

## **WEIAOB 2026 Legislative Advisory Committee: Meeting Minutes**

October 14, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Collin Bannister, Jane Broom, Charles Knutson, Eleni Papadakis, and Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon.

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

Joel Anderson (WSAC) and Nova Gattman (WTB).

### **Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.**

### **Introductory Comments**

**Presenter:** Joel Anderson

- The Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) will review meeting minutes from September 24, debrief the October 9 Board meeting, and discuss upcoming tasks such as the Board's 2025 legislative report.

---

### **Key Takeaways**

- LAC members discussed their duties to complete by the end of 2025.
- LAC members began brainstorming ideas to incorporate into the Board's 2026 legislative recommendations.
- LAC members provided feedback on what should be included in the Board's 2025 legislative report.

---

### **Discussion**

**Presenter:** Joel Anderson

**Material:** N/A

- The October 9 Board meeting went smoothly, and members provided some feedback on the LAC's work to date.
- By the end of 2025, LAC members will help:
  - Draft and submit the Board's 2025 legislative report.
  - Produce more detailed summaries of WEIA appropriations and expenditures.
  - Explore potential collaborations with external stakeholders.
  - Develop talking points for the Board's bill to amend RCW 28B.77.310.
  - Engage key legislators and Gov. Ferguson's office about the purpose of WEIA and its broader role in higher education funding.

- Drafting 2026 legislative recommendations for review and final approval during the Board's January 2026 meeting.
  - Some LAC members noted that the Board's guiding principles and performance accountability metrics should be utilized to draft 2026 legislative recommendations.
    - During the October 9 Board meeting, some members expressed support for issuing broader recommendations about categories of WEIA appropriations like student financial assistance.
    - Other key topics included the Legislature's ability to supplant higher education funding with WEIA appropriations in 2025-27 and other cuts to higher education programs.
    - Students want to prevent tuition increases and additional cuts to student financial assistance during the 2026 legislative session.
  - LAC members agreed that the Board could play an important role in educating legislators about the original intent of WEIA and how appropriations should be made from the account.
  - LAC members provided feedback on what should be included in the Board's 2025 legislative report.
    - The report should include a stronger statement clarifying WEIA's original intent and educate readers about the account's history. This may include information about past revenue projections.
    - Student financial assistance (i.e., WA Grant) and high-demand degree production should be emphasized.
    - Proven, effective, and industry-aligned programs should be highlighted.
    - An analysis of both WEIA appropriations and expenditures should be added.
    - An illustration of how General Fund-State, WEIA, and other large accounts have grown in comparison to their investments in higher education over time.
  - Some LAC members mentioned concerns from other industry partners about whether WEIA is contributing too much funding to WA Grant. Further discussion reiterated that this investment was a main purpose of WEIA.
- 

## Closing

**Presenter:** Joel Anderson

- The next LAC meeting is November 6 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:00 a.m.