

WEIAOB Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Attending (alphabetical by last name):

Dr. Steven Ashby, Jane Broom, Ruben Flores, Charles Knutson, William Lyne, Sen. T'wina Nobles, Eleni Papadakis, Rep. Vandana Slatter, Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon, Jeff Vincent, and Rep. Alex Ybarra.

Staff attending (alphabetical by last name):

Joel Anderson, Kara Larson, Michael Meotti, and Daryl Monear.

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Introductory Comments

Presenter: Jane Broom

- Meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 have been set as follows:
 - Thursday, June 20, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, September 18, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Action: Approving the Meeting Agenda for April 25, 2024

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting agenda for April 25, 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Action: Approving Meeting Minutes for January 4, 2024

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting minutes for January 4, 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Presentation: 2024 Legislative Session Summary

Presenter: Joel Anderson

Material: [2024 Legislative Session Summary](#)

- During the January 4, 2024, Board meeting, 16 proposals (three attached to legislation) were recommended to the legislature. All three pieces of legislation became law. Most—but not all—of the remaining budget requests were either partially or fully funded.
- A Board member clarified that \$400,000 going to WWU for academic access and outreach is one-time funding (not ongoing).

- Legislation related to the Washington College Grant will be fully funded in future years based on caseload forecasts.
- Below the Board’s originally recommended proposals, a handful of other higher education legislation is noted—namely the creation of a Native American apprentice assistance program, provision of additional flexibility in employer reimbursement rates for State Work Study, and permission for incarcerated students to access and utilize federal and state financial aid.

Comments & Questions:

- **These legislative outcomes are a good start for the Board to continue making recommendations to the legislature. Which other outcomes, including those not mentioned in the document, best align with the Board’s guiding principles?**
 - The next meeting document (“2024 WEIA Expenditures Summary”) provides a more detailed answer to this question.
 - Other Board members expressed appreciation for the legislative outcomes.
- **Some of the investments from WEIA are more aligned with the Board’s guiding principles than others. In the future, should the Board issue more concise or focused recommendations? It is confusing that some of the Board’s recommendations received limited to no funding.**
 - Other Board members agreed that some investments did not fully align with the Board’s guiding principles. Some Board members remarked that WEIA is being used to pay for extra expenses that should come from other state accounts. It is possible that the Board should recalibrate its guiding principles to make a stronger argument for targeted WEIA investments.
 - Some of the Board’s recommendations were partially or fully funded by accounts outside of WEIA.
 - WTB saw some of their requests receive limited to no funding.
 - Some of the Board’s recommendations may not have been fully funded because administrative tasks need to be carried out before more funding is provided. The legislature’s budget decisions were also influenced by the presence of statewide initiatives on the November 2024 election ballot that may reduce state revenue, if passed.

Presentation: 2024 WEIA Expenditures Summary

Presenter: Joel Anderson

Material: [2024 WEIA Expenditures Summary](#)

- The document starts by summarizing the Board’s current guiding principles. These were used to categorize investments from WEIA of \$500,000 or more (as well as those recommended by the Board but below \$500,000).
- The 2024 supplemental operating budget increased total state expenditures during the 2023–25 biennium by approximately \$7.3 billion and WEIA expenditures by \$120.2 million. At the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, WEIA is now projected to have a balance of \$119.08 million. This marks the first time that the projected ending WEIA balance has decreased since the account began operating in FY 2020.
- As defined by OFM, 87.1% (\$104.66 million) of new WEIA expenditures are for higher education. The five largest expenditures are named specifically: Washington College Grant income eligibility

and caseload adjustments (\$91.1 million), Department of Labor and Industries electrician apprenticeship education and job training (\$6 million), College in the High School programming (\$3.43 million), OSPI college access programming (from College Success Foundation—\$3 million), and UW Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program expansion (\$2.51 million).

- The document includes an appendix of all remaining new WEIA expenditures that are not categorized.

Comments & Questions:

