

July 16 - 17, 2013
Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Participants

Council Members: Ray Lawton, Scott Brittain, Marty Brown, Paul Francis, Maud Daudon, Karen Lee, Susana Reyes, and Rai Nauman Mumtaz

Council Staff: Gene Sharratt, Don Bennett, Jim Reed, Aaron Wyatt, Blake Chard, Rachelle Sharpe, Randy Spaulding, Christy England-Siegerdt, Marc Webster, Daryl Monear, Noreen Light, Jim West, Weiya Liang, Vicki Merkel, Steve Thorndill, Alison Eldridge, and Coke Putnam

Legislative Guests: Senator David Frockt, Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Representative Larry Seaquist, and Representative Gerry Pollet

Guests Invited to Speak Regarding Roadmap Discussions: Michelle Asha Cooper, President, Institute for Higher Education Policy; Karen DeVilla, Executive Director, NW Education Loan Association; Christine McCabe, Executive Director, College Spark Washington; Philip Ballinger, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment, University of Washington; Lorrie Brown, Senior Forecast Analyst.

Greetings, Introductions, and Action Items

Ray Lawton called to order the meeting of the Washington Student Achievement Council at 1:30 p.m. After welcoming Council members, Council staff, and guests, Ray asked Council members to introduce themselves. Ray followed with an overview of the agenda for the first day of the two-day Council meeting.

Action: Marty Brown made a motion to approve the preliminary meeting agenda, and Paul Francis seconded the motion; motion carried to accept the meeting agenda.

Action: Karen Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2013 Council meeting, and Susana Reyes seconded the motion; motion carried to accept the minutes as presented.

Welcome by UW Provost

Dr. Ana Mari Cauce, Provost and Executive Vice President welcomed the Council to the University of Washington. Dr. Cauce expressed her support for the work of the Council and her support for the Council's approach to preparing a collaborative plan for raising educational attainment.

Legislative Update

Blake Chard, the Council's Director of Government Relations, provided an overview of legislation that passed in the 2013 legislative session that impacted the Washington Student Achievement Council.

Blake also reviewed each of the budget provisos in the portion of the budget bill funding WSAC.

Roadmap Policy Options – Affordability

Rachelle Sharpe summarized the preliminary Roadmap Action Items for the Affordability area.

Primarily, as a result of rising tuition, the ability to cover the total cost of attending college has become increasingly unaffordable for more Washington families. This has worsened in the past five years as the economy has led not only to increased costs but also to stagnant incomes. The affordability workgroup developed several policy options for the Council's consideration:

- Increase State Investments in Public Institutions
- Recommend Full Funding for the State Need Grant
- Target State Need Grant Most Efficiently
- Evaluate the Effectiveness of State Student Financial Aid Programs
- Invest in State Work Study
- Restructure the Former Educational Opportunity Grant
- Identify a Savings Incentive Program
- Promote Flexible Payment Methods

Michelle Asha Cooper, President, Institute for Higher Education Policy provided a presentation to the Council regarding academic planning and key issues that need to be addressed.

The Council reviewed key issues concerning its Roadmap recommendations for Affordability.

Roadmap Policy Options – Technology

Christy England-Siegerdt discussed how the Technology report reflected a diversity of input, providing the Council with policy options that encouraged and supported the use of technology to advance teaching and learning in the classroom. The following three policy options for the Council's consideration were discussed:

- Develop a statewide P20 educational technology consortium.
- Provide incentives to support adoption and innovation.
- Develop and scale up successful innovations to create national assessment models.

Roadmap Policy Options – Alignment

Randy Spaulding reviewed the following Policy Options for the area of Alignment.

Randy noted that a key problem found in Washington and in other states, is that a gap exists between the high school curriculum and graduation requirements and the skills and knowledge required for postsecondary success. Washington must develop a systematic approach to facilitate alignment of expectations and requirements across sectors.

Lunch for Legislators

Council and Stakeholder Engagement Process Activity

Public Comment: Audience members asked for clarification around “next steps” for WSAC staff on Roadmap Action Recommendations. Also noted: if WSAC decides to recommend that the State Need Grant be fully funded, WSAC needs to ensure this recommendation does not interfere with the recommendation to target the State Need Grant more efficiently. If not thoroughly thought out, these two recommendations may be contradictory.

