

WEIAOB Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Attending:

Dr. Steven Ashby, Ashraf Awad, Chris Bailey, Collin Bannister, Jane Broom, Ruben Flores, Barbara Hult, Heather Kurtenbach, Charles Knutson, William Lyne, Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon, Jeff Vincent, and Rep. Alex Ybarra.

Staff attending:

Joel Anderson, Michael Meotti, Grace Nelson, and Armen Papyan.

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

Action: Approving the Meeting Agenda for January 9, 2025

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting agenda for January 9, 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Action: Approving Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2024

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting minutes for September 18, 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Presentation: WEIA Fund Summary and Gov. Inslee's Proposed Budgets—2025 Supplemental and 2025–27 Operating

Presenter: Joel Anderson

Materials: [WEIA Fund Summary](#)

- Fiscal Years (FY) 2022–24 include actual revenues. These numbers will not change.
- At the end of FY2021, OFM assigned \$42.6 million from WEIA for working capital purposes. This amount is set aside in a reserve fund to ensure that WEIA does not have a cash deficit.
- Total expenditures in FY2025 are significantly higher than previous years due to an increase in the Washington College Grant (WCG) caseload forecast. Funding from WEIA is typically used to cover changes in WCG caseload forecasts.
 - Projecting financial aid utilization is difficult—especially in Washington, where students receive need-based aid.
- Gov. Inslee's proposed 2025 supplemental operating budget includes \$33.3 million in new WEIA expenditures, mostly for WCG and College Bound Scholarship (CBS) caseload forecast

adjustments (\$30.3 million). These increases are largely due to increased enrollment at community and technical colleges.

- Gov. Inslee’s proposed 2025–27 operating budget includes \$151.8 billion in total budgeted funds and \$1.0 billion in WEIA expenditures. The top three sectors receiving funds from WEIA are higher education (\$966.2 million), other human services (\$25.5 million), and special appropriations to the Governor (\$12.8 million).
 - The largest higher education WEIA expenditures are for the WCG caseload adjustment (\$131.9 million) and providing maximum WCG awards to students in the 0–65 % median family income range (\$46.1 million).
 - The largest other human services WEIA expenditure is for Working Connections Child Care (\$25.5 million).
- OFM is projecting an ending balance of \$8.9 million for WEIA by the end of FY2027.

Comments & Questions:

- **The \$42.6 million from WEIA assigned for working capital purposes is unrelated to the FY2022 percentage change in fund balance (42.60%).**
- **Are four-year institutions seeing higher enrollments like community and technical colleges?**
 - Four-year institutions are seeing higher enrollments for first-year classes each year—but overall, they are not observing the same enrollment increases as community and technical colleges.
 - Understanding trends in enrollment will be important to the Board moving forward.
- **The Board may want to spend more time examining carryforward and maintenance level expenditures as it develops future recommendations.**

Presentation and Discussion: 2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup

Presenter: Joel Anderson, Jane Broom

Material: [2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup Summary](#)

- The workgroup reviewed 59 proposals over the course of three meetings and identified 14 proposals which had high alignment with the Board’s [evaluation rubric](#).
- WSAC staff conducted an internal review of all submitted proposals using the Board’s evaluation rubric and ranked them as “high,” “medium,” or “low” based on their alignment with rubric questions.
- Overall, the workgroup received 59 proposals totaling \$707.6 million.
 - The most common type of request was regarding compensation (16 proposals totaling \$359.5 million)
 - The 13 proposals initially identified by WSAC staff as having high alignment with the Board’s evaluation rubric totaled \$99.7 million.
- Joel provided an overview of the 14 proposals identified by the workgroup.

Comments & Questions:

- **Does the Board provide feedback to agencies and organizations who submitted proposals that were not recommended?**
 - No, there is no formal process for providing feedback right now. The Board can make recommendations but not appropriate funds.
 - **The costs associated with some proposals have changed since they were submitted to the Board (i.e., due to WCG caseload forecast).**
 - **Legislators should be reminded about the importance of utilizing WEIA funds for their intended purpose (i.e., higher education expenditures).**
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Action: Communicating Board Recommendations to the Legislature.

Motion made to transmit the Board's 2025 legislative priorities to the Legislature.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Closing

Presenter: Jane Broom

- Heather Hudson will be leaving WSAC. Heather was hired to be a Deputy Policy Director for Gov.-elect Bob Ferguson.
- The next Board meeting is May 8, 2025, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., on Zoom.

See Appendix

Meeting Adjourned: 12:01 p.m.

Appendix A

[TVW meeting recording 1-9-2025](#)

Appendix B

10:01:39 From Executive Office to Everyone:

WEIAOB Website: <https://wsac.wa.gov/WEIAOB>

Agenda: <https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01-09-WEIAOB.Meeting.Agenda.pdf>

Past Meeting Minutes: [https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09-18-](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09-18-WEIAOB.Meeting.Minutes.pdf)

WEIAOB.Meeting.Minutes.pdf

WEIA Fund Summary: [https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01-09-](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01-09-WEIA.Fund_.Summary.pdf)

WEIA.Fund_.Summary.pdf

2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup Summary and Recommendations:

https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01-09-WEIAOB.2025.Leg_.Priorities.WG_.pdf

10:07:31 From Alex Ybarra to Everyone:

I'm having internet issues so will be in and out

10:28:53 From Chris Bailey to Everyone:

Our preliminary data at CTCs show enrollments up about 17 percent over two years fall to fall.

Michael Meotti: 👍

10:29:55 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

14 year

10:30:09 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

BLS calculation

10:54:09 From Chris Bailey to Everyone:

I have to step away for a few minutes.

11:06:23 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

Thank you for your leadership Jane!

Chris Bailey: 👍

11:07:13 From Charles Knutson to Everyone:

+1 to Jane and Bill's great comments.

11:10:01 From Executive Office to Everyone:

2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup Summary and Recommendations:

https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01-09-WEIAOB.2025.Leg_.Priorities.WG_.pdf

11:28:26 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Here is the rubric that was publicly available for submitters: WEIAOB 2025 Leg. Priorities Rubric

11:49:11 From Barbara Hult to Everyone:

agree with Steve. Happy to help

11:53:12 From Collin Bannister to Everyone:

I would agree with what Ruben said

Chris Bailey: 👍

11:54:26 From Mollie (CTC Student) to Everyone:

I

11:54:37 From Mollie (CTC Student) to Everyone:

In favor

Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: 👍

11:58:12 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

<https://govelect.wa.gov/policy-team>

Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC, Kimberly Hetrick | WSAC: ❤️

11:58:44 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

Congrats Heather!

11:59:06 From Charles Knutson to Everyone:

Congrats Heather!!

Barbara Hult: 👍

11:59:39 From Jane Broom to Everyone:

So great to have someone in Gov's office with great knowledge of WEI!

Kimberly Hetrick | WSAC, Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: ❤️

11:59:57 From Jolenta Coleman to Everyone:

Congrats, Heather!