

WEIAOB Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Attending:

Ashraf (Ash) Awad, Collin Bannister, Jane Broom, Ruben Flores, Nate Humphrey, Charles Knutson, Mollie Kuwahara, William (Bill) Lyne, Rep. Dave Paul, Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon, Jeff Vincent, Sen. Judy Warnick, and Rep. Alex Ybarra.

Staff Attending:

Joel Anderson, Kimberly Hetrick, Isaac Kwakye, Grace Nelson, Dr. Inez Olive, and Stacey Warick.

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Introductory Comments

Presenters: Jane Broom

- The Board's remaining 2026 meetings will be held on April 23, July 23, and October 22, all via Zoom.
 - The Board will delay approval of the January 8, 2026, meeting agenda and October 9, 2025, meeting minutes due to not having a quorum.
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Presentation and Discussion: Recent WEIA Revenue Forecasts, Gov. Ferguson's 2026 Supplemental Operating Budget Proposal, and 2026 Legislative Session Preview

Presenters: Joel Anderson

Materials: [2026 Legislative Session Preview](#)

- Legislation passed during the 2025 legislative session caused large increases in forecasted Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) revenues for the 2025-27 and 2027-29 biennia. WEIA revenues are now expected to be \$1.58 billion in 2025-27 and \$1.94 billion in 2027-29.
 - Economic impacts produced minimal increases in forecasted WEIA revenues.
- Gov. Ferguson's 2026 supplemental operating budget proposal included \$115.1 million in new appropriations from WEIA.
 - The largest new appropriations from WEIA included were:
 - \$51.2 million for WA Grant caseload adjustments at WSAC.
 - \$50 million to replace General Fund-State appropriations at SBCTC.
 - \$15 million for the Center for Behavioral Health and Learning at UW.
 - The proposal also included new cuts to higher education and other education:
 - 5% reductions for WSAC (\$1.7 million) and WTB (\$193,000).
 - 3% reductions for UW (\$15.8 million) and WSU (\$10.2 million).

- 1.5% reductions for EWU (\$1.4 million), CWU (\$1.4 million), TESC (\$668,000), WWU (\$1.9 million), and SBCTC (\$18.5 million).
 - Board members discussed how relevant stakeholders could mobilize to protect higher education and what role may be appropriate for the Board during the 2026 legislative session.
 - A key issue of interest was preventing further supplanting of higher education funding using appropriations from WEIA in the final 2026 supplemental operating budget.
 - Relevant pre-filed legislation was summarized, including bills to remove the advanced computing surcharge on WEIA; restore cuts to state financial aid awards for students attending independent, not-for-profit four-year institutions; make administrative changes to the Board's statute ([RCW 28B.77.310](#)); and codify the WA Guaranteed Admissions Program.
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Action: Approving the Meeting Agenda for January 8, 2026

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting agenda for January 8, 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Action: Approving Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2025

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

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Presentation and Discussion: 2026 Legislative Advisory Committee Summary

Presenters: Joel Anderson, Jane Broom

Materials: [2026 Legislative Advisory Committee Summary](#)

- The Board agreed to form a 2026 legislative advisory committee (LAC) on July 17, 2025, so that it could be more responsive to legislation and budget-related issues during the 2026 legislative session.
 - LAC members met six times during the fall to analyze WEIA appropriations data, prepare a presentation on WEIA to the Joint Higher Education Committee (Dec. 3, 2025), draft 2026 legislative recommendations, draft and submit a 2025 legislative report, and draft legislation to amend the Board's statute.
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Presentation and Discussion: 2025 Legislative Report

Presenters: Joel Anderson

Materials: [WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Report](#)

- The Board's report included multiple new components, such as more extensive background information on WEIA, a list of 2025 accomplishments, 2026 supplemental operating budget recommendations, and a detailed analysis of appropriations from WEIA in the enacted 2025-27 biennial operating budget.
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- Due to the \$400 million fund shift from GF-S to WEIA in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) for UW, there was a significant increase in the proportion of total higher education appropriations coming from WEIA. This also made it more difficult to track what the \$400 million originally funded at UW.
 - The analysis of appropriations from WEIA included a breakdown of appropriations by sector, agency or institution, and topic for the first time.
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Presentation and Discussion: 2026 Legislative Recommendations