Speakers commended the Council and staff for their openness to the process and for stakeholder engagement in the process.

Council and Executive Director Meeting: 5 to 8 p.m. Work session – public meeting – discussion of expectations of Executive Director, Council members, communication strategies, alignment of Council meeting dates in 2013-2014.

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Council Members: Ray Lawton, Marty Brown, Paul Francis, Maud Daudon, Karen Lee, Susana Reyes, and Rai Nauman Mumtaz

Greetings

Ray Lawton welcomed Council members and guests. Ray announced the Council would begin the meeting with election of Council members to the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Council Elections

Election of Maud Daudon as chair for the Council: The motion was made by Marty Brown and seconded by Susana Reyes; the motion carried to elect Maud Daudon to serve as chair to the Washington Student Achievement Council. This is a one-year term of office, with the ability of the chair to serve a second one-year term.

Election of Karen Lee as vice chair for the Council: The motion was made by Maud Daudon and seconded by Paul Francis; the motion carried to elect Karen Lee to serve as vice chair to the Washington Student Achievement Council. This is a one-year term of office, with the ability of the vice-chair to serve a second one-year term.

Election of Ray Lawton as secretary to the Council: Motion was made by Maud Daudon and seconded by Marty Brown; the motion carried to elect Ray Lawton to serve as the secretary for the Washington Student Achievement Council. This is a one-year term, with the ability of the secretary to serve a second one-year term.

Roadmap Issue Briefings – Funding

Marc Webster discussed state funding for education. He delineated how K-12 and higher education funding differ, recent trends in how the state and other entities fund education, and the changes wrought by the recession. In addition, he provided examples of budget options including public/private partnerships and incentive or performance funding.

The Council discussed key questions concerning funding including: What is the ideal balance between funding students and funding institutions? To what degree should funding be based on measurable results? Which results? How should we react to changing demographics? What are we buying with higher education funding?

Roadmap Issue Briefings – Outreach and Support

Weiya Liang briefed the Council on Outreach and Support. He discussed how removing barriers to academic preparation, social skills development, and financial aid through conscious outreach efforts and targeted support is crucial for educational attainment, benefitting both traditional and non-traditional students. These supports are most successful when there is a commonly held belief and expectation that all students can achieve postsecondary education and training goals.

The Council discussed the following key questions: What are the persistent gaps in service availability and delivery that prevent us from offering meaningful outreach and support services to all? What services can be expanded and sustained to support student achievement and educational attainment?

Roadmap Issue Briefings – Increased Demand

Jim West briefed the Council on Increased Demand. He noted that to raise educational attainment in Washington on an order of magnitude necessary to meet the needs of our residents and our economy, we will need to add capacity to our system.

Improvements in student readiness, high school graduation rates, and success in ensuring the affordability of postsecondary education will result in increased numbers of students seeking enrollment to colleges, universities, and other postsecondary opportunities.

To better understand the possible demands, a comprehensive assessment of the programmatic, physical, and technological capacity of our system will be needed. A model is being developed that will allow the Council to see the impact on demand for education services in respect to policy alternatives and in the context of improvements in K-12 milestones.

A key question discussed by the Council was, “If everything else we are doing to prepare and encourage students to continue on (or return) to postsecondary education and complete a degree or certificate is successful, what programmatic, physical, and technological capacity will be necessary to meet student demand?”

Roadmap Action Recommendations and Priorities – Council Discussion Breakout Sessions

Council members, Council staff, and guest participants broke into groups to discuss Roadmap Policy Actions for the following areas:

- Affordability
- Alignment
- Outreach and Support

Following the breakout sessions, the Council discussed the results of the breakout sessions. The Council agreed that a survey of Council members on the Action Items would be helpful to gauge the priority of, and degree of consensus on, the Action Items.

Public Comment

Several participants addressed the Council expressing their appreciation and support for the opportunity to engage in the discussions around the Roadmap work. Council staff were commended for their leadership and facilitation skills.

Adjournment

The July meeting of the Washington Student Achievement Council was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.