- **How much of WEIA's new expenditures went to the Washington College Grant?**
 - \$91.1 million. This increase in funding was caused by two factors: the continued impact of budget provisos that raise Washington College Grant income eligibility thresholds, and a recent increased caseload forecast for the program.
 - **Is the \$36 million amount designated by OFM as "working capital" reasonable?**
 - This number is reasonable and may have been calculated at a time when WEIA had a lower existing balance. It may be possible to revisit this calculation in the future with OFM and legislative budget staff.
 - **Some new WEIA expenditures do not align with the Board's guiding principles.**
 - It may be necessary to adjust the Board's guiding principles and provide a stronger reminder to the legislature on how funds from WEIA should be spent. This statement was supported by multiple Board members.
 - **Some sectors submit their priorities to the legislature individually. It may be beneficial for a five-year analysis of WEIA expenditures to be produced so that the Board can see how they have changed over time.**
 - This suggestion was supported by multiple Board members.
 - The legislature appreciates receiving candid feedback from the Board on WEIA expenditures.
 - **Some members of the legislature ask why issues such as student basic needs should not be funded by WEIA (versus the opposite question of why student basic needs should be funded by WEIA).**
 - The first year of WEIA expenditures (FY 2020) occurred before the Board was fully functional.
 - Many programs require infrastructure investments to function. A Board member suggested that these kinds of investments do not fully align with the intentions of WEIA and should instead come from accounts like the General Fund-State.
 - Higher education does not have a strong voice in the legislature's budget process.
 - It is important for the Board to capture and promote expenditures from WEIA.
 - **This conversation was made possible by the early presentation of organized information and data to Board members.**
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Discussion: New Research on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Presenter: Joel Anderson, Kara Larson, Michael Meotti, Daryl Monear

Material: [Meeting Slides](#), [Discussion Packet: New Research on Higher Education and Workforce Development](#)

- Kara began this section of the meeting by presenting on WSAC’s Strategic Action Plan (SAP) dashboard.
 - The SAP dashboard is designed for various users to explore outcomes among student populations of interest within WSAC’s policy clusters: affordability, enrollment, student supports, and completion.
 - Kara provided a demonstration of how the SAP dashboard functions.
 - The SAP dashboard contains three layers: a high-level look at all key performance indicators (KPIs) in policy clusters, an in-depth look at all KPIs in each policy cluster with a focus on equity, and an in-depth look at all KPIs in each policy cluster with options for data disaggregation.
 - Additionally, WSAC now maintains a blog to share new research insights from the SAP dashboard.
 - WSAC welcomes feedback on the SAP dashboard from external partners. Comments and questions about the SAP dashboard can be sent to SAPDashboard@wsac.wa.gov.
 - There are no current plans to add new indicators to the SAP dashboard, but WSAC welcomes feedback on potential indicators to add in the future. Kara provided an overview of how the Board’s current performance accountability metrics align (or do not align) with existing indicators in the SAP dashboard.
- WSAC is slowly starting to receive FAFSA completion data for the Class of 2024. School districts in Washington can request access to this data for their high schools from WSAC.
- Daryl presented on WSAC’s 2023 Higher Education and Labor Market (HELM) report.
 - The percentage of jobs in Washington that require postsecondary education is currently 70% and is projected to increase to 72% by 2031.
 - Fields requiring more educated workers are expected to grow more quickly than those requiring less education in future years.
 - Wide disparities in educational attainment exist across different racial and ethnic groups, including American Indian and Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and Black students.
 - Annual program completions are not keeping pace with job openings in key fields, including business and management; health practitioners, technical, and support; and computer and information technology.
 - For midlevel occupations, supply and demand gaps are observed in fields such as health, computer and information technology, and technical and mechanical services.
 - For bachelor’s and graduate level occupations, supply and demand gaps are observed in fields such as health, computer and information technology, engineering, and K–12 education.
 - The advance of automation and artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the labor market landscape. Jobs at higher risk of automation tend to be those requiring less education and more predictable, repetitive activities.

- Washington has diverse regions with unique geographic, demographic, and labor market characteristics. Common qualities include the need for more postsecondary credentials to fill jobs, employers struggling to find qualified workers who have necessary education and training, and a growing number of STEM and STEM-related jobs.
- Michael presented on the Strada Education Foundation’s State Opportunity Index and their profile of Washington.
 - 75% of graduates in Washington are better off financially because they went to college—including 79% of bachelor’s degree and 61% of associate’s degree recipients.
 - Nationally, Washington ranks well for affordability while remaining at the initial stages of developing more supports for quality coaching.

Comments & Questions:

- **FAFSA completion data on the SAP dashboard is for the Class of 2023. Data for the Class 2024 is not yet available but will reflect a decrease in Washington’s overall FAFSA completion rate.**
- **Board members expressed interest in utilizing the SAP dashboard to improve the measurement of performance accountability metrics.**
- **What percentage of job openings within the computer and information technology space will be in software development over the next decade?**
 - 56% will be in software development.
- **How is AI impacting hiring in the field of computer and information technology?**
 - If AI is used to initially screen applicants, some students may be put at a disadvantage in the hiring process.
 - Board members discussed the potential for bias in hiring practices to be exacerbated using AI. References to specific types of postsecondary degrees may play a role in impacting hiring outcomes.
- **More advanced tools now exist to analyze higher education and labor market outcomes. WSAC is working with the co-chairs of the Board to see how these tools may be presented to the Board during future meetings.**

Closing

Presenter: Jane Broom

- Jane concluded the meeting by thanking Board members and staff for their work. The next Board meeting is Thursday, June 20, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., on Zoom.

