



## COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

**8:30 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions**

- Welcome
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of November 19 Meeting Minutes
- Introductions of Council and Audience Members  
Maud Daudon

**9:00 a.m. Legislative Discussion**

- Senator Barbara Bailey (R) Chair, Senate Higher Ed Committee
- Representative Gerry Pollet (D) Vice Chair, House Higher Ed Committee

**9:30 a.m. Executive Update**

- Gene Sharratt, Ph.D. Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council

**10:00 a.m. Roadmap 2015 Work Session**

- Maddy Thompson, Director of Policy and Government Relations
- Alan Hardcastle, Director of Research

**11:00 a.m. Public Comment**

**11:15 a.m. Break**

**11:30 a.m. Legislative Update**

- Maddy Thompson, Director of Policy and Government Relations

**12:15 p.m. Public Comment**

**12:30 p.m. Lunch – on your own**

**1:15 p.m. College Bound Scholarship (CBS) Legislative Workgroup Recommendations**

- Rachelle Sharpe, Senior Director of Student Financial Aid and Support Services

**1:45 p.m. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Implementation (WIOA)**

- Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director, Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board
- Terri Colbert, Program Specialist, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act / Career and Technical Education

**2:45 p.m. Panel Discussion with State Agency Partners.**

Agency partners will provide their strategic plan and current leg agenda and how it aligns with Roadmap.

- Professional Educators Standards Board
  - Jennifer Wallace, Executive Director
- State Board of Education
  - Ben Rarick, Executive Director
- Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board
  - Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director
  - Cindy Zehnder, Chair

**4:15 p.m. Public Comment**

The next Council meeting will be at the Capital Event Center in Tumwater, Washington on Wednesday April 8, 2015.

November 19, 2014  
Capital Event Center  
Tumwater, Washington

## **MINUTES**

### **Members attending:**

Marty Brown, Jeff Charbonneau, Maud Daudon, Paul Francis, Ray Lawton, Karen Lee, Rai Nauman Mumtaz, Susana Reyes Absent: Gil Mendoza

### **Staff attending:**

Gene Sharratt, Aaron Wyatt, Alan Hardcastle, Anne Messerly, Becky Thompson, Crystal Vaughan, Don Bennett, Emily Persky, Erin Peck, Jim West, Kristin Ritter, Maddy Thompson, Marc Webster, Noreen Light, Rachelle Sharpe, Randy Spaulding, Steve Thorndill, Weiya Liang

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by Chair Maud Daudon.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Marty Brown to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.  
Motion seconded by Jeff Charbonneau.  
Motion carried.

### **August, September, and October Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made by Rai Nauman Mumtaz to approve the minutes as is.  
Motion seconded by Jeff Charbonneau.  
Motion carried.

Introductions were made around the room.

### **Executive Update**

#### **Gene Sharratt, Executive Director**

Gene Sharratt congratulated several council members for their recent achievements, including Rai Nauman Mumtaz for his election as president of the Washington Student Association; Jeff Charbonneau, who was named to the board of directors of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and Karen Lee, who was recently recognized as one of Puget Sound Business Journal's 2014 Women of Influence. She

joins several women involved in higher education who have been recognized as Women of Influence, including Maud Daudon in 2010.

Paul Francis discussed the Washington State Higher Education Conference on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. The successful one-day conference brought over 550 people from the higher education community to talk about how to improve prevention and response strategies. The October 30 event included the Deputy Commanding General, Major General Kenneth Dahl (from JBLM), as a featured speaker. The conference gave opportunity for open and honest conversations about a very difficult issue. There is still a lot of work to do in this area of paramount importance.

Gene also recognized the loss of a fellow WSAC staff member, Rochelle Morris, to a difficult battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rai Nauman Mumtaz represented the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) as the keynote speaker for Higher Education Stakeholder's Summit at Tacoma Community College. This event was hosted by the Washington American Federation of Teachers, the Washington Student Association, Tacoma Community College Federation of Teachers, the Alliance for a Just Society, the Equity in Education Coalition, and Jobs with Justice. Nauman spoke on the future of higher education from early learning to post-secondary education and what can be done at each stage specifically from a fiscal perspective.

