

August 17, 2016
Eastern Washington University
Cheney, Washington

MINUTES

Members attending:

Maud Daudon, Karen Lee, Ray Lawton, Jeff Charbonneau, Jessica Murillo-Rosales, Marty Brown, Paul Francis, and Susana Reyes

Staff attending:

Rachelle Sharpe, Aaron Wyatt, Randy Spaulding, Becky Thompson, Crystal Hall, Kristin Ritter, Marc Webster, Maddy Thompson, Weiya Liang,

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chair Maud Daudon.

Welcome Provided By

Dr. Mary Cullinan, President of Eastern Washington University (EWU)

Paul Francis introduced Dr. Mary Cullinan. Dr. Cullinan then provided a welcome to the Council Members, staff, and attendees. She highlighted some of the EWU students and activities on campus. She talked about EWU's diverse populations and the commitment to access by keeping costs of attendance at a minimum. Students working and serving in the community is also a strong focus at EWU. About two-thirds of EWU students graduate with some specialized experience from their work in the community.

Student success is important to Dr. Cullinan. EWU's scholarship campaign raised \$1.89 million last year. Half of EWU's graduates have no debt. Each student is assigned to an advisor who provides help to students to get them placed in jobs upon graduation.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Karen Lee to approve the Consent Agenda with one suggested change in order.

Motion seconded by Ray Lawton.

Motion carried.

June 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by Marty Brown.

Motion seconded Jeff Charbonneau.

Motion carried.

2017 Meeting Dates

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by Marty Brown.

Motion seconded Paul Francis.

Motion carried.

Agency Update

Rachelle Sharpe, Acting Executive Director

Sharpe welcomed Jessica Murillo-Rosales to her first official meeting and for speaking at the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) training the day before.

Sharpe also provided Members with a review of current agency work related to outreach, program administration, and policy. Outreach activities highlighted included Wednesday Webinars provided to high school counselors in collaboration with OSPI; College Bound educator outreach packets sent to all middle and high schools; and expanded 12th Year Campaign efforts in preparation for the early FAFSA and WASFA available in October. Sharpe noted 260 awards were made in the Alternative Routes to Teaching scholarship program due to increased funding. Progress toward completion of the assigned studies – review of for-profit institution oversight and higher education needs of South East King County – was described.

Sharpe reminded the Council about the *Pave the Way* conference scheduled for November 1 and 2 and Daudon asked the Council to try to be available to attend the conference which is designed to foster cross-sector collaboration to make significant progress toward the attainment goals.

City University of Seattle has been approved for participation in state aid programs for 2017-18 following a rigorous application review. Marty Brown inquired to the amount of funding for City University compared to the amount saved because of Everest and other institutions' departure. Sharpe responded with an estimate that City would be several times greater than Everest in expenditures, perhaps \$5 million.

Executive Director Search Update

Dennis Karras, Karras Consulting

Mr. Karras provided an update on the WSAC Executive Director recruitment. In his update, he provided information, including the total number of applicants received to date, breakdowns of educational attainment, the geographical location of applicants, and the overall diversity of the pool. Karras also discussed the recruitment work plan and timeline. The soft closing is August 6, 2016. This position will be open until filled.

Sectors' 2017 Legislative Requests and Emerging Issues

Education sector members of the Council presented their 2017 legislative requests and highlight their emerging budget and policy issues.

Marty Brown, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges (SBCTC)

Brown stated the SBCTC will have their retreat at end of September at which time they will finalize the legislative request. He presented to the Council the current draft of SBCTC's \$130 million policy request, which includes:

- Increase academic, completion, and career planning efforts for \$80.7 million. Enrollments are down for the fifth year in a row. With this focus, the system will strive to increase, by the end of the 2017-19 biennium, student retention by 10 percent for students in their first year.
- Invest in learning and teaching for \$9.2 million. This is an on-going differential pay challenge between part-time and full-time faculty. This was supposed to be covered by Initiative 732, but that money was not seen.
- Expand the Opportunity Grant program for \$10.3 million. This request would increase the number of students in high-demand fields by 600 and the grant would increase by \$700.
- Provide dedicated funding for I-BEST for \$11.3 million. These funds will be a dedicated pool for 900 more enrollments at \$6 K annually per FTE. States we have trained in this area have now surpassed us.
- Cover unfunded federal Title IX mandates for \$6.8 million. The expense of criminal investigations is at an all-time high. This will provide \$100 K per campus per year for these on-going sexual misconduct investigations.
- Invest in campus and student environment health and safety funding for \$3.4 million. Funding would be used to address campus improvements and equipment needs.
- Provide cost of living adjustment for exempt staff for \$9.2 million. Funding will provide cost of living adjustments for non-faculty, non-collectively bargained community and technical college staff.

