

WEIAOB Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Attending (alphabetical by last name):

Dr. Steven Ashby, Jane Broom, Ruben Flores, Charles Knutson, William Lyne, Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon, and Jeff Vincent.

Staff attending (alphabetical by last name):

Joel Anderson, Heather Hudson, and Michael Meotti.

Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Introductory Comments

Presenter: Joel Anderson, Jane Broom

- The Board will hear presentations from Matt Sigelman, President of the Burning Glass Institute; Joel Anderson; and Michael Meotti.
- The Board meeting on April 25, 2024, provided a good opportunity for members to discuss results from the 2024 legislative session and think about how the Board can effectively prepare for the 2025 legislative session.

Action: Approving the Meeting Agenda for June 20, 2024

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting agenda for June 20, 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Action: Approving Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2024

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

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Presentation: Aligning Education and Training Pathways to Economic Opportunities

Presenter: Matt Sigelman, President, Burning Glass Institute

Material: [Meeting Slides](#)

- Matt's work focuses on unlocking new avenues for economic mobility, opportunity, and equity through skills. He helped create the field of real-time labor market data to better understand changes in workers' opportunities and identify skills that help bridge gaps between people and opportunity.

- It is important to see not only how much money workers earn, but also how much the degrees and credentials they receive contribute to future economic mobility.
- Only 52% of college graduates end up in fields where they need to go back to school in the future. There is a lot of variation between academic majors with respect to rates of underemployment.
- Having a holistic set of measures (i.e., lifetime earnings, underemployment, etc.) to evaluate economic mobility is critical to understanding gaps between people and opportunity.
- There are specific skills that provide more value to workers via higher wages and economic mobility. In any given field, some skills are ultimately more valuable than others.
- It is important to consider how the most valuable skills can be developed and leveraged to help more workers enter high-demand fields.

Comments & Questions:

- **Does the Burning Glass Institute’s research account for which institutions students attended?**
 - Yes. Institutions can play a significant role in students’ outcomes, but they usually matter less than students’ programs of study.
 - Accounting for institutional strengths and weaknesses can allow higher education leaders to identify areas of improvement within their systems and individual institutions.
- **Where is accountability directed when examining pathways to economic mobility—to institutions, students, industries, or others?**
 - It is important to distinguish between return on investment for students, institutions, industries, and others.
- **What makes a degree or credential socially useful? How is the true value of a degree or credential defined?**
 - The value of a degree or credential is not based solely on wages. Underemployment, economic mobility, and other measures can be used to assess value, too.
- **How does the Seattle/Tacoma region compare to other areas of the country with respect to matching degrees and credentials produced with need in high-demand fields?**
 - The Seattle/Tacoma region, like other technology hubs on the West Coast, does this well. It is important to consider how more valuable skills can be provided to workers in areas like Central and Eastern Washington, too.
 - There are many credentials available to students that do not provide more valuable skills.
- **How should the Board leverage information from the presentation to act?**
 - It is important to create platforms and forums that enable alignment between higher education and high-demand industries.

Presentation: Overview of Higher Education Funding in Washington

Presenter: Joel Anderson, Michael Meotti

Material: [Meeting Slides](#)

- Four accounts fund nearly all higher education expenditures in Washington: the General Fund-State (GF-S), Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA), Education Legacy Trust Account (ELTA), and Washington Opportunity Pathways Account (WOPA).
 - ELTA tends to have a stable balance each year.
 - Funds from WOPA rarely go to institutions of higher education. They usually go to WSAC for state financial aid programs.
- Over the course of the last three biennia (2019–21, 2021–23, and 2023–25), WEIA has covered a small yet increasing proportion of higher education expenditures at public four-year institutions that were previously funded by accounts outside of GF-S, ELTA, and WOPA.
 - This pattern has been observed to a lesser extent at public two-year institutions.
 - This pattern has been observed to a greater extent at WSAC, largely due to the creation of the Washington College Grant.
- The State Higher Education Finance (SHEF) report is an annual snapshot of how all 50 states fund public higher education.
 - Washington is below the national average amount of total public higher education revenue per full-time enrolled student.
 - There is a lot of variation between states with respect to the shares of public higher education appropriations and net tuition revenue that make up total public higher education revenue per full-time enrolled student.
 - Washington is slightly above the national average amount of public higher education appropriations per full-time enrolled student.
 - Washington is below the national average amount of public higher education net tuition revenue per full-time enrolled student.
 - Washington is slightly below the national average for net tuition as a percentage of total public higher education revenue.
 - Washington is in the top 10 states for public higher education state financial aid as a percentage of total public higher education appropriations. This includes all types of aid (i.e., need- and merit-based).
 - Washington is first in the nation for estimated undergraduate grant dollars per undergraduate enrollment.
 - Washington is slightly below the national average amount of public higher education support per capita.
 - Washington is below the national average amount of public higher education support per \$1,000 of personal income.
- Washington is not a lead investor in public higher education compared to other states.