Gene touched on the WA STEM Summit coming up on December 2 at the Microsoft Conference Center. WSAC is a major sponsor. The NGA STEM Education Innovation Alliance meeting takes place in the morning of that same day. The Alliance members will convene to update progress on the NGA grant.

The first NGA grant WSAC received was on Common Core. WSAC staff member, Anne Messerly developed a very strong roadmap on the use of Smarter Balanced scores. Congratulations to Anne for her good work.

Internally the agency is excited to put forth "Catch Me" cards. These are a great way to acknowledge staff for the great work they do on a regular basis. WSAC staff are encouraged to submit these cards for a chance to win an incentive that Gene is providing.

Recent work in outreach and advocacy include the 8th annual GEAR UP West Conference, and the conclusion of the College Application Campaign on November 14, which provides assistance to students with college applications. Sixty-six schools committed to hosting a College Goal Washington event kicking off on January 2 to assist students with FAFSA filing. In October, the Washington Educators' Conference included multiple WSAC staff presentations and a CBS panel. WSAC staff also gave presentations to the PTA Legislative Assembly on postsecondary preparation, admissions, financial aid, and affordability.

In policy and research, Anne Messerly and Randy Spaulding shared the seven recommendations from the 2014 Disability Task Force. Other WSAC staff work included the development of a Veterans Employee Resource Group. WSAC staff attended the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium meeting on November 6 at Skagit Valley College. The meeting was primarily focused on course placement discussion. Work continues on national Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium achievement-level setting. Policy staff also had the opportunity to provide feedback to the State Board of Education on the metrics of systems health (from ESSB 5491). Staff also attended the STEM Innovation Alliance and the 4th Annual Prior Learning Assessment Conference. In December, WSAC staff will attend the Washington STEM summit at Microsoft. And finally, work continues on all three council committees and on the formal delivery of the 2014 Strategic Action Plan.

Gene highlighted several staff presentations, including presentations to the Washington Financial Aid Administrators Conference and through the SBCTC on residency and the WASFA application process and requirements.

In other agency news, the Guaranteed Education Tuition opened enrollment (November 1) and launched their new website. The State Need Grant program has finalized their 2014 report to the Legislature.

WSAC staff has continued their meetings with legislators to understand their priorities and to communicate the importance of higher education and Strategic Action Plan advocacy. Staff has also continued outreach to and collaboration with the Governor's office, OFM analysts, and stakeholders.

Paul Francis announced that the Washington Consortium for Liberal Arts (which includes WSAC) received a \$10,000 national prize from Phi Beta Kappa. The liberal arts honorary organization has existed for more than two hundred years. The awards ceremony will be held in Seattle on December 10 at McCaw Hall. It is an incredible recognition of the work happening around liberal arts education in Washington.

## **Adoption of the Strategic Action Plan**

### **The Roadmap Team**

The final draft of the 2014 Strategic Action Plan was presented to members. The document incorporates edits from Council members, includes a transmittal letter, and is formatted with graphics and charts. It is the version which will be used with policy makers in the 2015 legislative session.

Ray Lawton asked if fully funding State Need Grant (SNG) is consistent with state policy. He asked if it includes equity in grant size between private non-profit colleges and research universities as it is in College Bound Scholarship. Rachelle Sharpe explained the funding estimates are based on \$123 million to fully fund the unserved SNG students under current policy, assuming no tuition increases, closing the gap by 2023. She reminded the Council that the State Need Grant Legislative Report is also

being submitted to the legislature. She said the report does not recommend specific changes to eligibility; however, recommendations were put forth to evaluate the “shared responsibility” concept, to evaluate incentives to completion, and to document eligibility requirements in statute. Ray asked the Council to consider a language change in the document to reflect that our official recommendation is \$16 million a year, but to restore awards for students attending private institutions mirroring the WAC and practice before 2011 would require an additional yearly \$4 million.

Karen Lee is supportive of the language change and made the motion for approval for staff to make the necessary language changes to the report.  
Motion seconded and carried.

Jeff Charbonneau, Karen Lee, and Maud Daudon offered thanks and congratulations to members, staff, and to audience participants.

Motion was made by Karen Lee to approve the Strategic Action Plan.  
Motion seconded Ray Lawton.  
Motion carried.