Council Chair, Maud Daudon asked a clarifying question about the Opportunity Grant program and how it relates to the State Need Grant (SNG) program. Brown explained that likely all of the Opportunity Grant recipients were unserved SNG eligible students. Daudon also asked if the environment health and safety funding is considered part of the capital budget or operating budget. Brown explained having the funds in the operating budget will help resolve the problems as they occur in a more timely fashion.

Vi Boyer, President of Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW)

Boyer provided the council with a reminder of who ICW serves and supports. ICW will have their Board meeting in October where they will finalize the list of legislative priorities. Boyer stated that ICW supports Washington's Roadmap overarching goals and recognize so much more is needed to see these realized.

The following is a list of the current draft priorities for ICW.

- Joint legislative agenda. Boyer said this collaborative effort for the past two years is very powerful and she would like to continue with it again this year.
- Full funding for the State Need Grant (SNG). Fund the 30 percent of unfunded students. Relink the grant level for students at private colleges to students at

research institutions. This will broaden opportunity and expand capacity for the state.

- Continued support for the College Bound Scholarship (CBS). CBS has dramatically impact enrollment on campuses.
- Begin to restore State Work Study. Boyer would like to see this program built back up in \$7 million portions.

Brown commented that the only place SBCTC has growth is in transfer.

Paul Francis, Council of Presidents (COP)

Francis noted five of the six presidents of which are new since 2014. He stated that this group has the potential for great synergy and collaboration.

Francis presented the COP's four key budget priorities however, he reminded the Council that they will not be officially approved until September.

Francis gave a brief history over time of Washington's investments since 1990, showing a steady decline in state support until 2005-09 when the drop was huge. He would like to see work toward a steady and predictable future in state support.

- Fully fund maintenance level budgets
 - This is the nuts and bolts of keeping the lights on and paying for inflationary and mandatory cost increases, unavoidable costs.
 - Stable and predictable funding improves our budgeting processes and benefits our students.
 - A budget reduction with new policy adds = more unfunded mandates, particularly with McCleary.
 - Support the entire educational spectrum, from early learning through K-12 through postsecondary education, not at the expense of higher education.
- Target investments in degrees to meet state's economic needs
 - Help meet Washington's workforce needs in critical STEM and high demand areas. Washington State's degrees are about 36 percent are in high demand degrees. It is predicted that by 2018, 70 percent of the STEM degrees will require a Bachelors' degree.
 - Expand capacity to support student degree completion.
- Reduce bottlenecks for degrees
 - Help meet Washington's workforce needs in critical STEM and high demand areas. Many of which are in the healthcare field.
 - Expand capacity to support student degree completion in STEM fields and Liberal Arts.
- Invest in resources to support student completion
 - Strengthen pathways for underrepresented populations

- Fully fund the State Need Grant, State Work Study, and continue to support the College Bound Scholarship.
- Invest in strategies that retain students and lead to efficient degree completion.
- Invest in quality degrees
 - The high quality of our colleges and universities is made possible by attracting and retaining talented faculty and staff.
 - Our institutions exist in a highly competitive marketplace with other colleges and universities around the world -- and in some cases, the private sector.
 - Faculty and staff compensation levels at our institutions generally rank below those at peer institutions.

Gil Mendoza, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Rachelle Sharpe, in Gil Mendoza's absence, summarized an overview of OSPI's planned Decision Packages as of July 15, 2016.

