

April 24, 2014
Washington State University – Tri Cities
Richland, Washington

MINUTES

Members attending

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

Staff attending

Gene Sharratt, Aaron Wyatt, Becca Kenna-Schenk, Christy England-Siegerdt, Cristina Gaeta (intern), Crystal Vaughan, Karl Smith (intern), Kristin Ritter, Marc Webster, Noreen Light, Rachelle Sharpe, and Randy Spaulding.

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Vice Chair Karen Lee.

Consent Agenda

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

Approval of February 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes

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

Executive Update

The Executive Director update highlighted the agency's efforts related to the Washington Student Achievement Council's statutory mission and program administration. A two-month summary chart was provided as a synopsis of the agency's work since the last Council meeting. Highlighted were four categories: Outreach and Advocacy, Policy and Research, Programs, and Legislative Work.

End-of-Session Legislative Update

The Legislative Update provided members with an overview of bills that passed the Legislature during the 2014 Session that directly relate to the Council's work including House Bill 2626 – Concerning

Statewide Educational Attainment Goals. The update provided a summary of the 2014 Supplemental Operating Budget, the Council's interim work and priorities for the 2015 Session.

Funding and Affordability Committee Meeting Update

- Paul Francis, Council of Presidents Representative
- Marty Brown, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges Representative
- Karen Lee, Council Vice Chair, Citizen Member
- Maud Daudon, Council Chair, Citizen Member

The Funding and Affordability Committee update included a review of the March meeting, a look ahead to the May meeting which will focus on student aid, and the draft 2013 National Tuition and Fee Survey comparing public institutions' tuition in several categories.

2014 SNG Review – Approach to Study

The Legislature directed the Council to report on the effectiveness of the State Need Grant program in meeting the higher education needs of low-income students in achieving the state's higher education goals (RCW 28B.77.020). The report is to include the following:

- Outcomes of students receiving State Need Grant
- Options for prioritization of State Need Grant
- Consequences of options and consider need rather than date of application

Council staff will share a contract scope of work with key stakeholders and select a vendor to help develop policy options. The SFA Workgroup will develop recommendations related to "micro policies" within the program such as self-help, timeframe, single associate's degree, etc. When the policy options have been developed by the contractor, key stakeholders will review the deliverables with Council staff. The report will be available in draft form for the October Council meeting and finalized for the November meeting.

Tuition & Fee Report – National Comparison

This report, presented by Marc Webster, included national tuition and fee data for flagship institutions, comprehensive institutions, and community colleges. The comparison noted that during the period of 2008-2012, more of the cost of public education was shifted to students. Once the recession stabilized, many states – including Washington – shifted its focus to issues of student debt, the rising cost of attendance, and equal access in the face of tuition increases and financial aid reductions.

State Board of Education – 24 Credit

- Dr. Deborah Wilds, Vice-Chair and Executive Committee Board Member
- Kevin Lavery, Executive Committee Board Member

Dr. Wilds and Mr. Lavery discussed strengthening high school graduation requirements, including the modified 24-credit graduation framework, the High School and Beyond Plan, and the potential for remedial pre-college transition courses in our high schools.

Agency Website Overview

The WSAC Communications Director, Aaron Wyatt highlighted key renovations of the Council website.

Academic Affairs and Policy Committee Update

- Rai Nauman Mumtaz, Citizen Member, Student Representative
- Scott Brittain, K-12 Representative
- Jeff Charbonneau, Citizen Member

The committee met on March 24 and spent most of the time discussing use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment for college placement and the status of work related to streamlining and expanding access to dual-credit coursework.

As part of the dual credit discussion the committee received a brief report from Karl Smith, Student Achievement Council intern and Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Admissions Officer at UW Tacoma. Karl presented his research to the full Council.

The committee also briefly discussed SB 6552. The bill aligns with the strategy to ensure all students are college and career ready by allowing the State Board of Education to move forward on implementation of the 24 credit high school graduation requirement and increasing the science requirement to three (3) credits.

Running Start

- Karl Smith, Associate Vice Chancellor- Chief Admissions Officer, UW– Tacoma

Karl Smith conducted research as part of his doctoral studies at the University of Washington Seattle Educational Leadership program. He provided his overview to the Council. His research noted that minority and low-income students are underrepresented in the Running Start program. The research also shows that many Running Start access policies align with national best practices. However, current best practices have not consistently increased access for minority and low-income students.

He suggests that strategies should be explored to address barriers that discourage students from underrepresented backgrounds from participating in the Running Start program. At minimum, targeted outreach and recruitment strategies to increase underrepresented student populations should be developed and implemented as soon as possible.

He further suggested that outreach efforts and policy changes should be evaluated against student and family preferences. In the quest to make the Running Start program more representative of Washington's student population, policy makers should not forget the spirit of the Learning by Choice Law that was the catalyst for the program. The goal of Learning by Choice legislation was to create options for high school students. If students and families prefer to participate in other dual enrollment or dual credit programs, then the answer is to explore options to increase participation in other programs. Ultimately, the goal is to give high school students access to rigorous academic courses.

Student Support Committee Update

- Ray Lawton, Council Secretary, Citizen Member
- Susana Reyes, Citizen Member

A review of the Committee for the March Student Support meeting and associated initiatives related to the student support action items was provided by Rachelle Sharpe, Senior Director of Student Financial Assistance and Support Services. The group is developing recommendations of successful strategies to support students from K-12 through postsecondary. Reports were given on the results of Office of Student of Public Instruction's (OSPI) Drop-Out Prevention survey, College Goal Washington and the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WSFAA) for undocumented students, and "TOGETHER," a group designed to increase educational attainment for youth from foster care. These and other items will be prioritized by the council at a future meeting for possible inclusion in the Strategic Action Plan.

An update on the "Education Attainment for All" diversity conference was provided.

Education for All Conference Update

- Cristina Gaeta, Doctoral Student Intern, University of Washington

Randy Spaulding introduced Cristina Gaeta, an intern hired to assist with the planning of the Educational Attainment for All Diversity Conference. Cristina provided a brief overview of the conference highlights held on April 16, 2014 in Yakima, Washington. Their presentation outlined the intent behind the conference to bring together the multiple statewide public and private sectors, from preschool through doctoral education (P-20) with a focus on issues of diversity and equity to improve the college pathways for underrepresented student groups. Students of color and low-income students are less likely to successfully complete high school and less prepared to go on to postsecondary education, showing a statewide need to build P-20 strategic actions and collaborations. The conference convened 160 participants from two- and four-year postsecondary institutions, workforce training and education, and agencies and community organizations.

Report on Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) Day

- Rai Nauman Mumtaz, Citizen Member, Student Representative

Nauman gave a brief overview of SAGE, their specific priorities they advocate for at the federal lever, and how their work is relevant to the Washington Student Achievement Council. He also addressed how to ensure graduate students are represented in the Council's day-to-day efforts.

Council Secretary Ray Lawton adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.