## **Disability Task Force**

### **Anne Messerly, Policy Associate**

WSAC Staff member, Anne Messerly discussed Senate Bill 5180, sponsored by then-Senator Shin and passed in 2013. The legislation created a state-wide task force to improve access to postsecondary education for student with disabilities. The legislation requires WSAC to staff the task force and submit an annual report to the legislature until 2015. However, WSAC is not represented as a member on the task force. It is composed of 29 members appointed by the Governor and nine different organizations. They include citizen members, parents, K-12, postsecondary education, and students. WSAC student representative, Rai Nauman Mumtaz, serves as the student member of the task force, as well.

The 2014 report recommendations to improve the transition process for students with disabilities are as follows:

1. Integrate elements of the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) in to the Individualized Education Program (IEP).
2. Develop comprehensive transition materials for student with disabilities.
3. Allocate funding so postsecondary institutions can offer more comprehensive services to students.
4. Cover evaluation costs needed for documentation in postsecondary education.
5. Expand disability-related training for secondary and postsecondary educators administrators, and personnel.
6. Develop and expand programs that provide peer-mentoring, leadership, and work-based opportunities for students with disabilities.

7. Establish a workgroup to identify barriers associated with the transferability of technology and/or accommodation resources.

Many of these recommendations are aligned with the Strategic Action Plan. The fiscal impact has not been considered yet; however, this will most likely be part of the task force's work plan for 2015, including measurable outcomes for their recommendations. One of the issues is the structure of the group which has no mechanism for moving a budget request forward.

Rai Nauman Mumtaz thanked Anne, Randy, and Mark Bergeson for their efforts. Nauman asked the council to endorse the work of the task force.

Karen Lee asked what endorsement looks like procedurally with this and other taskforce recommendations. She asked how the Council can systematically endorse appropriate initiatives. Ray Lawton is in agreement with Karen.

The consensus of the Council is to generally support the direction of the Disability Task Force's recommendations as they are in alignment with the SAP. The report will be forwarded to the Council when complete.

### **Special Recognition Presented to Representative Larry Seaquist**

A certificate of appreciation signed by council members was presented to Representative Larry Seaquist for his tireless service to the students of Washington State and his work as Chair of the House Higher Education Committee.

Representative Seaquist thanked the Council and reminded everyone that he is not going away. He commented, "There is still just too much work to be done."

Ray Lawton remembered the first day of his service on the council and the three things Representative Seaquist said to the Council that day. He said, "If we were to build the system today, how would we go about it?" "We need to obligate ourselves to make a difference." "We have to commit to collaboration to make this work."

These statements are still absolutely true today. Ray said it still follows how he sees himself and the work on the Council today.

Paul Francis, as former staffer of Rep. Seaquist, remembered that the Representative was the most ethical, hardest working, and the most deserving of respect of all the members that he worked for. Paul continued, "Rep. Seaquist did not do this work to win a popularity contest, he was not afraid to say how he felt. He never forgot that the primary audience is students and the work is to radically impact students." Paul noted he has the utmost respect for Rep. Seaquist and stated, "He will leave a void that cannot be filled."

Maud Daudon reiterated the appreciation of the Council for Rep. Seaquist's incredible work moving the state's two attainment goals forward toward passage.

## **Strategic Action Plan – Communication Plan and Media Outreach**

### **Aaron Wyatt, Communications Director**

Aaron Wyatt shared the communications plan for the strategic action plan. Aaron emphasized that the Communications team designs and implements communications plans in direct support of the agency mission and work. The Communications team develops communications objectives to support the mission, identifies strategies to accomplish the objectives, and finally develops the tactics to fulfill the strategies.

Some of the high points of Communication's role in the process is to work closely with policy staff, the government affairs director, council members, and others to ensure the messaging to the public is consistent, accurate, reliable, and adapted to the audience.

The key publics of the agency include Council members, committee members, council staff, the Governor's office, legislators, media, two- and four-year public colleges, private college, and universities and agencies, post-secondary institutions, P-12 schools, agencies, and organizations, multi-level students, underserved communities, education advocacy groups, and business communities. Each of these publics may require unique communications support.