- Fully Fund McCleary
- Address the Teacher Shortage
 - Salary/compensation
 - Hiring incentives
 - Professional certification
 - Continued recruitment campaign
- Basic Ed – CTE and Skill Center Funding Formulas
- Institutional Education Funding Formula
- Adjustments to the Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS)
- Graduation and Dropout Prevention (Broken down into 3 DPs)
 - Attendance
 - Truancy Boards
 - Community and family engagement
 - Reengagement
 - Behavior
 - Mental health
 - Equity in student discipline
 - Career and College-Ready
 - Transitional supports for 9th grade failure prevention
 - CTE College & Career readiness, HDBP, elements of iBest, (dual credit)
- Center for the Improvement of Student learning (CISL)
 - Translation of essential information for limited-English proficient families
 - Website improvements
 - Early warning system
 - Connection to ESF Regional coordinators
- System of support and improvement for Washington's lowest performing schools and required action districts

- Assessments
 - Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessment development
 - ELPA 21 Assessment (cost increase)
- OSPI Systems
 - Replacement of the iGrants and grant claims reimbursement systems
 - Report card improvements and revisions resulting from ESSA
 - Statewide student record exchange enhancements and operations
 - OSPI security infrastructure improvements
 - Accounting impacts of SAFS
- OSPI Staffing supports
 - National Board certification – staffing support
 - Full time world language programs supervisor and admin
 - Systems and sustainability coordinator
 - Parent liaison
- Transportation coordinator allocation – technical fix to Mega Model

Brown wanted to remind Members that this is the outgoing OSPI budget request to the Governor and the incoming governor will require one as well for the legislature due in January (or later.)

Daudon asked if there is any indication of how much of these budget requests are part of McCleary funding and how much is outside of McCleary funding. John Aultman said from what he knows, compensation, levy relief, and teacher shortages are included components.

Charbonneau stated that the minimum wage issue could create even more complications in regards to the starting wage (\$34K per year) for a new teacher. If the minimum wage is increased to \$13 per hour it would be roughly \$31K per year.

Lawton would like the state to “own” the goals they adopted and see State Need Grant more prominent in the sector requests. Brown explained that he presented the SBCTC budget request and SNG funding is provided to WSAC. Francis, noted there are needs in addition to the SNG to keep institutions functioning.

Daudon explained that joint advocacy is a responsibility each member has for SNG. She said the more SNG is in front of the legislature, the better. This early start in the planning allows for staff to continue to mold and shape the request to the top two or three focus areas. She also suggested the Council look at the best use of those new dollars in K-12 which will help the system with attainment goals, affordability, and access.

2017 Proposed Action Plan Discussion

Maddy Thompson, Director of Policy & Government Relations

Thompson reminded Members they will consider the package of short-term strategies for the 2016 Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The plan will address key strategies to make significant impact toward increasing educational attainment in Washington and meeting

the state's Roadmap goals over the next two years. These strategies will form the basis of the Council's recommendations for the next session and 2017-19 biennium and submitted as part of the agency budget request.

Thompson reviewed the process and timeline since last June and thanked the many partners in this work. As a result of this work, the original twelve strategies have been condensed to five proposed strategies, which meet the objectives of access and affordability, the opportunity gap, and adult student success.

After this meeting, agency staff will submit a budget request to the Governor and develop a full report of the SAP to review with the Council committees and present to the Council at the October meeting.

Thompson said the strategies determined at this meeting are a subset of the action plan report that will also recognize the need to address critical areas to improve attainment including funding for institutions to maintain quality educational pathways, and addressing emerging areas such as teacher shortage, dual credit, and STEM fields.

Thompson said the strategies are addressing key areas based on the research conducted over the past year and are research-based themselves. The *Roadmap Update* and the *Affordability Framework* included a number of measures and metrics to evaluate the progress in educational attainment and affordability, which provided a strong basis for the Strategic Action Plan proposals.

Thompson said Washington's attainment goals are the driving force behind this work. The current progress is far too slow to reach these goals. The six year window to reach these goals is closing fast. She explained more must be done to make meaningful progress on Washington's goals.

The data clearly points to three key challenge areas that must be addressed in the two-year action plan.

1. The Opportunity Gap – The inequities must be addressed in the K-12 system and ensure more students from historically underserved populations complete high school.
2. Re-Engaging Adults – This area was identified in the original Roadmap as an action item and recent data makes it an imperative.
3. Another challenge that underpins the first two is affordability – financial barriers must be removed for low-income students.

As you would expect, the Roadmap Update found opportunity gaps for specific populations in relation to college-going rates and completion rates, showing the need to address both the Opportunity Gap and Adult Re-engagement.

