

## **WEIAOB Meeting Minutes**

May 8, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### **Members Attending:**

Ashraf Awad, Chris Bailey, Collin Bannister, Jane Broom, Ruben Flores, Barbara Hulit, Heather Kurtenbach, Charles Knutson, William (Bill) Lyne, Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon, Sen. T'wina Nobles, Rep. Dave Paul, Jeff Vincent, and Rep. Alex Ybarra.

### **Staff attending:**

Joel Anderson, Nova Gattman (WTB), Jill Huynh, Issac Kwakye, Grace Nelson, Daniel Oliver, and Armen Papyan. (All other staff are from WSAC.)

### **Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.**

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### **Action: Approving the Meeting Agenda for May 8, 2025**

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting agenda for May 8, 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

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### **Action: Approving Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2025**

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

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

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### **Presentation: 2025 Legislative Session and WEIA Expenditures Summaries**

**Presenters:** Joel Anderson

**Materials:** [2025 Legislative Session Summary](#), [2025 WEIA Expenditures Summary](#)

- The 2025 legislative session demonstrated that there was minimal funding available for new programs. Legislation was also passed to significantly increase the amount of revenue coming into WEIA each biennium.
- The Legislature included language in its 2025-27 operating budget that allows WEIA expenditures to supplant other higher education funding. It is the Legislature's intent to continue this practice during the 2027-29 biennium.
  - This language was included because \$400 million from WEIA (instead of General Fund-State, GF-S) was appropriated to UW for general operating support.
- The Board conducted a thorough review of agency decision packages and other proposals from external stakeholders prior to the 2025 legislative session. All Board recommendations represented policy level funding and many of them were not funded by the Legislature.

- Proposals that received some funding include:
  - Continuing the Native American Student Scholarship pilot program (WSU)—\$2.2 million
  - Continuing the Shelton Promise pilot program (TESC)—\$901,000
  - Expanding the Student Aid Outreach and Completion Initiative pilot program (SBCTC)—\$340,000
- The 2025-27 operating budget included a significant increase in WEIA expenditures for compensation.
- The Legislature passed multiple bills to increase WEIA revenues by approximately \$1.4 billion over the four-year outlook (2025-27 and 2027-29 biennia).
- [SB 5785](#) made 60% median family income (MFI) the permanent threshold to receive a maximum WA Grant award and cut both WA Grant and College Bound Scholarship awards at non-public institutions.
- The 2025-27 operating budget appropriated \$77.9 billion from Near General Fund-Outlook (NGF-O) accounts. \$1.6 billion of this amount came from WEIA.
  - UW received \$544.9 million from WEIA—a number heavily influenced by the \$400 million fund source alignment from GF-S.
- The 2025-27 operating budget included \$852.5 million in carryforward level expenditures (53.3%), \$240.5 million in maintenance level (ML) expenditures (15.0%), and \$490.2 million in policy level (PL) expenditures (30.2%) from WEIA.
  - The largest changes in ML and PL expenditures, respectively, were \$221.2 million for WSAC and \$459.7 million for UW.
- The share of total WEIA expenditures for WA Grant has increased from \$191.2 million (23.6%) in the 2021-23 biennium to \$318.6 million (31.6%) in 2023-25 and now \$458.7 million (39.9%) in 2025-27.
- The share of total WEIA expenditures for compensation has increased from \$678,000 (0.1%) in the 2021-23 biennium to \$34.1 million (3.3%) in 2023-25 and now \$179.2 million (11.3%) in 2025-27.
- The Board does not currently have enough infrastructure or capacity to respond to changing budget conditions during legislative sessions.

#### Comments & Questions:

- **How are funding cuts at the federal level impacting changes to state financial aid?**
  - WA Grant and the College Bound Scholarship are fully funded by the state. These programs' award amounts will not change because of federal funding cuts.
  - For more information on other potential impacts, WSAC's [work session](#) for the House Postsecondary Education and Workforce Committee (March 26, 2025) may be helpful to watch.
- **Board members expressed interest in seeing how WEIA's role in funding state higher education costs (compared to GF-S and other accounts) has changed over time.**
- **Board members expressed concern that higher education faced significant cuts in the 2025-27 operating budget, especially compared to other sectors.**
- **As the Board's Co-chair representing business, was Jane consulted during the 2025 legislative session about higher education funding from WEIA or elsewhere?**

- No, aside from brief questions about [SB 5400](#). (The original version of the bill made appropriations from WEIA to support local news journalism.)

## Presentation and Discussion: Board Governance Workgroup

**Presenters:** Joel Anderson, Jane Broom

**Materials:** [2025 Governance Workgroup Proposal](#)

- The Board does not have fundamental components (bylaws, transition procedures for Co-chairs, etc.) to help it function effectively over time.
- The Board may need legal guidance from the Attorney General or other state agencies regarding how to draft bylaws.