Currently, Communications is working with the government affairs director and the policy shop to develop an agency outreach plan via a strategic outreach committee. The committee will direct agency outreach resources, clarifying who is going out to communicate to an audience, when, where, and why. Communications will continue to produce products that support that outreach.

The most difficult key public to reach directly is students. It is difficult to get access to students. In an effort to get information to these students, the communications team focuses on the front-line people who are working directly with students including K-12 counselors, principals, district administrators, college public information officers, and all college newspaper editors.

Amplification of the Council communications is possible through the South Sound Education Communicators Group. This group meets quarterly to network, but it also gives WSAC communications the opportunity to amplify its communication through the channels of the partners of the group. They are reaching out on a monthly basis to use other agency's means of communication to advance the work of the council.

Aaron then discussed the editorial board tour tactic of the communications plan. Aaron mentioned that the 2014 editorial board tours were very successful, including an impeccably timed Seattle Times editorial which came out right near the roll out of House Bill 2626.

The strategy for 2015 is to set appointments just before the first cut-off date for policy bills of the original house of origin. Several staff will be key to getting this process completed. Council members' involvement in the process is instrumental and will determine the outcome of the editorial board.

Two media outreach campaigns are identified in the Strategic Action Plan. Op-Eds and Editorial Boards.

1. Op-eds – Communications staff will produce two opinion pieces related to the 2014 Strategic Action Plan recommendations. The distribution of the pieces will coordinate with the 2015 session and complement the work of the editorial board outreach. Op-eds will be provided as possible drafts to Council authors, who may choose to use the language that Communications staff develops.
2. Editorial Boards – Communications staff will solicit editorial board appointments beginning in December and continuing through the legislative session.

In addition to releases and advisories to the Internet, radio, TV, and print contacts, Communications will reach out to the following news media outlets to solicit editorial board appointments.

1. The Columbia Basin Herald
2. The Columbian
3. The Daily News
4. The Everett Herald
5. The News Tribune
6. The Olympian
7. The Kitsap Sun
8. The Seattle Times
9. The Spokesman Review
10. The Wenatchee World
11. The Yakima Herald

They may also reach out to other papers as deemed appropriate.

Paul Francis is highly supportive of these efforts and quoted Rep. Seaquist saying, "We need to create an atmosphere where legislators find it impossible to cut higher education." He participated in the editorial board meetings last year and is happy to participate again this year. Paul wants to think of key influential organizations who are connected with higher education in some capacity to talk about the Strategic Action Plan and also the broader picture of higher education to solicit activists who are willing to go before the Ways and Means to say, "The current higher education funding system is unacceptable."

Maud Daudon brought up social media and wondered about intermediaries in the market can really help with carrying our message through social media. If we can

engage just one person that students follow to advocate by Tweeting and messaging about us and for us, we could pick up a lot of momentum among students. She said there are folks with whom we could engage within the colleges who are pretty skilled in figuring this out. She suggested a SWOT team meeting in December to work on creating the right messaging to create more student activism and participation.

Paul Francis agrees with Maud, suggesting the six baccalaureates have communications directors that can be tapped into as well as their connections around the state. There can also be an effort to connect with private sector folks who do this for a living. Aaron will follow up with request.

Aaron mentioned that we have a rich pool and direct line to all 180,000 College Bound students and 74,000 State Need Grant recipients. A weekly email list serve that goes out to those groups. We can promote advocacy to those students this year, suggested Aaron.

Jeff Charbonneau encouraged the strategy of using “Thunderclap.” Students can log in under their favorite social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and by signing up on that website for free it gives the website permission to do a Tweet or Post on one particular day. You can have 15-20-30,000 social media hits at one time. You don’t have to ask one person to Tweet right now on their own, just simply ask them “If you care about higher education, join our Thunderclap.” Then it will be sent out on a specific day, such as matching it up during specific legislation.

Rai Nauman Mumtaz offered to provide updates to two additional resources, both by Facebook and in person, the Washington Student Association and the Community and Technical Colleges Student Association Facebook groups. Nauman also offered to work with Ray on a way to reach our partners in the private sector. He would be happy to present to them and share the Strategic Action Plan.