Improving access to postsecondary education to students who are entering at a time when tuition is being reduced is good, but for the students who were not enrolled during

the recession, tuition is still high. The Affordability Framework demonstrates that affordability is more complex than the “sticker price” at public institutions. Thompson said there are more costs than tuition, and Thompson highlighted a few of those costs.

When students cannot cover their costs through their or their parent’s income, and grants or scholarships don’t cover the full amount, they turn to borrowing. Borrowing increased sharply during the recession for each sector, but it has flattened in recent years as students have reached the maximum annual amount allowed in federal loans.

All financial aid programs, large and small, are serving students from low and middle income families. The State Need Grant (SNG) is the largest program and serves as a foundation or is a support for other programs, such as College Bound. Nearly half of the Opportunity Scholarship students receive SNG. Both SNG and Opportunity Grant serve older students – 27 percent of State Need Grant (SNG) recipients have children. All serve above 40 percent students of color with College Bound serving 61 percent students of color. College Bound and Opportunity Scholarship serve direct from high school populations. The Opportunity Scholarship provides mentoring for students and Opportunity Grant requires support services.

Each of the five proposals collectively address the opportunity gap, adult student success, and access and affordability.

1. Opportunity gap innovation incentive grants.

Closing the Opportunity Gap requires building on the innovation and creativity underway in Washington’s education system and at its schools and higher education institutions.

Requesting \$1.5 million for the Opportunity Gap Innovation Grant will incentivize innovations to close the Opportunity Gap in K-12 and postsecondary education.

The purpose would be to encourage innovation and customization of support services, and expand on initiatives that have proven successful, or develop new initiatives. The foremost focus and purpose is to identify programs and practices that are successful and expand those. These grants could be focused on K-12 students, or students in higher education, or a partnership of both.

The College Bound Scholarship program that has proven to be a successful program in engaging students, families and K-12 system to dream big and aspire for higher academic achievement, needs to continue to expand support of students through broader outreach, effective communications, and better research.

Of the \$1.5 million, \$200K would be dedicated for students who are not currently receiving support beyond the ability to sign up. The success of College Bound and its ability to bring up graduation rates overall, and address the Opportunity Gap, relies on creating changes within schools to create a culture of assisting students to think about and prepare for college as early as possible.

The cross-sector review process would be used to ensure that grants will:

- Improve academic success for underrepresented and underserved students.
- Expand successful programs OR
- Create a new initiative with an evaluation plan.
- Involve key partners
- Commit to sustainability

Those on the review team could include relevant stakeholders in addition to higher education and K-12 representatives such as the Ethnic commissions and the Workforce Board, as well as non-profit entities.

Grant recipients would be asked to evaluate and share their project and outcomes. These evaluations would be used to identify successful initiatives.

2. Re-engaging adults

Research also shows that many working adults who do not have a postsecondary credential want to return to school in order to advance at work and provide a better life for their families. But there are many barriers for them to return.

However, there is a growing body of research in how these challenges can be accommodated. These strategies can accommodate working-age adults who wish to re-enroll in postsecondary education

We have learned from other state initiatives that it is important to take some time to lay the ground work through creating an inventory of adult friendly programs, policies and practices; developing an appropriate outreach strategy that is developed specifically for adults in Washington; mining the data to identify former students and the amount of credit they have obtained so that we can then provide them with customized information on their options and connect them with resources that will meet their needs; and expanding or creating the right support methods that will ensure these students are successful.

In Washington, we are poised to build upon efforts that serve returning adults with efforts such as Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) policies, campus efforts to recruit students who left without finishing, robust data systems, and strong collaboration and leadership.

The data will identify students who would be most ready to benefit from a given program and target outreach and to identify places institutions can improve their processes or services to better meet the needs of adult students.

A cross-sector advisory group would recommend a broader framework to support students from the point of identification and outreach through program completion. The group will look at more robust approaches to student identification, outreach, and

marketing. In addition, the group would look at professional development needs of staff and state and institutional policies and procedures that would better support students.

3. Child care assistance

Connecting with the Department of Early Learning and institutions is necessary to conduct more evaluation of the needs and capacity issues, it is known that the amount of funding for childcare is woefully inadequate. Currently the Council receives \$75,000 that is distributed to the 6 public baccalaureate institutions. The request of an additional \$385,000 would expand eligibility to additional institutions.

