for advancing student achievement for graduate student success in Washington.

Remedial Education

Presentation Panel:

- Noreen Light, Associate Director for Academic Affairs and Policy, Washington Student Achievement Council
- Gillies Malnarich, Co-Director of the Education Center for Improving Undergraduate Education, The Evergreen State College
- Bill Moore, Director of Core to College Project, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
- Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction

In addition to the panel presentations, the Council was presented with an issue briefing outlining challenges and policy issues related to postsecondary remedial education in Washington.

Mandated Reports

Draft 2013 Tuition and Fee Survey Report

Christy England-Siegerdt of the Council staff presented the 2013 tuition and fee survey report that was mandated by Washington's Legislature and Governor. It provides a comparison of tuition and fee data for over 200 public flagship institutions, comprehensive institutions, and community colleges in all 50 states. The data displayed in the report range from 2008-09 through 2012-13. The Washington Student Achievement Council partnered with the Connecticut Office of Higher Education to collect and analyze the tuition and fees reported.

Action: Jay Reich moved that the Council approve the 2013 Tuition and Fee Survey Report as presented. Ray Lawton seconded the motion. It was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.