See Appendix

Meeting Adjourned: 3:02 p.m.

Appendix A

[TVW meeting recording 4-25-2024](#)

Appendix B

13:08:29 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Meeting agenda: Council Meeting Agenda (wa.gov)

13:08:47 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

January 4, 2024, meeting minutes: Council Meeting Minutes 06.13.2023 (wa.gov)

13:09:26 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

(Sorry - the link subtitle is wrong.)

13:11:08 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

2024 Budget Legislative Proposals (wa.gov)

13:23:05 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

If I am understanding this correctly, these are the things that were funded, not funded with WEIA specifically

13:24:25 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Reacted to "If I am understandin..." with 👍

13:24:41 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Replying to "If I am understandin..."

Correct, thanks Ruben - the second document is WEIA-specific.

13:47:19 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Thank you to Rep. Slatter for joining us!

14:00:14 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

For reference, here is how the WA College Grant is funded for the full 2023-25 biennium (including the 2024 supplemental budget):

\$276.4m General Fund-State (GF-S) - FY24

\$276.4m GF-S - FY25

\$258.6m WEIA

\$69.6m Education legacy trust account

\$67.7m WA opportunity pathways account

14:14:04 From Michael Meotti to Everyone:

thanks but really the vision of the Council to have key indicators connected to our strategic clusters of Affordability, Enrollment, Completion and Student Supports (or Basic Needs)

14:14:18 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Reacted to "thanks but really th..." with 👍

14:14:26 From Kemberly Hetrick, WSAC to Everyone:

Reacted to "thanks but really th..." with 👍

14:28:41 From alex ybarra to Everyone:

I have another meeting starting in a couple of minutes. I look forward to begin attending these meetings.

14:28:49 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Reacted to "I have another meeti..." with 👍

14:28:59 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Replying to "I have another meeti..."

Thanks for joining us, Rep. Ybarra!

14:29:12 From Jane Broom to Everyone:

Thank you Rep Ybarra!

14:29:26 From Vandana Slatter to Everyone:

Reacted to "I have another meeti..." with 👍

14:29:45 From Vandana Slatter to Everyone:

Reacted to "thanks but really th..." with 👍

14:29:55 From Vandana Slatter to Everyone:

Reacted to "For reference, here ..." with 👍

14:30:30 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

Current FAFSA data can be found here: <https://www.ncan.org/page/FAFSAtacker>

14:30:41 From Terri Standish-Kuon, Ph.D. to Everyone:

For more info on this year's FAFSA rates: FAFSA Dashboard | HCRC (humancapital.com)

14:33:03 From Vandana Slatter to Everyone:

Reacted to "Current FAFSA data c..." with 👍

14:33:12 From Vandana Slatter to Everyone:

Reacted to "For more info on thi..." with 👍

14:33:33 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

Reacted to "For more info on thi..." with 👍

14:34:07 From Kara Larson | WSAC Research to Everyone:

Another resource: FAFSA® Completion by High School and Public School District | Federal Student Aid

14:34:23 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

Reacted to "Another resource: FA..." with 👍

14:37:58 From Terri Standish-Kuon, Ph.D. to Everyone:

Reacted to "Current FAFSA data c..." with 👍

14:38:15 From Terri Standish-Kuon, Ph.D. to Everyone:

Reacted to "Another resource: FA..." with 👍

14:43:34 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

The 2023 HELM report is currently WSAC's feature publication, available here:

<https://wsac.wa.gov/reports-and-publications#feature-publication>

14:44:12 From Kara Larson | WSAC Research to Everyone:

Reacted to "The 2023 HELM repo..." with 👍

14:44:49 From Jane Broom to Everyone:

Exactly why I questioned why the full 9M ask by CC/CTC's to grow computer science wasn't fully funded :)

14:46:06 From Kemberly Hetrick, WSAC to Everyone:

Reacted to "The 2023 HELM report..." with 👍

14:46:41 From Vandana Slatter to Everyone:

Reacted to "Exactly why I questi..." with 👍

14:46:42 From Kara Larson | WSAC Research to Everyone:

Reacted to "thanks but really ..." with 👍

15:02:37 From Vandana Slatter to Everyone:

Great meeting/updates - thank you Jane for your leadership!