4. State Work Study

WSAC's research division recently completed a comprehensive survey of participants in the State Work Study program. Over 800 student recipients and the 460 employers they work for, plus institutional staff who manage the program for a campus were surveyed. Their responses highlight both the utility of the program and what makes it different from many other types of aid.

Increasing the State Work Study by \$5 million in each fiscal year will help the program serve an additional 3,000 students. With a higher share in four-year colleges where the awards are higher, the funding is driven to the four-year institutions. The sector distribution is similar for unserved students, in part because the allocation model follows recent enrollment trends.

5. State Need Grant

While Washington has been committed to covering tuition, the service level has not expanded during the recession. Funding was reduced when awards were lowered in response to tuition reductions, but those savings were not reinvested to serve additional students.

There are still have nearly 25,000 students without funding. With a higher rate of enrollment in four-year institutions, combined with priorities to the lowest income where award maximums are higher, the number of students served has dropped slightly. College Bound students have been fully prioritized in State Need Grant (SNG) and the resulting savings was moved to SNG to maintain service levels. In order to fully fund this program it would require an additional \$101 million per year.

Council Discussion

Lawton asked how other successful states have funded outreach activities. He asked if they approached the private sector for funding or did the state fund completely. Randy Spaulding said that Indiana is a state-funded initiative.

Lawton also asked if the total opportunity innovation grant would be a set per student. Thompson stated that the answer to this question would be best determined by the cross-sector work group.

Brown suggested offering grants to students might be preferable to grants to an institution. He believes the opportunity gap initiative needs sustainability so when later it is expected to scale it up to the entire system, there is funding built into it; however, institutions are stretched to match funding that is later expected to be permanent. Thompson agreed with the idea to determine what is working toward the state goals and then make a case for the state to significantly investment in those programs.

Karen Lee inquired whether the innovation grant is duplicative of student support funding. Thompson noted that the role of WSAC is incentivizing cross-sector collaboration and business partner engagement. Sharpe said convening's like *Pave the Way* can be used as platforms to share lessons learned. This approach makes it flexible, so not to nail down the "how" but will give the ability to target the gap to meet the state's goals.

Lee would like to see an increase in the \$385K for child care funding. The amount is just not enough for more than one of the community college campuses. This is an enormous challenge and wonders if we are the right agency to consider this need. Webster said there are a lot of tools to address assistance for childcare, such as TANF and others. The SNG has the ability to provide an expanded award for students with children with documented expenses. However, most institutions are not participating in that anymore because the needs outstrip the funding. All of the available programs do not begin to address the demand. The existing program of up to \$75K allows for a matching grant to any SNG participating institution. This request came from the Washington Student Association.

Lee stated that many of adult students are "incomed out" from "low-income" aid since they are gainfully employed. She suggested institutions need to be flexible or there should be possible tax incentives for employers to offer educational benefits. Flexibility is likely very expensive. To really engage working adults there must to be an overhaul to the system.

Francis would like to see the order of the requests changed to put State Need Grant (SNG) first in the submission. He noted he is glad to see State Work Study (SWS) on the list, and would like to WSAC to investigate further other source funding options for child care grants. Francis is concerned with the finite amount of money. Additionally, Francis is hesitant to bring the adult re-engagement issue before the legislature until it is more detailed.

Jeff Charbonneau asked about the strategy differences between SNG and SWS. He wonders why there isn't a full funding of SWS request as there is with SNG. Thompson explained that it takes time to build the relationships with employers. Charbonneau is in

agreement and would like it presented in such a way that the legislature understands it is a stair-step approach to fully funding SWS in the future.

Charbonneau also mentioned Dual Credit and his interest in getting it back on the list of requests. He would like to see WSAC pick up this important unfinished work. Charbonneau is looking forward to the report and would at least like to see change in policy in how those dollars become available to students.

Council student member, Jessica Murillo-Rosales asked a question on how age is determined for adult re-engagement. Thompson explained that it is more of a reference to the age in which the Council is targeting. She also asked what Child Care may look like. Thompson explained that it remains to be determined, but may involve vouchers.

Daudon recapped SNG and SWS and all the work and support around them to be in the budget request. She recognized how these help with attainment. She wants the process to include a strong message that a lot needs to be done. She is also concerned with continued evaluation of the adult re-engagement piece and need for action.

