

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2019

Cave B Inn

Quincy, Washington

Members attending:

Maud Daudon, Karen Lee, Paul Francis, Chris Reykdal, Terri Standish-Kuon, Payton Swinford, and Jan Yoshiwara

Staff attending:

Crystal Hall, Heather Hudson, Isaac Kwakye, Weiya Liang, Michael Meotti, Amelia Moore, Kristin Ritter, Stephanie Sampedro, J.Lee Schultz, Becky Thompson, Marc Webster, Sarah Weiss, Christina Winstead, and Aaron Wyatt.

Chair Maud Daudon called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m.

Representative Alex Ybarra (13th Legislative District) welcomed the Council and attendees to Quincy, Washington.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

April 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

WSAC Executive Director's Report

With growing national interest in higher education and Washington's legislative efforts to increase access and funding, WSAC has been invited to participate in several national conventions, including those sponsored by the Lumina Foundation, the Strada Education Network, and the Education Commission of the States.

Recently, the Council denied South University's application to offer distance-education requiring field placements in state. WSAC made this decision after reviewing South University's application for field placement authorization. Additionally, WSAC denied Ashford University's application to continue advertising and recruiting in state. Both decisions were due to a number of concerns with each institution.

Exploring How the Public Health Sector Uses Social Networks To Improve Access to Healthcare and Health Information

Mary Jo Ybarra-Vega, representing the Quincy Community Health Center, provided an overview of the Promotores de Salud (health promoter) model. The Quincy Community Health Center Outreach Program has been using the Promotora de Salud model for over 20 years to build trust with underserved populations in Quincy, Washington. The Program has developed strong partnerships with legal advocates, federal health agencies, local nonprofit agencies, private industries, and educational institutions. This program could be a model for providing community-based, enhanced education and financial aid supports.

Francisco Ramirez, Eastern Washington University Student, Washington State Opportunity Scholarship recipient, and Quincy resident

Francisco-Ramirez spoke to the power of the Washington Opportunity Scholarship, a successful program connecting the state's industries with local, talented students. A current Eastern Washington University student, Francisco is studying to be a math teacher and hopes to return to Quincy High School as an educator. In addition to providing insights into his experiences as a student and future teacher, Francisco thanked Council member Paul Francis for his mentorship and guidance.

Dual Enrollment Pathways in the North Central Region

Sue Kane, representing the Apple Stem Network, provided an overview of the opportunities and challenges of developing regional, computer science pathways. As demand increases for skilled and trained workers, businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their workforce needs. The Council heard from several speakers committed to expanding student access to IT education and postsecondary degrees and certificates.

- Tom Willingham (Big Bend Community College): It is important to have clear pathways, shared transfer agreements, and a mutual understanding of prerequisite programs. Clear pathway agreements will streamline the process and enhance student success.
- Riva Morgan (Wenatchee Valley College): Students must see college as a possibility, but that means that institutions have to address the barriers to enrollment and completion. Exposure to college-level coursework, through dual credit or the TEALS program, and can help students see the possibilities that exist for additional training after high school.
- Nicole Monroe (Quincy High School): Though on-campus courses through Running Start can be a great option, the distance between Quincy High School and Big Bend Community College or Wenatchee Valley College can be a significant barrier. Impediments of distance, time, and money can be enough to deter students from pursuing college credits while enrolled in high school.
- Michell Valdivia (Student – Central Washington University): The challenges students face in earning college credit are significant. Access to the Internet, technology, transportation, childcare, and more can be a deterrent to student success. We can help more students find success if we address these barriers.

Council members expressed their commitment to expanding student access to higher education and acknowledged that addressing the barriers raised in today's discussion would be instrumental to progress. Clarifying the role of dual credit, and how each sector can collectively contribute to student success in the design and delivery of dual credit options, will be an important part of that process. WSAC will join other partners to continue this work at the November 18-19 Dual Credit Summit (Seattle).

