

September 24, 2013  
Western Washington University  
Bellingham, Washington

## MINUTES

### **Members attending:**

Scott Brittain, Jeff Charbonneau, Paul Francis, Ray Lawton, Karen Lee, Rai Nauman Mumtaz, Susana Reyes

### **Staff attending:**

Gene Sharratt, Don Bennett, Courtney Brown, Christy England-Siegerdt, Weiya Liang, Noreen Light, Emily Persky, Jim Reed, Kristin Ritter, Rachelle Sharpe, Randy Spaulding, Marc Webster, Jim West, Aaron Wyatt,

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Vice Chair Karen Lee.

### **Welcome**

**President Bruce Shepard, Western Washington University**

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.  
Motion seconded.  
Motion carried.

### **August 22, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.  
Motion seconded.  
Motion carried.

### **Agency Supplemental Budget Request**

**Don Bennett, Deputy Director**

The Office of Financial Management issued instructions and set a deadline of October 4, 2013, for submission of state agency budget requests.

Washington Student Achievement Council staff proposed revisions to the enacted 2013-15 biennial budget for three agency responsibilities:

- College Bound Scholarship
- Planning, Analyzing and Monitoring State Results

- Outreach and Advocacy

Bennett agreed to provide the members with the breakdown of classified staff vs. exempt staff status. Discussion ensued on whether this should be requested from GF-S or from the Governor's budget. The bottom line is there is a need for additional 1.2 million increase and 8 additional staff positions in 2014 to continue to carry out the duties of the Washington Student Achievement Council.

It was noted that the increase in funds requested is still considerably less than the 2008 budget of \$7.6 million.

Motion was made to approve the Agency Supplemental Budget request as presented.  
Motion seconded.  
Motion carried.

## Institutional Capacity & Demand

### **Jim West, Associate Director, Academic Affairs and Policy**

Policy options in Demand and Capacity are integral to success in the other challenge areas of student readiness, affordability, technology, and developing stable funding. If we are successful in these challenge areas, and if we expand outreach to students who have some college but no degree, Washington will have even more competition for limited spaces in postsecondary education.

The following policy options were developed by the Workgroup for Council consideration:

1. Monitor and report on system-wide programmatic, physical, and technological capacity.
2. Implement a student demand forecasting model.
3. Update and implement the System Design Plan.
4. Add online postsecondary advising system capabilities to ReadySetGrad website.
5. With postsecondary institutions, develop data tools and methodology to contact, advise, and encourage students with some college and no degree to return to complete their credential.

There was discussion on how this study reflects non-traditional students.

Sherry Burkey from Western Washington University shared the success of the "Destination Graduation" program they implemented which aids students who find themselves with no other option than to drop out of school due to "life events". The program has scaled back in recent years due to budget cuts but it remains a high priority for Western.

Representative Gerry Pollet from the 46th Legislative District provided comment. He encouraged the council to "be bold" in the process. Set forth a plan with actual measurable goals.

## Outreach & Support

**Weiya Liang, Director, GEAR UP**

Policy options for Outreach and Support are integral to the other challenge areas of student readiness, affordability, technology, and developing stable funding. To improve student achievement, Washington must develop a culture that expects and assists the pursuit of postsecondary credentials and helps students through critical academic transition points.

The following policy options were developed by the Workgroup for Council consideration:

- Ensure all Washingtonians have quality and coordinated information and support to pursue all types of postsecondary credentials.
- Target information and support to adults regarding continuing their education, especially those with some postsecondary credits earned.
- Increase and support academic advising and mentoring for all students, both secondary and postsecondary.
- Support students as they go through critical academic transition points (elementary to middle school, middle school to high school, high school to postsecondary, two- to four-year transfer, and returning adults), using both online resources and personal connections.

It was suggested that students need counseling early on to determine if they're taking the proper courses that work toward their ultimate goal. A peer-mentoring approach is relevant, powerful, and best if on-going throughout all levels of their education.

## Compass 2 College Presentation

**Cyndie Shepard, Director, Compass 2 College**

Cyndie Shepard highlighted the Compass 2 Campus (C2C) program at Western Washington University. The C2C program is designed to increase access to higher education by providing an opportunity for 5-12 grade students from traditionally underrepresented and diverse backgrounds in Whatcom and Skagit counties to be mentored by university students.

The program has the following objectives:

- Increase GPA and reduce truancy among elementary students.
- Empower kids to make good choices about the future.
- Increase C2C students' leadership and commitment to giving back to their community.

The overall goal, Cyndie says is to help more students graduate from high school and encourage them to consider some form of higher education.

Students from Western Washington University directed a walking tour of the campus.

## Roadmap Preparation

### **Jim Reed, Senior Policy Advisor**

Jim Reed presented the council survey results of the Roadmap Actions Priority with a matrix of Preliminary Roadmap Actions to the Council. The document demonstrates how the action items can be associated with Roadmap goals and priorities.

The Roadmap matrix of Actions by Goals and Priorities are supportive of the overall state policy goal of “Increasing Educational Attainment”. Within this policy goal, there are three central concepts that need addressing to provide a process in which to tackle the challenge areas.

1. Provide Equitable Access
2. Improve Student Preparation
3. Expand Learning Pathways

Council Members discussed the relative importance of the action items within their respective categories, and assessed the three Roadmap priority tiers.

1. Eliminate Existing Barriers to Participation and Achievement
2. Enhance Learning Qualities and Excellence
3. Prepare and Plan for Future Demand, Needs, and Sustaining Success

Council members were reminded that the tiers represent the timeline to which the priority shall be implemented, not when that priority is addressed.

Several members suggested changing order and the tier each challenge area should fall within. Member Paul Francis suggested the document is best to include College Bound Scholarship to avoid mixed messages in light of the supplemental ask.

Campus mentors for students were discussed, including possible monetary incentives to institutions that provide student mentors.

## Public Comment

Jane Sherman from the Council of Presidents said the highest priorities should be the very things the legislature needs to act upon. Assess needs and set goals, dovetail with system design work to help legislature look at expanding system. Students need support during transition. Some changes can be made by direct access and others by indirect. Let’s put a lot of effort in things that can be done and get legislative support.

Sherry Burkey from Western Washington University agrees with Sherman and says if the long term goal is to increase the number of Bachelor degrees, we should look at the short term goals we need the legislature to expand our capacity to do, such as fund basic enrollments. This is a basic funding issue for institutions. Unless the state provides more slots there won't be more room. It takes resources to support students. There needs to be more base-funding to open more enrollments slots.

Vi Boyer from Independent Colleges of Washington encouraged the Council to be a strong advocate for higher education. There are lots of specific things on the list that need to be addressed. There is only so much a college can do for a student if they are not prepared. Kids need to see the possibility.

A Western Washington University student, Garratt said that State Need Grant is incredibly important and should be fully funded and have equitable access – it's not just about cost sharing model but also about the base funding for enrollment slots too.

Jim Reed stated that three things need to be done simultaneously.

1. Adjust the array per the comments
2. Develop quantified goal statements – something concise to share with council ASAP
3. Prepare draft of the report

Gene Sharratt stated that there is a great deal of interest in the work. The agency has a new council and a new mission. It could be under scrutiny if there are not some solid "wins" during this session. We need to continue the momentum of being bold in our requests.

Vice Chair Karen Lee adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.