She asked the staff to take the most critical steps to increase attainment and put the requests in that context, stating the impact each will have toward the attainment goals. She asked for public comment and then took the opportunity to discuss each topic.

Public Comment

Vi Boyer, Independent Colleges of Washington, suggested focusing on the higher education needs as a whole. She asks if a statement could be made that considers the higher education agenda separate from an agency budget. Having a broader higher education agenda puts the higher education community in a stronger position to request these bold needs.

Nova Gattman presented a comment on behalf of Eleni Papadakis of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to express support for some key items in the WSAC work. She noted the Workforce Board is excited about many of the strategies outlined in the Strategic Action Plan, particularly those efforts to reduce the opportunity gap and the focus on working adults. The access to child care to students who are parents, support services, and expansion of State Work Study, as well as fully funding the State Need Grant are all critical for our state. The Workforce Board is willing to help on the adult re-engagement initiative and is committed to connecting with individuals with credit but no credential. They are limited in many cases from advancing and employers are hurting for a skilled workforce to stay competitive. Adults have very unique needs and the Workforce Board is eager to help and can assist with outreach to Workforce Development Councils and development of Career Bridges and Ready Set Grad. We will not reach the goals without this successful initiative.

Juliette Schindler-Kelly, Director of Government Relations and Advocacy, College Success Foundation (CSF). Schindler-Kelly is in full agreement with the community as a whole getting into more alignment and offered CSF's support in full partnership. She

would like to continue the conversation around the best legislative strategy that is most effective. She also commented that the system-wide approach across the state for the Innovation Grants is a more objective approach.

Steve Dupont, Central Washington University, encouraged the Council to separate the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) from WSAC's agency budget request. Not all priorities, that are important for student success and increased attainment, fall into the five categories represented today. Dupont also wants to encourage the Council to include Dual Credit in the SAP. He believes it is a great deal for students and the state. Finally, he discussed Adult Reengagement and the "Free to Finish" bill which came from Representative Hansen in the last session. The idea was to identify the 400,000 adults who have some credit but no degree and help them get past the financial burden to get that degree. Free to Finish was more narrowly focused but it was a great idea.

Council Discussion

Maud reminded the Council that discussion on Dual Credit will continue as well as K-12 spending and how it relates to McCleary.

Sharpe explained that the items discussed are the agency budget requests because of the September deadline to the Office of Financial Management. The comments heard on all the needs across the system were well-received and will be captured in the draft and presented at the October meeting.

Brown confirmed that these policy budget requests will be combined with other agencies, such as OSPI, because Department of Early Learning's budget has almost \$500 million for child care. He believes the Strategic Action Plan should say the funding should come from across the system such as Child Care (\$3 billion) from OSPI's budget, State Need Grant (\$101 million) from WSAC's budget, Student Support from COP and SBCTC's budget, State Work Study, and etc.

Daudon focused the attention to the policy requests in the WSAC budget. She reiterated Jeff raising the question about strategy in relation to the State Need Grant (SNG). She believes it is a unanimous backing among the Members for the SNG to be in the budget to deal with the unfunded students. She asked for strategies for the \$101 million.

Marc Webster noted that in previous requests, the Council used the 10-year Roadmap to determine the strategy. One approach is to take the six remaining years and divide, that is roughly \$17 million a year.

Charbonneau believes the role of WSAC is share with the legislature or Governor what can be done and what the outcomes are for each scenario. Then it becomes the legislature's responsibility to make it happen. Francis said he is in full agreement and would like to ask for the entire \$101 million in this year's budget.

Lawton said our job is to advocate for the 25,000 students who qualify to get into the institutions and do not have the funding needed. He agrees the total \$101 million should be asked for in the budget.

Daudon asked how this will affect the attainment goals. Webster reminded the Council that studies show state aid is very important in terms of improving both persistence and graduation rates. Brown reminded that these students are borrowing money and then drop out for financial reasons. Webster said it can be very confusing to students, as well. There is not consistency between students and institutions. With College Bound Scholarship, the message and process is consistent.

Susana Reyes agrees that we should support the \$101 million for State Need Grant. The legislature establish this council to be sure there is attainment for all students in Washington State. The job of this Council is to inform the legislature what it takes to attain them.