## **Affordability Interactive Model**

**Rachelle Sharpe, Sr. Director of Student Financial Assistance & Support Services**

**Jim Fridley, Professor, University of Washington**

As part of the Strategic Action Plan, the Council is developing an Affordability Framework and the Affordability Interactive Model, developed in collaboration with Dr. Jim Fridley. It is a critical tool to support a collective understanding of affordability.

During the recession, the state wasn’t able to prioritize affordability when funding plummeted particularly for the four-year institutions, however need-based financial aid continued to increase. This funding was not sufficient to cover all the eligible students who enrolled. Following the recommendations of national experts, Washington needs a framework to coordinate appropriations, tuition, and financial aid more intentionally; to attempt to stabilize funding and support increasing investments to higher education, to understand how any policy changes being considered will affect all students; and understand the role of the federal government, institutions, businesses, philanthropy,

and students and families. The framework will define thresholds related to reasonable levels of debt and levels of work, as well as expectations related to appropriations, tuition and contributions from students and families. The framework will address all students and all sectors.

Jim Fridley demonstrated the interactive model which can assist policy makers with an understanding of the interconnectivity between federal and state financial aid policies and higher education funding and tuition policies. The model demonstrates the impact of policies on students and families, describes affordability from the perspective of the family's ability to cover the cost of attendance. It allows users to explore the contributions of major funding components. The tool displays the state subsidy to the institution, tuition, and cost of attendance for all sectors. It also allows user to select the type of student and adjust assumptions.

The Committee on Funding and Affordability will continue to work on the Affordability Framework using refined versions of the interactive model as a critical tool.

### **Public Comment:**

Steve Dupont, Central Washington University:

Steve thanked the Council for their hard work on the Roadmap and Strategic Action Plan. He commented, "These are great accomplishments." He is especially thankful for the "big tent" atmosphere the Council has allowed. Steve is participating in three WSAC workgroups.

Steve stated that the concept of affordability is likely to be the number one interest of most legislators and there will be much discussion on this topic during legislative session. He believes Jim Fridley's cost model is superb. Often times, legislators focus solely on tuition, but this model shows there are so many different factors to the concept of affordability. At the recent Council of Presidents' Summit, the presidents jointly rallied around the need to emphasize the connection between state funds and tuition.

Steve said the Council is the expert and leader in the state of Washington on higher education and has a lot of credibility. He requested, that when Council members are communicating with legislators to avoid conversations about the need to keep tuition low without regard to state appropriations. If legislators want to keep tuition low, then the only way that can be done is with increased state support.

Steve explained that in 1990 and 2013, comprehensive Washington universities were at roughly \$10,500 per student in constant dollars. However, what has changed is that the student's contribution is up from 25 percent to nearly 70 percent and the state's contribution has gone down accordingly. Currently, Washington's baccalaureate institutions are ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 in the nation in per student funding according to SHEEO and so a tuition freeze without state support would be devastating.

## **College Success Foundation**

### **Yolanda Spiva, President and CEO of the College Success Foundation**

Dr. Spiva provided the Council with an overview of the College Success Foundation's (CSF) work, with an emphasis on our partnership with the state, particularly WSAC. Yolanda explained CSF's philosophy of breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty through access to education and student supports.

CSF, founded in 2000 inspires underserved, low-income students to finish high school and graduate from college by providing an integrated system of support services and scholarships that prepares students to succeed in school and life.

#### **Get ready for college,**

89% of eligible 8<sup>th</sup> graders signed up for College Bound Scholarship (CBS) as of Oct 2014. Four year college graduation rates are over 15% higher than their peers.

#### **Get in to college,**

95% of Achievers Scholars graduated on time from high school and exceed their peers in college enrollment.

#### **Get through college,**

Two times CSF Scholars have better than twice the odds of graduating from college within 6 years compared to low-income graduates.

#### **Get launched in life,**

Over three quarters of CSF Scholars who received one-on-one CSF career coaching successfully obtained a job or internship.

The poverty factor is what motivates CSF in their work. Just 10 percent of low-income students earn a bachelor's degree, compared to 80 percent of higher income students. Nearly one quarter of American children live in poverty. Nearly 38 percent of Black and 34 percent of Hispanic children live in poverty, compare to 12 percent of white children.

