

September 2, 2016
Conference Call

MINUTES

Members attending:

Marty Brown, Jeff Charbonneau, Maud Daudon, Paul Francis, Karen Lee, Gil Mendoza, and Jessica Murillo-Rosales.

Staff attending:

Rachelle Sharpe, Aaron Wyatt, Crystal Hall, Kristin Ritter, Lexi Shankster, Marc Webster, Maddy Thompson, Noreen Light, Randy Spaulding, and Weiya Liang.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair Maud Daudon.

Dual Credit Recommendations

Rachelle Sharpe, Acting Executive Director

Randy Spaulding, Director of Academic Affairs & Policy

Chair Maud Daudon stated that at the last meeting (August) in Cheney, the Council discussed items to be included in the Strategic Action Plan for submission in the WSAC agency budget request. The Council was asked to provide the Legislature with recommendations related to Dual Credit. Today's meeting was called to decide whether any recommendations should be endorsed as part of the Strategic Action Plan for items critical to address in this next biennium.

Rachelle Sharpe explained to the Members that draft of the Strategic Action Plan report will be provided at the October Council meeting. The draft will lay out the key challenges and speak to the necessity to support system-wide strategies that raise attainment with specificity. It will highlight the needs to: address affordability – the need to maintain quality and adhere to our tuition policy; to fund our array of financial aid programs well; to address key workforce shortage areas; support college and career readiness; and enhance postsecondary completion initiatives. As a reminder, Sharpe explained that the Council voted to fully fund State Need Grant at an estimated \$100 Million per year; enhance State Work Study with an additional \$5 Million per year; and proposed an Opportunity Gap Innovation grant at \$1.5 Million per year as a sub-set of those system requests, and focus on Adult Reengagement in the next year. Staff will include any outcome from today's meeting into the Action Plan and agency legislative request process, if applicable.

Randy Spaulding reminded the Council that the Second Substitute House Bill 1546 (ESSHB 1546) was passed in 2015 to improve access to dual credit programs and

reduce disparities in access and completion, particularly for low income and underrepresented students. The bill focused on one strategy, college in the high school, but acknowledged issues in other dual credit programs and reinforced the notion that cost should not present a barrier in selecting the most appropriate dual credit option for the individual student. The bill also asked the Council to report on dual credit programs and recommend additional improvements to improve access and completion.

Although there has been progress in policy changes that have increasing access to dual credit programs, the work is not done. There are still differences in participation and completion by race, ethnicity, and income. The dual-credit report outlines key areas of progress, which include, OSPI adopting rules to ensure quality standards are rigorous and consistently applied in college in the high school; implemented policies to increase consistency in acceptance of AP and IB Scores; and improved communication tools to support students considering dual credit options.

The report provides recommendations for further action that would require state-level consideration and possibly legislative action. Other recommendations could be actions that schools, higher education institutions, or agencies can individually implement as part of the ongoing collaborative work to enhance dual credit opportunities. Some of these recommendations are to continue to improve consistency in acceptance and communications about dual credit opportunities; support opportunities for professional learning, identify and leverage existing resources to reduce costs (such as Open Education Resources); and use data to improve policies, such as Assessing the degree to which students who may benefit from dual credit are served.

Together, these recommendations have great potential to increase equity in access to dual-credit programs. They address persistent opportunity gaps and encourage more students to complete high school and move on to postsecondary education. The dual-credit report outlines key areas of progress and provides recommendations for further action.

Based on the discussion at the August Council meeting, and the recommendations of the Dual Credit report, staff have identified four strategies that would require state-level action to implement for Members to consider prioritizing in the Strategic Action Plan. All have significant cost implications so estimates for a lower cost policy option was provided.

Fund student fees for exam-based programs.

Registration and test fees range from \$91 million for Advanced Placement test fees to \$168 for registration and \$116 million per test for International Baccalaureate. The total cost to cover these exam fees is estimated to be \$21 million for the 2017-19 biennium, serving nearly 80,000 students by 2018-19. If limited to free-or-reduced-price-lunch students, the cost would be \$6.5 million.

Support expenses for Running Start students.

While students in running start receive a waiver for tuition, they still face other costs including books and transportation. The total cost estimated to cover these expenses is \$36 million for books and \$50 million for transportation for a total biennial cost of \$86 million. These investments would help nearly 30,000 students per year by 2018-19. If we limit to free or reduced price lunch students the cost would be \$26.5 million.

Fully fund the current College in the High School policy as outlined in HB 1546.

