

## **WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup: Meeting Minutes**

August 22, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Teams

### **Members Attending (alphabetical by last name):**

Jane Broom and Jeff Vincent.

### **Others attending (alphabetical by last name):**

Joel Anderson (WSAC), Jolenta Coleman-Bush (Microsoft), Madyson Frank (ICW), and Heather Hudson (WSAC).

### **Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m.**

### **Introductory Comments**

**Presenter:** Joel Anderson

- At the June 20 Board meeting, Board members agreed to form a workgroup for the purpose of establishing a process to adopt 2025 legislative priorities.
- Joel provided an overview of the meeting materials that were sent out.
  - Background information for the workgroup meeting included a schedule with tentative topics, an overview of how the Board has previously agreed on legislative priorities, and proposed discussion prompts for each meeting.

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### **Key Takeaways**

- The Board would benefit from having a rubric—influenced by its existing guiding principles and performance accountability metrics—that could be used to efficiently evaluate legislative proposals.
- Recommendations to the legislature may include a mix of broad statements and specific decision packages, but more specificity is preferred.
- While it can be helpful to issue a limited number of legislative recommendations each year, this decision may be influenced by the amount of funding available from WEIA over time. There was not consensus on how many recommendations should be issued each year.
- It is important for the Board to be able to evaluate the impacts of WEIA investments over time. Designing a regular process for this work—potentially through the development of Board bylaws—may be helpful for Board members.

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### **Discussion: Key Topics and Questions**

**Presenter:** Jane Broom and Joel Anderson

**Material:** 2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup Information

- The legislature did not have clear goals or expectations when it formed the Board. Legislators have usually not played a prominent role in co-chairing the Board. Business and agency representatives have been the most active Board members.
- Business representatives, among others, have a particular interest in seeing the Board issue clear and concise legislative recommendations.
- An ideal product of workgroup discussions would be a rubric that goes into more detail than the Board's guiding principles and performance accountability metrics. The rubric could then be used to evaluate decision packages that are submitted by state agencies (institutions of higher education, etc.).
  - As an example, WSAC considers a series of key questions while developing budget and policy proposals:
    - Will the policy help students of color and low-income students?
    - Is there a clear opportunity that makes sense for WSAC (aligned with policy clusters, etc.)?
    - Is it feasible (money, political will, alignment with other initiatives, etc.)?
    - Is there consensus among key advocates?
    - Is there evidence or data that the policy will advance the cluster?
    - Does the policy center and value students' experience?
    - Do regional and/or local communities or partners see value in the policy?
  - Workgroup members liked the idea of drafting key questions to use when vetting legislative proposals.
  - Questions for the Board could stem from existing guiding principles and performance accountability metrics, which are still broad.
- The Board's current guiding principles feel like a mix of overarching goals and principles. It could be advantageous to add a new layer of criteria that helps the Board vet legislative proposals.
- The Board may want to consider proposals that are not necessarily submitted by agencies as decision packages.
  - It seems feasible to consider a hybrid approach to adopting legislative priorities (i.e., a mix of broad and specific ideas).
- The Board needs to be able to evaluate the efficacy of WEIA investments over time. This could translate to recommending legislative proposals that clearly outline metrics used to determine success.
  - Career Connect Washington (CCW) presents an example of a specific coalition (and future proposal) that the Board will need to evaluate, per Gov. Inslee's [directive](#) from January 31, 2024.
- The Board does not currently have bylaws. It would be helpful to draft bylaws that provide the Board with additional structure and procedures for tasks like creating workgroups, establishing legislative priorities, etc.
  - The Board also does not have an Executive Committee, which could play a role in making important decisions.
- Outcomes of WEIA investments will often not be immediate or available in the short-term (i.e., one year). However, it is reasonable for the Board to ask how investments will be evaluated and regularly check in on long-term investments.
  - The Board could develop a more consistent process for evaluating WEIA investments and speaking with agencies or other stakeholders who received funding.

- To preserve political capital, it could make sense to issue a limited number of legislative recommendations each year. However, the amount of revenue going into WEIA (nearly \$900 million per biennium) is significant. This makes it difficult to limit the Board's ability to make recommendations.
    - It is beneficial for Board members to receive updates on the WEIA balance. This information may influence the Board's approach to issuing legislative recommendations based on how much funding is available.
  - For upcoming workgroup meetings, it would be helpful to start developing a rubric or list of questions that could be discussed.
    - It would also be helpful to know how much money is in WEIA.
  - The Board is in a unique position because it brings stakeholders from higher education, workforce development, business, labor, and student communities together to assess WEIA investments.
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## Closing

**Presenter:** Joel Anderson

- The next workgroup meeting will be Thursday, August 29, at 2:00 p.m. via Teams.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:06 p.m.