

June 23, 2014
Central Washington University
Ellensburg, Washington

MINUTES

Members attending:

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

Staff attending:

Gene Sharratt, Aaron Wyatt, Christy England-Siegerdt, Crystal Vaughan, Emily Persky, Kristin Ritter, Rachelle Sharpe, Randy Spaulding, and Weiya Liang.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Vice Chair Karen Lee.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

April 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Welcome by Central Washington University President, Dr. James Gaudino.

Emergency Discussion of Corinthian Colleges

- Rachelle Sharpe, Senior Director Student Financial Aid and Access Services

Rachelle Sharpe provided facts of the Corinthian College Consumer Protection Alert. Corinthian Colleges, a parent company for Everest Colleges, of which there are six institutions operating in Washington State, has been placed on Heightened Cash Monitoring 1 (HCM 1) payment method by the US Department of Education. As a result, the company is experiencing serious cash flow issues and is at risk of closure.

Degree Authorization staff are closely monitoring the situation and have been in contact with the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and the Department of Veteran Affairs. Student Financial Assistance staff are conducting a site visit to Everest-Renton on June 24,

2014 to ensure students have been properly awarded for 2013-14. The most recent enrollment numbers provided by the school indicate that 65 students were enrolled as degree seeking students at the three authorized campuses (Everest College-Bremerton, Everest College-Everett, and Everest College-Tacoma.) in Washington in 2012-13.

Participation for Everest-Renton will be denied for 2014-15. There will be further discussion about participation and metrics for the remaining branches.

Executive update

- Gene Sharratt, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council

The Executive Update was provided to members with a review of current agency work related to program administration and policy. Highlights included: CBS and GEAR UP success; Military Transitions Council; Central Washington University visit; Coyote Ridge Corrections Center Graduation; Centennial Accord; Council Committees; and a Naturalization Ceremony in Leavenworth. Gene also highlighted an article from the USA Today titled “States aim to get rural students into college” in which WSAC Council Member, Jeff Charbonneau was quoted.

College Assistance Migrant Program – Central Washington University

- Vanessa Cervantes, CAMP Outreach Specialist
- John Swiney, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Jesse Nelson, Associate Dean of Student Achievement

The College Assistance Migrant Program is a federally funded, nationally recognized program which exists to assist migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their immediate family members to successfully complete the first undergraduate year of study in a college or university. It also provides follow-up services including: financial support, academic assistance, career-planning services, and cultural enrichment opportunities to help students continue in postsecondary education.

CAMP is currently serving 62 students at Central Washington University. All of these students are full-time students and receive financial aid. Ninety-nine percent are of Latino background and are first generation students.

Strategic Action Plan Work Session (Roadmap Team)

- Plan and Process Overview
- Action Item Update
- Guiding questions for the day:
 - Which Roadmap actions will have the highest impact during the next biennium?
 - What resources and policy changes are needed to implement the high impact, high priority actions?

Christy England-Siegerdt, Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) Director of Research & Planning announced her departure from WSAC and an acceptance to SUNY in Albany, New York, starting early August 2014. She was congratulated and presented with an award of appreciation. This is her final council meeting.

The Strategic Action Plan work session’s purpose was to begin to work toward developing Roadmap-related legislative and budgetary priorities for the next biennium. The session began

with an overview of the purpose, process, and timeline for the Strategic Action Plan and an update on the current status of the Roadmap action items.

The following process and timeline was discussed:

- June Council Meeting: Begin discussion of resource and policy needs
 - For currently prioritized Roadmap actions
 - For next set of priority Roadmap actions, to be identified during this process
- July Council Committee Meetings: Review recommendations from workgroups
- August Council Retreat: In-depth review and discussion of recommendations and priorities
- August Council Meeting: Identify needs and priorities
- September
 - Budget requests submitted to OFM
 - Strategic Action Plan report drafted
- October Council Meeting: Adopt Strategic Action Plan
- November: Strategic Action Plan report submitted to Governor and legislature

Budget Outlook & Impact of McCleary

- Jim Crawford, Assistant Director for Budget, Office of Financial Management
- Paula Moore, Senior Budget Assistant, Office of Financial Management

Jim Crawford and Paula Moore of the Office of Financial Management presented an overview of the budget outlook and the impact of HB 2776 (McCleary) to provide context for the Council as they consider priorities for the next biennium.

They said barring an unforeseen dramatic rise in economic activity and revenue collections, Washington State will face another sizable shortfall in the 2015–17 budget. The 2013-15 shortfall was helped by relying on solutions that are not available for the 2015-14 budget. State revenue collections are expected to grow, but the state is expected to still fall short of the target for meeting the basic education obligation.

Discussion ensued on the following questions:

- Given the budget outlook, how does the Council want to approach budget requests?
- How will the budget outlook affect the Strategic Action Plan?
- How can the Council be most effective in light of the budget outlook?

Strategic Action Plan Work Session: Debrief

- Gene Sharratt

Three guiding questions were used to the drive discussion in each of the Council committees, Committee for Academic Affairs and Policy, Committee for Student Support, and Committee for Funding and Affordability.

1. Which Roadmap actions will have the highest impact during the next biennium?
2. What resources and policy changes are needed to implement the high impact, high priority actions?
3. How can the Council be most effective in light of the budget outlook?

During the debriefing, the following categories and suggestions were presented.

WSAC should ensure alignment and coordination with other education agencies, institutions, and student organizations.

- WSAC will gather complete information and full visibility of the work being done with both Council Members and Legislative Staff.
- WSAC will provide more opportunities for council members to participate in key work groups.
- WSAC will schedule a Results WA presentation for the Council.
- WSAC will connect with the business community to align their agenda with WSAC agenda.
- WSAC will provide Washington Student Association trainings for new members.

What strategies within the twelve actions should be the highest priority in the next biennium?

- SNG Program
- Funding & Affordability (to include CBS, Work Study, etc.)
- Review tuition-setting authority
- Increased strategic support for higher education.

How can the Council be most effective given realities of McCleary and revenue?

- It is difficult to advocate for more resources when agencies are looking to cut back.
 - How does McCleary help WSAC achieve their goals?
 - A formal plan is needed, a breakdown of where the money will be allotted.
 - More possibilities with Common Core, more students will come prepared for college – thereby reducing remediation and improving access and attainment.

How does WSAC frame the Strategic Action Plan to make the Council as effective as possible?

- Focus on the first 4 of the 12 goals.
- Determine clear strategic solutions, rather than ideas.
- Back up the strategic solutions with data.
- Frame around the attainment goals.

- Once the draft of the Strategic Action Plan is ready, distribute to the planning committees.

Council Vice Chair Karen Lee adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.