Students who participate in CSF programs have more opportunities to success. CSF scholars graduate high school and college at higher rates than their peers. The siblings of CSF scholars have greater likelihood of attending and graduating college. CSF scholars often give back to their home communities after graduation by helping younger students navigate the college planning process. CSF scholars with a college degree are taking the first step to pull themselves and their families out of poverty for good.

CSF serves students who likely would not go to college without their help. Eighty percent of CSF scholars are the first in their family to pursue higher education. CSF focuses on underrepresented youth in foster care, student of color, and those from families with low incomes.

CSF ensures students gain access, persist, and graduate from college by supporting them emotionally, financially, socially, and academically. CSF's unique model combines direct students supports with scholarships to dramatically improve college completion rates.

Support services for middle school are in 282 school districts. AmeriCorps College and Career Coaches provide early college and career awareness. Student plan for high and college and take college and career-ready academic courses.

Services in high school help shift College Bound focus to readiness indicators, such as FAFSA completion. They provide case management, graduation and attendance monitoring, SAT preparation, college visits, leadership development, academic advising, college admission/financial aid planning, and mentorship, through the Achievers program.

They provide college services on 10 campuses throughout the state. Workshops support the high school-to-college transition. They offer comprehensive advising and academic support as well as mentoring services by college faculty and staff.

The career services help to match employers to CSF scholars and connect CSF scholars with job opportunities. They provide scholars with information about graduate education, internship, career development, and networking opportunities.

The College Success Foundation's results show that over 4,000 CSF scholars have graduated from college to date. They have twice the odds of graduating within six years compared to low-income undergraduates nationwide. Eight-nine percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders signed up for CBS resulting in over 15 percent higher rates than their low-income peers. Of the students involved in the HERO program, 95 percent graduate high school on time and 84 percent of HERO graduates enroll in college.

The public-private partnership featuring support from WSAC since 2006 and OSPI since 2003 has helped thousands of students with the inspiration, mentoring, and financial supports they need to graduate from college and success in life. Leadership 1000 recipients graduate at nearly twice the rate of their low-income peers.

## **2015 Legislative Session**

### **Maddy Thompson, Director of Policy and Government Relations**

Maddy provided a brief overview of plans to inform legislators on the recommendations of the 2014 Strategic Action Plan. She also presented an update on the Dual Credit and Veterans Residency proposals.

### **The Strategic Action Plan**

Maddy alluded to an earlier agenda item (SAP communications plan) emphasizing that the Council and staff, as agents of the state, must refrain from grassroots lobbying. However, council members and staff can advocate for the WSAC's legislative agenda.

Maddy thanked the Council members for the time they have spent meeting with her, and for their suggestions for the upcoming legislative session. She is incorporating those suggestions into the legislative plan. She plans to call on members again to attend key meetings with House and Senate leadership and committee chairs.

Maddy has been scheduling meetings with key legislators on the relevant committees, legislative staff, and leaders. Maddy's approach is to listen to legislators and find out what their priorities are and how high postsecondary education is on their agenda. A portion of her meeting with legislators will be re-educating them on the Roadmap and the compelling reasons for post-secondary education. She will remind them that they passed HB 2626 which supported the educational attainment goals in the Roadmap. Then, she will spend a portion of the meeting introducing the Strategic Action Plan and how its implementation will help to make progress toward meeting the goals. Maddy will propose work sessions and she would like Maud and Karen and others to be present for these to represent a united front. She will rely on the WSAC Executive Committee for a weekly phone call to inform them of what is coming up and how it should be approached. Maud believes sector representatives will also often have to be consulted. These calls may be scheduled on Friday mornings.

### **Dual Credit Proposal**

Following the Council's approval of the Dual Credit proposal it was submitted, per proper protocol, to the Governor's office. Office of Financial Management staff said that because it does have a budget impact, the decision, on request of legislation, will coincide with the release of the Governor's budget.

### **Veteran's Residency Proposal**

In August of this year the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act) passed and included a provision (section 702) that required the Department of Veteran Affairs to approve only those institutions of higher education to charge tuition and fees at no more than the in-state rate for veterans and their dependents accessing their benefits provided under the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The VA will no longer pay for courses taken by the veteran while the veteran is in a non-resident tuition status.