The legislature took an important first step to expand College in the High School by providing funding to school and students who have limited access to Running Start or are low-income. However, the funding provided is not part of basic education and does not automatically grow with need. Additional funding is needed to keep pace with growing demand at eligible districts wishing to participate in the program. The cost to cover all district requests would be \$4.2 million in addition to the current biennial investment.

Expand access to College in the High School opportunities.

The current policy limits funding to high schools that are more than 20 miles from a Running Start program, small schools, or students who receive free or reduced price lunch. In addition, eligibility is limited to 11th and 12th grade students who can receive funding for up to 10 credits (typically 2-3 courses per year). A more robust option for College in the High School would be to expand access to ensure all high schools are eligible to receive state funding to cover the cost of College in the High School, remove credit limits, and provide opportunities to all college ready students regardless of high school grade level. The estimated biennial cost to expand to all high schools would be \$33 million and would serve 25,000 students per year by the 2018-19 biennium.

Daudon asked if any of these items were considered funded by “basic education money.” Spaulding explained that Running Start tuition is covered by basic education, but none of the other items mentioned are covered. Daudon asked if there was any way to determine the progress toward the attainment goals if all of this was funded or certain elements. Sharpe said this question will be addressed for all of the items in the conclusion of the Strategic Actin Plan. Maud wants to see the goals highlighted when discussing the recommendations.

Council member Karen Lee asked how the funds reach the school or the student. Rachelle explained the money would likely run through WSAC institutions to provide to students.

Action: Dual Credit Recommendation for 2017-19

A motion was made by Council Member Marty Brown to submit a budget request for the 2017-19 biennial budget to fund the current college in the high school policy and cover costs for students in other programs who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch. This is estimated at around \$37.2 million (\$6.5 million for exams, \$11 million for books,

\$15.5 million for transportation, and \$4.2 million for College in the High School program.)

The motion was seconded by Gil Mendoza to start the discussion.

Council member Paul Francis confirmed that this motion would not require legislation. Council member Jeff Charbonneau clarified that the \$4.2 million is funding for the College in the High School policy that has already committed to by the state, but was not funded, whereas the other requests are new policies.

Additionally, Daudon amended the motion to strongly encourage the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and all sectors to include in their budgetary requests, to the maximum extent possible, the recommendations in the Strategic Action Plan. Charbonneau reminded the Council that the Strategic Action Plan and policy goals should be aligned with individual budget requests to provide a united front.

The motion was called for a vote by Chair Daudon and it passed unanimously.

Action: Long-term Support for Dual Credit

The motion was made by Council Member Jeff Charbonneau to include in the Strategic Action Plan support for full funding of the four strategies over time, including \$ 21 million for exam fees, \$86 million for Running Start books and transportation and \$33 million for an expansion to College in the High School, for a total of an estimated \$130 million. The motion was seconded by Marty Brown.

Council member Paul Francis expressed his concern over putting a timeline on the request to not “pigeon-hole” ourselves. It should be in the context of SNG and others on our plate.

Daudon encouraged the staff to explain that these requests are tied to the state’s attainment goals and that is why the Council is encouraging them.

The motion was called for a vote by Chair Daudon and it passed unanimously.

Adult Reengagement

Rachelle Sharpe, Acting Executive Director

Rachelle Sharpe proposed to the Council to not submit a budget request for Adult Reengagement at this time. The development of an Adult Reengagement framework will be included in the Strategic Action Plan as a critical need within private and existing resources for fiscal year 2018 and supplement request may be submitted for fiscal year 2011.

Action: Excluding Adult Reengagement from Budget Request

Marty Brown made a motion to exclude the Adult Reengagement from the budget request.

Jeff Charbonneau seconded the motion.

The motion was called for a vote by Chair Daudon and it passed unanimously.

Charbonneau suggested the sequential order in which the budgetary requests are submitted could provide important information to legislators. Sharpe stated that the prioritization was discussed at the last meeting and the Dual Credit item will be added. The order of the requests can be discussed further at the October Council meeting. The Strategic Action Plan will address all of the system needs and will be grouped into categories by what challenge areas they are addressing. The 2015 Strategic Action Plan was discussed and Daudon noted the importance of including the College Bound Scholarship.

The order in which the recommendations should be listed were discussed as follows:

- Maintenance funding for institutions
- Maintenance funding for State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship
- Fully Funding State Need Grant
- Dual Credit
 - College in the High School policy
 - Exam fees for free and reduced lunch
 - Book and transfer fees for free and reduced lunch
- State Work Study
- Innovation Grant

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at the State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, 1300 Quince St SE, Olympia, WA 98504.

Council Chair Daudon adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.