Daudon called for a vote for the **\$101 million annually for State Need Grant**.

Moved by Ray Lawton and Seconded by Marty Brown.
The vote was unanimous.

Daudon called for the **State Work Study \$5 million annually** budget item. Brown and Charbonneau confirmed the amount.

Moved by Jeff Charbonneau and Seconded by Marty Brown.
The vote was unanimous.

The Child Care Assistance \$385K line item was discussed. Webster explained that there is clearly state-wide effort that makes this request pale in comparison. While there is a lot of effort around child care, it is not focused on student parents. The bulk of funding is in working-connection child care. That is for people who are employed, seeking employment, or have conditions of work. The campuses have programs that are targeted at their own students, which is a very different kind of need. It is not always about paying for care. Finding a spot available is equally difficult. The institutions are creating early learning educators that turn around and focus on their own student population. The greater student populations in the community are not served. The Department of Learning (DEL) is working on this.

Brown and Francis agree this is a huge problem with space and capacity. There is a need to advocate for higher education students to be eligible for those dollars. Webster said this request came out of the Adult Reengagement discussion and put forth by the Washington Student Association.

Reyes said there is an overarching need for additional support in the higher education system to help students stay in school or re-engage that is not specific. Each student needs support in various ways. She recommended WSAC request an umbrella

statement to give some leeway on how to address many specific needs. This will provide a more comprehensive and more flexible ability to address needs in the most efficient way.

Daudon suggests COP and SBCTC look at child care in their respective sectors to determine the most impactful way to address childcare needs. Sharpe noted WSAC will engage with DEL on this topic as well.

Daudon asked for discussion around the Adult Re-engagement issue. Spaulding said this would help bring information resources together and be a good first step toward progress. Brown is not convinced this should be a state-wide approach since community and technical colleges are competing for enrollments.

Daudon asked the sector representatives if there is a collectively agreed upon method that would move the needle in a positive direction that the Council could get behind.

Francis noted there is much work being done by the institutions and he would rather see suggested specialized focus. Daudon asked if there are things that sectors could benefit from that the Council can endorse as critical for attainment. Lawton said these issues have been up for discussion for years with no solution. He believes staff has studied and spent much time in this effort. Francis noted he would like to see a work group to more fully develop the program.

Francis agrees with the need for more resources for these tools, but does not want to do things out of order. He suggests that the Council ask for \$50K to start a workgroup to do additional research with partners on this topic and then consider a supplemental budget request around Adult Reengagement.

Francis called for a motion to request **\$50K to begin a joint workgroup on Adult Reengagement** and will derive recommendations by 2017 for review in 2018. This workgroup will be an inclusive process.

Lawton seconded the motion.

Daudon asked the staff to come back with a detailed one-page mission for this group with deadlines and timelines and firm commitments. She would like to see this move in the next year and to something that could be a supplemental budget ask. This should be one of our highest priorities for the next year.

The vote was unanimous.

Karen Lee mentioned the “disconnect” she has experienced between the needs on campus and the state attainment goals. We talk about things in isolation from budget setting processes. She says the institutions do not all have the same needs and are serving different populations. She wants to know how we get the institutions to think about attainment statewide.

Regarding the opportunity innovation grant, Maud would like to see then name linked to the attainment goals.

Maud moved the **Innovation Grant** including sustainability be approved for **\$1.5 million annually**.

The motion was seconded by Ray Lawton

This passed unanimously.

Charbonneau asked to allow fully funding Dual Credit to be added to the Strategic Action Plan. The strategies will be pending for further discussion of the Council. Sharpe stated that the Members will see the draft report by early September.

Daudon proposed to table the motion on dual credit and schedule a conference call on the topic in a few of weeks.

Agency Administrative Budget Request Update Roadmap Team

The agency maintenance budget items were discussed, including maintaining service in State Need Grant. The State Need Grant maintenance request to accommodate enrollment projections, tuition rates, and restoring one-time funding of \$18 million from FY 17. In addition, the agency will request an increase in the agency's allocation for Attorney General's Office (AGO) services.

Lawton moved for the agency maintenance level budget items as presented to be approved.

The motion was moved by Jeff Charbonneau.
Marty Brown seconded the motion.

This passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by Maud Daudon at 12:50 p.m.