

August 22, 2013
Whitworth University
Spokane, Washington

MINUTES

Members attending:

Chair Maud Daudon, Vice Chair Karen Lee (via telephone), Secretary Ray Lawton, Scott Brittain (via telephone), Marty Brown (via telephone), Jeff Charbonneau, Paul Francis, Rai Nauman Mumtaz, Susana Reyes

Staff attending:

Gene Sharratt, Patricia Berge, Aaron Wyatt, Jim Reed, Randy Spaulding, Rachelle Sharpe, Christy England-Siegerdt, Jim West, Marc Webster, Emily Persky

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Maud Daudon.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

July 16-17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Secretary Lawton noted an error in the minutes on page 3: strike “public” meeting. The Council went into executive session for this portion of the meeting. Staff noted the error and will correct it for the record.

Motion was made to approve the minutes with the noted change.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Communications Plan

Aaron Wyatt, Director of Communications

Aaron Wyatt, Communications Director for the Council, highlighted the primary objectives, strategies, and tactics of the 2013 Roadmap Communications Plan. Secretary Lawton emphasized the importance of news media. Council and staff discussed the timeline challenges related to the December 1, 2013 due date for the Roadmap Report. The Council members believe it is on track to make decisions in time for October.

Roadmap Survey Results

Jim Reed, Policy and Planning Coordinator

Randy Spaulding, Director of Academic Affairs and Policy

Jim Reed presented the survey results of Roadmap Action Item rankings and priorities within the Challenge Areas of Affordability, Technology, Alignment, and Outreach and Support. Council members discussed the relative importance of the preliminary Action Items within their respective Challenge Area categories, and assess the Roadmap Priority for those Action Items. The Council agreed on the distinction between bold actions as opposed to actions where parties involved can “just do it.”

Council members suggested that leveraging implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) to reduce redundant testing and the need for remediation would be much more significant than simply supporting full implementation of CCSS. Member Reyes noted the lack of funding for professional development which is necessary to successfully implement CCSS. Members noted that the Council’s focus should be on the implementation and use of the assessment system rather than the implementation of CCSS. The Council agreed that “fully implement” needs further definition.

Council members requested the order of magnitude for cost of each proposed recommendation.

Randy Spaulding discussed action recommendations related to early learning, remedial postsecondary education, student learning, and capacity and demand.

The Early Learning action recommendations align with initiatives led by the Department of Early Learning (DEL). Although these recommendations resonate with our work, staff and council members suggested that the Council endorse DEL’s work in the Roadmap Report but not include specific Early Learning action recommendations.

Spaulding asked the Council to consider alternative language to “remedial.” Workgroup members suggested “college transitional studies.” Chair Daudon suggested using the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) exam as a launch pad between high school and college. Member Paul Francis noted this could be problematic because it is not current policy to use state assessments for college admissions or course placement. Member Charbonneau suggested that it might be beneficial to wait and see if SBAC scores contribute new information of value to the holistic assessment of college applicants. The Council asked that staff explore the question of how and if this should happen.

Member Mumtaz asked what is known about best practices for freshman cohort support classes. Spaulding committed to working with staff and following up with the Council.

Members also discussed the possible expansion of employer feedback mechanisms, including employer surveys, to better understand how academic programs align with employer needs. Staff requested that the Council take another survey to prioritize action recommendations for remaining challenge areas. The Council agreed but requested the next survey include options structured in the following way: In order to achieve “Outcome,” we need to do “Action.”

Public Comment

Nancy C. Fair-Szofran, Ph.D. – Community Colleges of Spokane, Provost

Related to timeline and roadmap communications planning, the colleges should be provided ample time to respond to requests for input on the legislative agenda and related issues. Colleges need this time to analyze data in preparation for informed decision making. If in fact, little to no data exists, data collection needs to be factored in as well. We are all committed to student achievement and the colleges want to fully participate in the discussions.

Regarding the grant application to support ongoing technical support for the implementation of Common Core State Standards: Please remember that Washington was represented by Spokane Public Schools, CCS, EWU and WSU in the Lumina-funded Affinity Network project. The project was highly successful and those successes were celebrated and communicated at the Washington Cohort’s capstone event on May 9, 2013 in Spokane. The Chancellor of CCS invited the College Board to assist in presenting the Washington results to a group of individuals we suggested were key: legislators, OSPI, SBCTC, Student Achievement Council, Greater Spokane Incorporated, commerce and industry leaders, school superintendents’ round table, college and university presidents, and other dignitaries. This was an opportunity to not only shine light on the good work done by the Washington cohort, but to begin planning for the continuation of the work started.

Staff Update and Council Discussion

Gene Sharratt, Ph.D. – Executive Director

Gene Sharratt shared staff’s stakeholder engagement work with the Council. He attended a meeting with Member Francis on the topic of performance-based funding for the baccalaureate colleges. Marc Webster also participated in the meeting, and reported that three to five metrics will be discussed at the next meeting in Ellensburg on September 12, 2013.

Sharratt attended the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce’s Educational Sounding Board Meeting with Chair Daudon.

Member Charbonneau and Sharratt met with the STEM alliance and discussed common goals as well as implications for high schools, universities, and careers. We have started a strong partnership.

Sharratt met with Gary Oertli, President of South Seattle Community College (SSCC). He started a program at Cleveland High School, the 13th Year, to guarantee coverage for all high school graduates' tuition costs for their first year at SSCC. The program grew to include Chief Sealth High School graduates and will be expanding to West Seattle and Rainier Beach High Schools.

On August 23, Sharratt along with Members Lawton, Reyes, and Charbonneau will meet first with the president of Eastern Washington University, Dr. Rodolfo Arevalo, then with Dr. Lisa Brown, chancellor of WSU Spokane, and then with Dr. Thayne McCulloh, president of Gonzaga University.

Member Mumtaz will work with Sharratt this afternoon on preparing a student survey on how to improve alignment, affordability, and accessibility of higher education. This is part of Student Member Mumtaz's capstone legacy work.

The Council discussed incorrect information in a recent Spokesman Review article. Although the newspaper printed a retraction, the article was read by a wide audience of legislators. The Council conferred with Communications Director, Aaron Wyatt, and agreed to send a letter to legislators informing them of the mistake and providing correct information. Council members discussed writing a guest editorial, and agreed to wait until Roadmap Actions have been adopted. Aaron will produce and disseminate the editorial.

Chair Daudon commended the work of Whitworth University staff in providing a friendly welcome and recognized the work of Member Lawton for leading the effort to visit the university. Chair Daudon adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m. A walking tour of the campus was directed by Member Lawton.