Currently, Washington institutions operate under our state residency statutes that do not align with the new federal requirements. In order to have the statutes align with these requirements, the length of service required would need to be reduced from two years to 90 days, language related to the discharge classification needs to be changed, and additional requirements related to establishing Washington as the official domicile for veterans and their dependents must be eliminated.

In August when the federal law passed, WSAC notified the Governor's office and OFM of this issue. OFM asked WSAC staff to work on a proposal to rectify the issue. The staff brought the issue up to several Council members as well as the Council subcommittee on Academic Affairs and Policy. While this work was occurring, the federal Veteran's Administration sent a letter to Governors across the United States to ask them whether they were going to require their institutions to comply and sent further direction on how to interpret the law. This letter may have pushed the proposal further up on the Governor's agenda.

Staff at OFM have indicated that this proposal will likely go ahead either as Governor-request or ask WSAC to do agency-request legislation. It is important to know if the Council supports the concept of the legislation. We have some fiscal information from the institutions who say the cost of not complying would be greater than the cost of complying.

Marty reminded the Council that the in-state tuition legislation just passed last year. SBCTC worked with WSAC staff and others to be sure the broader benefits are still available. Marty and Paul both think their sectors are in agreement with the concept.

Maud called for a motion of support of the concept.  
Motion seconded by Marty Brown.  
Motion carried.

Maddy then provided updated information on discussion with the Governor's office and the Department of Health related to the Health Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program which is administered by WSAC Student Financial Assistance staff. The Governor's office staff and Department of Health are working to create a proposal to incent health care workers to work in low-income parts of the state. Financial aid staff are providing technical assistance but not supporting or opposing.

## **Public Comment:**

Garratt Havens, Washington Student Association:

### **Priority Items**

1. College Affordability
  - a) The WSA will be prioritizing the investment of additional/new revenue into our institutions. The issue of affordability stretches beyond tuition costs, extending to faculty salaries and retention, maintaining our programs, and providing critical support for students.

- b) As part of our efforts to support college affordability we will pushing the legislature to fully fund all of our financial aid programs and ensure they are accessible to as many students as possible.
- c) Students recognize that in order to advocate as effectively as possible for improving college affordability, we need to identify what affordability means. A large part of our efforts this session will be geared towards establishing a minimum standard of affordability that we can strive to achieve in Washington State.

## 2. Voter Access

- a) The primary goal of the WSA is to engage more students in the decision making process around higher education policy. The best way for us to ensure that students will be engaged is by encouraging civic participation by registering them to vote.
- b) We will be working on promoting two bills this upcoming session to improve voter access on our campuses. The first is a bill that would adjust the voter registration deadline, and the second is a bill that would allow individuals to pre-register when they receive their license when they turn 16.

## 3. Graduate and Professional Student Education

- a) College affordability and access took a large hit as a result of the 2008 recession. While we have begun to see a little relief over the past two sessions, none of these measures have extended towards graduate students. The WSA will be working to increase education and awareness around our campuses and the legislature around the critical need to support our graduate and professional students.

### **Ancillary Items** (Not necessarily related to the Roadmap of SAP plans.)

- 1. Ensuring Academic resources for advising
- 2. Additional support and funding for childcare
- 3. Tuition assistance for Washington National Guard members
  - a. In 1996 the Legislature established the Washington National Guard Conditional Scholarship. This scholarship was defunded in 2009. Currently, Washington is one of three states that does not provide tuition assistance to National Guard members. Interestingly, the other two states are Oregon and Idaho.

4. Free speech zones
  - a. A number of campuses in Washington State have free speech policies that we feel are overly restrictive and questionable from a constitutional perspective. By establishing free speech zones on campuses and regulating their use, often times in inconsistent manners, we believe that universities have unintentionally created a chilling effect in regards to freedom of expression on our campuses. We will be seeking legislative action, though we have not decided how that will look just yet.

**Administrative Action Agenda** (Not necessarily related to the Roadmap of SAP plans.)

1. Gender Neutral Restrooms
  - a. The WSA is currently looking to requesting opinion from the State Attorney General regarding the issue of providing gender neutral restrooms on our campuses.
2. EBT cards on campus
  - a. The WSA is currently in talks with DSHS in regards to pursuing a federal exception which would allow students to use their EBT cards on appropriate foods in school cafeterias.
3. Whistleblower Protection for Student Government
  - a. The WSA is currently working with the assistant attorney generals on our campuses to get a bit more clarity on this issue. Pending our responses there we will then seek an opinion from the state attorney general.

