

Council Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2021

9:00am

Zoom

Members Attending:

Jeff Vincent, Chris Reykdal, Jeff Charbonneau, Jan Yoshiwara, Alejandro Alcantar, and Terri Standish-Kuon.

Staff Attending:

Michael Meotti, Don Bennett, Heather Hudson, Amelia Moore, Savanna Navarro Kresse, Crystal Hall, Becky Thompson, Aaron Wyatt, Ami Magisos, Gail Wootan, Marc Webster, Isaac Kwakye, and Aaron Wyatt.

Meeting called to order at 9:01am

Consent Agenda

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

December 15 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Opportunities for colleges and universities to increase collaboration with local Schools

Presenter: Michael Meotti

Materials: [Discussion framework](#)

Discussion: College Going & Readiness

The Council discussed college going culture with stakeholders in attendance and spent considerable time discussing how declining mental health, difficulties accessing financial aid information, a lack of financial resources for schools to hire additional support staff needed to get information out to students and families, and trainings for support staff are significant obstacles to creating and supporting a college going culture.

To combat the above issues, the Council, with input and guidance from stakeholders, discussed the following as possible mechanisms to increase college going culture.

- Focus on students with the highest need (low income/students of color)
- Simplifying the financial aid process
- Expanding financial aid trainings to other K12 staff, like teachers.
- Exploring how some admissions counselors with expanded roles help incoming students with class registration, getting books, etc.

- Create a directory of admissions staff from the various higher education institutions as a resource for those wishing to connect, including K12 staff and families.
- Increase focus on “application to matriculation”
- Redesigning communication with students and families about financial aid

Key considerations for next steps:

1. What can we do now?
2. How can we go about changing the system to make more significant progress long term?

The Council also discussed college readiness. Specifically, the need to expand access to programs that help students get caught up, such as the summer school program. Stakeholders in attendance urged the Council to endorse legislation that would expand access to these types of programs.

Conclusion:

The Council will:

- Invite admissions staff to the March Council meeting to discuss holistic review and getting students past admissions and into the classroom.
- Increase focus on “application to matriculation”
 - Map out what is needed to support “application to matriculation”

Work calendar for Council meetings in 2021

Presenter: Jeff Vincent

Materials: [2021 meeting calendar](#)

Conclusion:

Motion made to approve the work calendar for 2021 Council meetings as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

[See Appendix B](#)

Meeting Adjourned: 11:08am

Appendix A[TVW meeting recording](#)**Appendix B**

09:36:55	From Katrina Bretsch : Hello I am Katrina Bretsch, I run the People For People Learning Center, I also am a volunteer teacher and navigator for Yakima Valley Community College in the Gorge area and running the Open Doors , Step Up to College in Stevenson for disengaged students. I also recently worked the policy HB2816 "Nurturing Social and Emotional Classroom Climate" with Chris Corry. I do have video of students talking about issues they would like to see change to make transitions smoother. Working with students across the districts is an eye opener.
09:37:31	From Amelia Moore: Thank you Alejandra for sharing these details about what our students and educators are experiencing. These are all vital points to increase our understanding about the systemic changes that must happen.
09:37:34	From Scott Seaman: We are still way understaffed in the number of "adults" available to help each and every student explore, advocate, and encourage post-secondary options.
09:37:51	From Corey Anderson: From a High School perspective...I assist students with Career Assessments, Post-Secondary Planning, FAFSA, and college applications. Our application numbers and FAFSA numbers have been continually going up...however, the experience after acceptance and financial aid packaging is incredibly difficult for students and families to navigate. It is full of jargon, difficult processes, etc., and our first-generation students often don't make it through the process. We need help from the colleges to divert resources to walking potential students from acceptance to matriculation. That is where most students are lost.
09:38:57	From Alyson Rotter: @Corey...yes, "melt" is a very real thing and needs more resources and coordination
09:41:13	From Alejandra Perez: There is a texting platform that WSAC has for students too! https://wsac.wa.gov/otterbot
09:41:22	From Gail Wootan: these 'navigators' could also be used by adults in the community
09:41:52	From Scott Seaman: The inconsistencies in connections from local high schools to CCs/4 Years is perpetuating the inequities in access for students.
09:41:58	From Terri Standish-Kuon: One thing we could act on is reissuing Appendix A of the OSPI Reopening Guidance (on page 19) as a stand-alone resource, retitled as "College Contacts for Washington Students and Families." I can envision a joint media release with quotes from talking directly to Washingtonians about making/keeping their postsecondary plans and connecting with campus experts for help. These next couple of weeks can be the ideal time.
09:45:51	From Maddy Thompson: Alejandra, could you contact me as I would like to share your comments with some colleagues at the governor's office, I advise the Gov on Education and College Access issues. my number is 360-870-7619 and email: maddy.thompson@gov.wa.gov
09:46:35	From Tim Probst: Yes! Thank you, Jan., "If we target them (low income and students of color), it will work for everyone." Great keystone message.
09:47:51	From Alyson Rotter: Capacity building....yes! In Kitsap we've started building a cadre of "Navigators" that are outside of the formal education system so that there are more caring adults having conversations with students and helping to navigate the process.
09:49:15	From Katrina Bretsch: Gate Keeper mentality needs to change. We cannot keep putting up more barriers such as more admission requirements. We should look at processes that are productive, critically looking at the pathway and listening closely to the issues. The students have shared many changes they would like to see, I do not have a voice and the students feel voiceless.