Comments & Questions:

- **Are funds classified as “Other” coming from the state? Do any of these funds come from tuition revenue?**
 - Yes, “Other” funds are all appropriated by the state and do not represent private funds. No, these funds do not come from tuition revenue.
- **Did the creation of WEIA improve Washington’s position among states with respect to investments in public higher education?**
 - Creating WEIA and making the Washington College Grant an entitlement caused a significant increase in estimated undergraduate grant dollars per undergraduate enrollment.

- **Tuition at public two- and four-year institutions is frozen in Washington. Do we know if other states are constrained by this consideration with respect to public higher education investments?**
 - WSAC can provide additional data and context for this.
 - **Does the SHEF report include all funding appropriated by states for public higher education?**
 - Yes.
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Discussion: 2025 Legislative Strategy

Presenter: Jane Broom

Material: [2025 Legislative Strategy: Key Dates](#)

- The Board should think about how to leverage data on degree- and credential-related outcomes when moving Washington forward with respect to levels of funding for public higher education. It may be helpful to utilize some funding from WEIA for experimentation in this regard.
- WEIA is becoming an increasingly significant part of higher education funding in Washington. The Board should reaffirm the types of expenditures that may be funded by WEIA.

Comments & Questions:

- **Could public two- and/or four-year institutions help facilitate additional research on public higher education funding in Washington?**
 - Yes. Independent, not-for-profit institutions are also willing to support this work.
 - **Is WSAC thinking about pursuing research like the Burning Glass Institute's work in the future?**
 - WSAC uses tools from the Burning Glass Institute and Lightcast. These resources can be utilized to analyze many different areas of higher education. One example is the Washington Student Loan Program, which will require WSAC to identify eligible high-demand fields before administering the program.
 - **Is there interest from Board members in participating in a workgroup to develop language and/or key questions that will help identify 2025 legislative priorities?**
 - Yes. Jeff, Ruben, Steven, Charles, Terri, and SBCTC volunteered to participate.
 - WSAC staff will coordinate workgroup activities before the next Board meeting on September 18, 2024.
 - **The Board has an opportunity to clarify and utilize its voice more effectively during the 2025 legislative session.**
 - **Will the Board be submitting its annual report by August 1, 2024?**
 - No. The Board should ask for an extension.
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Action: Requesting an Extension to Submit the Board's Annual Report by October 31, 2024

Motion made to request an extension to submit the Board's annual report by October 31, 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Closing

Presenter: Jane Broom

- The next Board meeting is Wednesday, September 18, 9:00–11:00 a.m., on Zoom.

See Appendix

Meeting Adjourned: 11:56 a.m.

Appendix A

[TVW meeting recording 6-20-2024](#)

Appendix B

- 10:11:26 From Brian Jeffries to Everyone:
Brian Jeffries, Policy Director, Washington Roundtable
- 10:11:28 From Maddy Thompson to Everyone:
Maddy Thompson, Office of the Governor
- 10:11:37 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:
April 25 meeting minutes: 2024-04-25 WEIAOB Meeting Minutes (wa.gov)
- 10:11:45 From Sheila Steiner to Everyone:
Sheila Steiner, Independent Colleges of Washington; Sr. Director, Policy & Community Engagement
- 10:11:48 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:
June 20 agenda: 2024-06-20 WEIAOB Meeting Agenda (wa.gov)
- 10:12:07 From Shea Hamilton to Everyone:
Shea Hamilton, Office of Financial Management (OFM)
- 10:12:19 From Kate Henry to Everyone:
Kate Henry, WA House Office of Program Research
- 10:12:45 From Brent Lundstrom to Everyone:
Brent Lundstrom, Cybersecurity Center of Excellence
- 10:12:55 From Arlen Harris, SBCTC (he/him) to Everyone:
Arlen Harris, SBCTC
- 10:16:44 From Jolenta Coleman-Bush to Everyone:
Jolenta Coleman, Sr. Program Manager, Microsoft Philanthropies
- 11:11:59 From Jane Broom to Everyone:
we are 50 years YOUNG.
- 11:22:48 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:
Yes, slides will be posted online following the meeting.
- 11:23:32 From Charles Knutson to Everyone:
Interesting benchmarking data Mike--thanks for pulling that together
- 11:29:28 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:
2025 Key Dates: 2024-06-20 WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Strategy: Key Dates (wa.gov)
- 11:31:02 From Charles Knutson to Everyone:
Thanks for the key dates--do we also need to issue an annual report by Aug 1st?
- 11:45:21 From Terri Standish-Kuon, Ph.D. to Everyone:
Happy to volunteer, Jane.