**Public Comment:**

Alison Grazzini, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
Paul Bell, Bellevue Community College

Alison Grazzini and Paul Bell representing the Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges Student Association (WACTCSA) shared the following four legislative priorities and system priorities which were developed during the 2014 Legislative Voice Academy by WACTCSA.

**2015 Legislative Priorities**

**Achieving Student Success: Redefine basic education as K-14**

Studies show that by the year 2019 two-thirds of all WA jobs will require at least one year of college education. Our state Community and Technical College funds are currently discretionary and should be protected.

**EBT on Campus**

Students should be able to purchase food using Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards on school campuses, but cannot do so currently because of the close proximity

between the purchasing area and the dining area. Learning institutions should be exempt from “set distances” requirements. This will allow all CTCs to accept EBT.

### **Textbook Affordability**

The high price of textbooks and course materials places an inordinate strain on students’ ability to afford school, and is an obstacle to student success. Funding should be allocated to support the development and increased availability of open resource materials. Corporate and/or publisher taxes and restrictions should be considered for shortened book edition publishing cycles.

### **Finding New Revenue Sources for Higher Education**

In order to provide the education necessary for us to be competitive in today’s economy, new and designated revenue sources are needed to support higher education in the Community and Technical College System. The legislature should find ways to provide dedicated funding by eliminating tax loopholes.

### **System Priorities**

#### **Ban the Sale of Bottled Water on Campuses**

Bottled water creates enormous waste and expense. Bottled water is not healthier than tap water, easily recyclable, or good for our environment. Tap water is fresh, free, readily available, and more environmentally sustainable. WACTCSA supports a ban on the sale of bottled water on campuses.

#### **Open Source Textbooks**

The high price of textbooks places an inordinate strain on students’ ability to afford school. To help achieve textbook affordability, college administrators and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges should increase efforts to develop open educational resources and to integrate them into classes statewide. WACTCSA will work to encourage the use of open source textbooks in our individual colleges. WACTCSA will advocate for this with CTC administration, faculty groups, students, and campus bookstores. We aim to see open source textbooks integrated into at least 15% of classes statewide over a period of 3 years.

## **Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness Compact Alignment with the Washington Student Achievement Council Roadmap**

### **Hilary Loeb, Director of Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness**

Hilary Loeb provided an overview of the history and work of the Coalition and its alignment with the Washington Student Achievement Council’s Roadmap goals and recommendation.

The Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness Compact (Coalition) is committed to closing the achievement gap in South King County and South Seattle for

low-income students and students of color who are on track to graduate from college or earn a career, as outlined in the Roadmap.

The Coalition's purpose is to build a seamless transition from high school to college to career across the Puget Sound area. Their vision is to increase both the number and percentage of students that graduate from high school, enroll and persist in college, and graduate from higher education, and secure a family wage job and or career path.

The Coalition's members include seven community and technical colleges, nine school districts, OSPI, Road Map Project, and the University of Washington.

The Coalition supports the work of the Washington Student Achievement Council by:

1. Ensuring access:
  - a) Ensuring cost is not a barrier for low-income students.
  - b) Make college affordable.
  - c) Ensure all high school graduates are career and college ready.
  - d) Streamline and expand dual-credit and dual-enrollment programs.
2. Enhance Learning:
  - a) Aligning postsecondary programs with employment opportunities.
  - b) Provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.
  - c) Encourage adults to earn a postsecondary credential.
  - d) Leverage technology to improve student outcomes.
3. Prepare for Future Challenges:
  - a) Respond to student, employer, and community needs.
  - b) Increase awareness of postsecondary opportunities.
  - c) Help students and families save for postsecondary education.

The next steps to implement the Compact are to discuss the board resolutions supporting Compact, Compete and implement the Compact's communications plan, align Compact Commitments with college, district, the Roadmap, and the Strategic Action Plan, and to launch the project finish line.

The next meeting of the Washington Student Achievement Council will be in Olympia on February 11 at the SBCTC offices.

Meeting adjourned 2:16 p.m.