09:53:57	From Corey Anderson: Love the idea of using Work Study students!
09:54:13	From Alyson Rotter: AmeriCorps too!
09:54:18	From Julie Garver: It sounds like perhaps a panel of admissions directors could present in the future. I am unsure what increased admission requirements are being referred to as institutions in the COP sector have moved to holistic review and multiple measures. Plus, our admissions directors always like to hear back about what students are facing and how they could work to address concerns
09:57:33	From Tim Probst: The post 9/11 GI Bill is a great model that includes housing and living allowance along with paying for college costs. It focused on non-traditional students. (People need to support their families while they go to college.)
09:58:25	From Katrina Bretsch: Thank you everyone for having this conversation. I work as a navigator to bridge the gap but then we run into the barriers at the college level because they are adding more requirements, processes are not smooth. Students and parents are frustrated and looking for alternatives to traditional college pathways.
09:58:36	From Julie Garver: https://councilofpresidents.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Principal-Admissions.pdf
09:59:03	From Julie Garver: FAQ regarding AY 2020-21 and Fall 2021
09:59:05	From Julie Garver: https://councilofpresidents.org/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources/washington-public-four-year-college-universities-covid-19-faq/
09:59:45	From Julie Garver: It would be useful to better understand what additional requirements are being referred to in this conversation.
10:02:00	From Maddy Thompson, Governor's Office: How far reaching is WSAC's 12th year campaign to help students apply for college and for financial aid? These are events where students and parents/guardians are invited to sit in front of computers, bring the documents, and apply and sign up?
10:03:13	From Julie Garver: Mike that is totally true the changing modalities and how to best communicate continues to be a challenge we would love to hear more from students
10:04:23	From Scott Seaman: We need to consider no longer using words like application, admission, and acceptance as we consider redesigning the system. How can we rebuild the system to streamline connecting students to post high school opportunities while eliminating traditional barriers?
10:04:37	From Julie Garver: We would appreciate a conversation sooner than later as we are concerned about the potential impacts for fall 2021
10:05:33	From Stephanie Sampedro: communication is important, and we should certainly try to improve the way we communicate and the reach of that communication. But I also think that the navigator model fills in the gaps where communication doesn't reach. technology is helpful, but students also need humans in their community to connect with to find their path to postsecondary education. a navigator in every region would help our message reach further
10:06:50	From Alyson Rotter: @Stephanie....I agree. Relational connection is necessary. Meeting students and families where they are means connecting outside of school (churches, libraries, community centers etc.). Navigators can be a critical component to building bridges.
10:06:55	From Katrina Bretsch: Thank you Jeff! systemic change! Such as a Strategic plan addressing the areas, not just lip service but an active, progressive and with measurable outcomes.
10:06:57	From Corey Anderson: Outreach is not the problem...applications are not the problem...financial aid info is not really the problem (although could be improved). The problem is a lack of human/personal connection to get kids through the specific post-secondary institutional process after acceptance. Not emails, not an online system, not texting. A person calling and personally connecting. If post-secondary institutions diverted financial resources to this work, they would need less in retention, counseling, etc.