Presenters: Joel Anderson

Materials: [2026 Legislative Recommendations](#)

- LAC members prepared the following recommendations for the Board to consider transmitting to the Legislature:
 - Do not supplant additional higher education funding with appropriations from WEIA during the 2025-27 biennium.
 - Reinvest in financial aid and maintain existing investments in higher education.
 - Protect and prioritize investments in equitable high-tech degree production and industry-aligned programs.
 - Continue funding career connected learning programs via Career Connect Washington (CCW).
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Action: Transmitting 2026 Legislative Recommendations to the Legislature

Motion made to transmit the Board's 2026 legislative recommendations to the Legislature.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

No meeting attendees provided public comments.

Closing

Presenters: Jane Broom

- The next Board meeting will be on April 23, 2026, 1:00-3:00 p.m., on Zoom.

See Appendix

Meeting Adjourned: 2:24 p.m.

Appendix A

TVW meeting recording 1-8-2026

Appendix B

2026-01-08 13:07:58 From Maddy Thompson to Everyone:

Hi Maddy Thompson (Director of Policy, Strategy and Research) attending on behalf of member, Eleni Papadakis, Workforce Board.

2026-01-08 13:08:59 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

2026-01-08 WEIAOB Meeting Slides

Maddy Thompson: 👍

2026-01-08 13:25:42 From Maddy Thompson to Everyone:

Note that there was an adjustment made to statute for 25-27: (see exception language) RCW 43.79.195

Workforce education investment account.

(1) The workforce education investment account is created in the state treasury. ...(see additional language)

(2) Except in the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, expenditures from the workforce education investment account must be used to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local funding for higher education. It is the intent of the legislature to continue this policy in the 2027-2029 fiscal biennium.

2026-01-08 13:37:11 From Terri Standish-Kuon to Everyone:

Affected students: two-thirds (67%) are students of color, 65% are female, and 62% will be the first in their families to earn a degree.

Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: 👍

2026-01-08 13:40:54 From Dave Paul to Everyone:

BRB...

2026-01-08 13:42:43 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Agenda: 2026-01-08 WEIAOB Meeting Agenda

2026-01-08 13:43:01 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

Oct. 2025 meeting minutes: 2025-10-9 WEIAOB Meeting Minutes

2026-01-08 13:43:08 From Alex Ybarra to Everyone:

Thanks Ruben

Ruben Flores, Maddy Thompson: 👍

2026-01-08 13:57:10 From Dave Paul to Everyone:

I've got to run to my next meeting in just a minute...sorry that I need to leave early, but I'm meeting with some of the budget team next.

2026-01-08 14:01:28 From bill Lyne to Everyone:

Sorry everybody, I have to jump to another meeting

2026-01-08 14:04:34 From Terri Standish-Kuon to Everyone:

Proof that a picture is worth a thousand words (or dozens and dozens of hours), Joel.

Collin Bannister: ❤️

Kimberly Hetrick: 👍

2026-01-08 14:07:34 From Collin Bannister to Everyone:

I was curious as well in prior reports I saw funding listed after UW for WSU, CWU, ect, was that prior programs and grants carrying forward or similar funding shifts to UW in the account?

2026-01-08 14:15:28 From Andrew Clemons to Everyone:

Our appropriation currently does not come from WEIA. Rather, ESD's administrative contingency account.

Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: 👍

2026-01-08 14:20:01 From Terri Standish-Kuon to Everyone:

Jane and Joel, that summary point is key. WEIA is growing while overall support for higher education is going down.

Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: ❤️

Nate Humphrey | SBCTC: 👍

2026-01-08 14:21:42 From Maddy Thompson to Everyone:

Higher ed funding is much more vulnerable during difficult budget times.

2026-01-08 14:22:18 From Maddy Thompson to Everyone:

Aye as proxy vote

2026-01-08 14:24:49 From Collin Bannister to Everyone:

Thanks!