### Comments & Questions:

- Board members expressed support for creating a Board governance workgroup to establish bylaws and additional guidance, as needed.
- Some Board members expressed interest in drafting legislation to amend the Board's statute ([RCW 28B.77.310](#)) as well.

## Action: Establishing a Board Governance Workgroup

Motion made to establish a Board governance workgroup for the purpose of developing formal bylaws and additional guidance, as needed.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

## Presentation: WA Public Enrollment Trends—Fall 2024 Enrollment Update

**Presenters:** Jill Huynh, Dan Oliver

**Materials:** [WSAC Fall 2024 Enrollment Update](#)

- During the COVID-19 pandemic recovery period (2022-24):
  - Enrollment across community and technical colleges (CTCs) has grown more than across public four-year institutions.
  - Full-time enrollment at public four-year institutions has declined.
  - Enrollment of need-based aid recipients has increased for both sectors. (WA Grant eligibility was expanded beginning in the 2020-21 academic year.)
  - New student enrollment at CTCs has surpassed public four-year institutions.

### Comments & Questions:

- Does WSAC have data on changes in transfer rates from CTCs to public four-year institutions?
  - Yes. An update on this data will be released later in the summer, but it is not available yet.
- Are some CTCs observing more enrollment than others? If so, why?

- Proximity to campus can be an influential factor for postsecondary enrollment. WSAC continues to research a variety of factors impacting enrollment rates.
  - **Will the change in MFI levels (60% vs. 65%) to receive maximum WA Grant awards impact enrollment?**
    - It is difficult to track this impact across academic years, but WSAC is considering how to measure this.
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## Closing

**Presenters:** Jane Broom

- The next Board meeting is July 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., on Zoom.

See Appendix

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:55 a.m.

## Appendix A

[TVW meeting recording 5-8-2025](#)

## Appendix B

10:03:16 From Barbara Hulit to Everyone:

i can't hear you. will log off/ in

10:06:20 From Barbara Hulit to Everyone:

i have audio on phone... didn't work on zoom.

10:06:45 From Barbara Hulit to Everyone:

good to see everyone. Former president Fluke, current sr advisor BCG. former chair education committee Washington roundtable

10:09:53 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

2025-05-08 WEIAOB Meeting Agenda

10:11:39 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

2025-01-09 WEIAOB Meeting Minutes

10:16:23 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Session Summary

2025-05-08 WEIAOB 2025 WEIA Expenditures Summary

10:25:05 From Brian Jeffries to Everyone:

FYI - For those new to the WEIA conversation, Joel is sharing this topic regarding supplanting funds and the new language because the originating WEIA legislation (HB 2158) had language expressly PROHIBITING this supplanting of funds so they had to add this new language to address that original language.

Kimberly Hetrick: 👍

10:29:00 From Terri Standish-Kuon to Everyone:

<https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2025/05/08/students-at-was-private-colleges-would-see-financial-aid-slashed-under-new-state-budget/>

10:43:06 From Nova Gattman, Workforce Board to Everyone:

Really impressive work putting together all of this detail and visualizing the scope of the information and changes. Thank you - I know this was a lot of work of all the staff involved.

Andrew Clemons, Kimberly Hetrick: 👍

10:45:13 From Chris Bailey to Everyone:

Great presentation and information. I have to get off. Thank you.

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

10:55:57 From Bill Lyne to Everyone:

If we don't do more to make higher ed a voting issue, we are going to be right back here next year talking about much deeper cuts and big tuition increases.

11:11:10 From Maddy Thompson to Everyone:

In the overall budget, higher education is more vulnerable than other parts of the budget, especially during budget shortfalls.

11:18:32 From Dave Paul to Everyone:

Good to see everyone...thank you for your good work for students and education in our state!

Nova Gattman, Workforce Board, Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: ❤️

Ruben Flores: 👍

11:23:58 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

## 2025-05-08 WEIAOB 2025 Governance WG

11:28:12 From mollie kuwahara to Everyone:

I would be interested in joining the work group. I am apart of the very few who actually enjoy establishing bylaws.

11:31:51 From Brian Jeffries to Everyone:

Bill translated: Better to ask forgiveness than permission

mollie kuwahara: 👍

11:38:39 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Fall 2024 enrollment update research brief: 2024-Fall.Enrollment.Update.pdf

11:54:26 From Jill Huynh to Everyone:

Thank you, everyone, for your time and interest in this work

11:55:36 From Heather Kurtenbach to Everyone:

Have a great day!

11:55:39 From T'wina Nobles to Everyone:

Thank you all.