10:07:36	From Tim Probst: +1 to Corey's remark.
10:07:56	From Katrina Bretsch: Thank you Corey!
10:08:51	From Stephanie Sampedro: Thank you Corey! Great points!
10:09:37	From Corey Anderson: If WSAC was looking at another conversation around this, I would love to be involved. I would love to see the 12th Year Campaign to "morph" into a partnership to get students on a campus. Let's complete the process.
10:09:44	From Katrina Bretsch: Bridging gaps on my level includes food, housing, mentoring programs...I am wearing many hats and I am excited to hear others with that same commitment.
10:10:16	From Brian Jeffries: I have some comments
10:10:18	From Terri Standish-Kuon: Corey, our admissions and financial aid folks do this work. We need to invite them to the table to share what they are doing.
10:11:09	From Julie Garver: Similar to our sector as Terri's comment above
10:11:36	From Kaleb Ode: Also true for my institution.
10:12:19	From Katrina Bretsch: An active plan that includes many voices. I bring many people to the table, parents, students, community stakeholders, especially Native, and very unique groups of disengaged individuals. Include me and I will bring many from three different districts, my small neck of the woods.
10:12:37	From Julie Garver: It seems what is key here is an understanding of admissions. We -SBCTC. /COP/ICW - have and continue to be engaged with K-12 to discuss admissions and how to respond effectively. Echo Terri's comments
10:12:58	From Jeff Charbonneau: 10000% - our K-12 and higher education institutions are doing great work - there is no denying that all! This just the next step in continuing the great work!
10:14:34	From Julie Garver: Agreed Jeff how do we approach this from an asset position and move forward.
10:15:21	From Katrina Bretsch: Brian Jeffries, they have a tendency to operate in silos and are territorial. I have witnessed board meetings that make you cringe.
10:15:41	From Julie Garver: @Katrina who is "they"
10:15:53	From Katrina Bretsch: Thank you Brian!!!!
10:17:16	From Katrina Bretsch: Students have been in tears in my classroom. Discrimination is still very active, and the messaging does marginalize student of color.
10:17:54	From Corey Anderson: I agree Brian. Unfortunately, K-12 leaders don't focus on matriculation. It will not be a priority, when they are HELD accountable for attendance, graduation rates, and testing passing. They are not HELD accountable for post-secondary education. BUT School Counselors can help champion this change. Maybe we should also bring in WSCA and Kim Reykdal at OSPI.
10:18:11	From Kaleb Ode: The percentage of students considering higher education is higher than the percentage students that teaches believe are interested in higher education.
10:18:21	From Kaleb Ode: percentage of*
10:20:02	From Katrina Bretsch: I have a student who just came in and is listening. He said, I have a few words...lol he said I dislike school because the supports are just not there and too many people just don't care if we succeed or not.
10:21:50	From Jeff Charbonneau: Katrina - Please tell your student that we are going to change that - and do everything we can to get him the support he needs!
10:22:31	From Katrina Bretsch: The strategic framework can address each area at the same time bridging the gaps between each area
10:23:50	From Katrina Bretsch: Thank you Jeff
10:25:38	From Katrina Bretsch: Transparency, I like the idea of using media and rebuilding trust through letting the public know we are making progressive changes and we want them to join their voice in this process.

10:29:38	From Julie Garver: This issue is something that is broader than dual credit. These issues should be for all students regardless of their participation in dual credit
10:30:36	From Julie Garver: This too is an issue that also existed prior to the pandemic when we look at the number of students who take dev ed in math and English.
10:38:47	From Corey Anderson: Thank you all for letting me join in the conversation. I am double-booked today and need to head to another meeting. Have a wonderful week.
10:39:14	From Jeff Charbonneau: Thank you Corey - we appreciate your contributions!
10:39:54	From Maddy Thompson, Governor's Office: @Jan: this seems to highlight that the notion of "college readiness" needs to be reframed.
10:40:02	From Maddy Thompson, Governor's Office: Yes!
10:40:31	From Julie Garver: Agreed with the concept of college readiness.
10:41:14	From Terri Standish-Kuon: #Adulting
10:41:23	From Julie Garver: @Jeff that is similar to our sector's approach that we bring them in and work with them to ensure they can attain their goals
10:44:29	From Terri Standish-Kuon: This is reached to our conversations around Launch Years and mathematics preparation. It will be good to include 4-year campus experts, too.
10:44:47	From Jeff Charbonneau: Terri - absolutely!
11:02:21	From Scott Friedman: That's awesome news Mike!
11:05:15	From Heather Hudson: Senate Committee on enrollment
11:05:23	From Heather Hudson: House committee on equity and basic needs
11:05:56	From Marc Webster: Plus, FAFSA simplification/issues, and the Student Loan Advocate (both in the House).
11:08:37	From Zoom Host: Our next Council Meeting is March 11th; registration is now open: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85819504958?pwd=TDVWbXArWEcvSmpTcHBqWVE3c1VsQT09