Washington College Grant/Apprenticeships/Career Launch Programs: WSAC Update and Regional Perspective

Becky Thompson, WSAC Director of Student Financial Assistance, provided a brief overview of the future Washington College Grant apprenticeship award. The apprenticeship award, which will be available to applicants in 2021, will be expand student access to apprenticeship opportunities. WSAC will work closely with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges in the development and implementation of this new program.

Dennis Conger, CTE Director for the Wenatchee School District (WSD), highlighted WSD's efforts to expand student access to apprenticeship opportunities. Partnerships between the district, employers, the state, and others have been key to the program's success.

Outreach Strategies for High School Class Of 2020

HB 2158 could make a substantive impact to increase FAFSA numbers. WSAC is committed to this work and to the collaborative effort necessary for success. The College Promise Coalition may take a coordinating role in the supporting communications campaign.

Members discussed the importance of utilizing multiple networks in advocating the importance of FAFSA completion and supporting families and students (including returning adult students) through the process.

2019 Legislative Session

WSAC staff members Marc Webster, J. Lee Schultz, and Becky Thompson presented a synopsis of the historic higher education investments of the 2019 Legislative Session. Most notably, the Workforce Education Investment Act replaced the current State Need Grant program with the Washington College Grant (WCG), expanding student access to state aid and providing a guarantee of its availability for eligible students beginning in academic year 2020-21.

Public Comment

Steve Dupont from Central Washington University appreciated the dual credit discussion today. CWU was a major provider to Dual Credit. They served over 5,000 students last year in both College in the High School and Running Start. As these programs can improve student success, expanding Dual Credit opportunities should remain a top priority in Washington.

Chair Maud Daudon adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2019

Special Budget Phone Meeting

Members attending:

Maud Daudon, Karen Lee, Paul Francis, Jeff Charbonneau, Chris Reykdal, Jan Yoshiwara, Terri Standish-Kuon, Payton Swinford.

Staff attending:

Michael Meotti, Rachele Sharpe, Aaron Wyatt, Becky Thompson, Crystal Hall, Isaac Kwakye, Marc Webster, J.Lee Schultz.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Maud Daudon.

Supplemental budget requests for FY 2021

Michael Meotti, Executive Director
Marc Webster, Director of External Affairs
Rachele Sharpe, Deputy Executive Director

The Washington Student Achievement Council staff brought before the Council two budget requests for discussion.

Agency Budget Requests:

Proposed: A State Work Study pilot that would use student near-peer mentors in projects in K-12 schools to boost FAFSA filing and college enrollment. The \$1 million pilot will serve about 300 student mentors and utilize the power of peer mentoring to help support a college-going culture in participating schools. The pilot will include an evaluation component to gauge impact on FAFSA/WASFA filing rates and direct college enrollment. These Work Study positions would not require an employer wage match, allowing colleges to hire more student-mentors and utilize local funds to support these efforts.

Members discussed several issues that will need to be addressed for successful implementation, including the use of background checks for mentor selection and mentor training. Clear selection criteria will also be necessary to identify schools eligible to participate in the program.

Proposed: A microgrant pilot empowering local partners come together to identify and eliminate small-dollar barriers that prevent students from re-enrolling in college. Distinct from emergency grants for enrolled students, these grants help students enroll by paying off unpaid fines or fees that often prevent them from transferring credit they earned previously. The \$500,000 grant will help to fund partnerships in ten Washington regions. Each pilot will be evaluated to learn more about what works and what barriers are the most common facing adult students.

Members discussed the possible expansion of the grant to additional regions, and the required outreach mechanisms to help connect local campuses with participating partners.

Motion was made to approve both supplemental budget requests.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Washington College Grant – Proposal to Restore Equity for Washington Residents Attending Not-For-Profit, Private Universities

Terri Standish-Kuon, President and CEO, Independent Colleges of Washington

Statement of Council Policy:

A motion was made for the Council to support the policy of tying Washington College Grant awards for students at private, non-profit institutions to those at the public research universities. This had been the policy prior to the passage of HB 2158, which set public awards at full tuition and required fees, but left private awards at the FY 2018 rate. The motion included WSAC to explore options for advancing this policy.

Motion was made.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Chair Maud Daudon adjourned the meeting at 5:05.