

Ensure proposed expansions of higher ed delivery system use resources effectively

There's no question that Washington needs to expand college access for its citizens, but it also needs to carefully examine how those services can be delivered most efficiently, Higher Education Coordinating Board Executive Director Ann Daley said Friday.

At a hearing before the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee, Daley noted that the state has set a goal of expanding degree production by 40 percent over the next decade. That would be daunting even in a good economy, and will require careful thought about new technology and prudent uses of state resources.

The HECB is launching a major review of the higher education delivery system and how it should change in light of future needs. A concept called "expand on demand," would approve new programs and facilities based on demonstrated demand. Given the realities of the current fiscal crisis, Daley suggested using this time to design "an optimal set of strategies and complimentary institutions that will meet the long term needs of the state's citizens."

Daley's comments came during public hearings on bills to expand college offerings in Bellevue and Snohomish County. If the Legislature chooses to go forward before the delivery study is completed, she asked that the legislation require the HECB to approve governance, role, mission and program plans.

Financial aid has grown, but tuition hikes limit impact on access, House committee told

Washington has tried to reduce the sting of past tuition increases by increasing financial aid for needy students, but that has not led to increases in baccalaureate-degree production over time, the House Higher Education Committee heard on Friday.

While Washington maintains a "robust" financial aid program for needy students, it still ranks near the bottom in state baccalaureate participation, said HECB Executive Director Ann Daley.

Part of the reason is that tuition has increased 87 percent in the past decade, while personal income has only risen 50 percent, Daley said.

Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, said states can't solve the affordability issue with financial aid alone. Increasing aid may protect some students from the full economic impact of tuition hikes, but it doesn't necessarily expand access because much of the aid is consumed by tuition hikes, he said.

To remain competitive with the rest of the world, states will have to expand college access for low-income and other groups that have not been well served in the past.

"We're about to pay an economic price if we don't serve those groups better." Callan said.

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A weekly report on higher education during the 2009 Legislative Session



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Wide ranging financial-aid bill introduced in House

Legislation introduced this week to "revitalize financial aid" (HB 2021) is an omnibus bill that includes

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several recommendations. They include:

- Designating all financial aid "opportunity grants;"
- Consolidating the Educational Opportunity Grant;
- Reducing the Washington Scholars program;
- Phasing out the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence;
- Developing a one-stop web-based portal;
- Permitting public institutions to use their institutional financial aid fund (3.5 percent fund) for dual credit students;
- Limiting State Work Study to state residents and establishing a competitive grant program for high-demand placements.

Remedial ed bill could have 'unintended consequences'

A bill that would make students pay the full cost of remedial courses offered at public four-year institutions could make it harder for low-income students and older working adults to achieve educational goals, the House Higher Education Committee was told this week.

HB 1336 would require four-year institutions to offer remedial coursework in math, reading, writing or English on a "self-supporting" basis, meaning students pay the full cost. Bill sponsor Rep. Glenn Anderson said students who are accepted into four-year institutions should be "college ready." "We are paying twice for what should have been done [in the K-12 system]," Anderson said.

But Jan Ignash, the HECB's deputy director of planning, policy & research, and others testified the bill could have unintended consequences by discouraging low-income and older students—who may have forgotten some of what they learned in

high school—from taking remedial coursework necessary to succeed in college.

Ignash said programs such as the Transition Math Project and Navigation 101 are intended to improve student preparation for standard college-level coursework.

Tuition bill heard in House; Senate hearing on Tuesday

HECB request legislation (House Bill 1235) to maintain the status quo on tuition-setting authority had a public hearing before the House Higher Education Committee on Friday.

Ann Daley testified that the bill would continue current state policy, which allows baccalaureate institutions and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to set tuition for non-resident students and students in graduate and professional programs. Resident undergraduate tuition, which is set by the Legislature, is not affected by the bill.

Daley emphasized that institutions, which have held this authority since 2003-04, have exercised it responsibly. She said they need the flexibility it affords to do more reliable planning for a wide range of degree programs, particularly high-demand programs.

Testimony from institutions favored the bill and included testimony from the University of Washington that about three-fourths of graduate and professional UW students saw their tuition go up between 7 and 8 percent annually under the pilot project authorized in 2003-04.

The Washington Business Roundtable testified in support, emphasizing that institutions have worked with leading businesses to expand high-demand degree programs.

Several students opposed the bill, expressing a desire for limited or no tuition increases and arguing the bill lacks sufficient accountability.

The senate companion measure, Senate Bill 5734, is scheduled for a public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. in the Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee.

HECB reports on UW North, Kitsap higher ed center proposals

The Higher Education Coordinating Board this week briefed the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee on reports requested by the 2008 Legislature on a proposed UW branch campus in Snohomish County and a higher education center for the Kitsap region.

Efforts to find community consensus on a site for the UW campus were unsuccessful. The Legislature is considering bills that may determine next steps.

The Kitsap report recommended establishing two centers on the Olympic and Peninsula College campuses. The centers would house a variety of postsecondary programs. [Read more.](#)

Senate committee examines access to higher education

Within existing funds, SSB 5043 would establish a work group to plan a “one-stop, web-based portal” to provide current and future postsecondary students and their families with financial, academic and career-planning information.

Bob Billings, the HECB’s Chief Information Officer, told the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee at a recent hearing that the student access portal will improve access to higher education, provide more equity, and offer greater opportunities for Washingtonians to pursue their college goals. Other supporters of the bill included the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Northwest Career Colleges Federation.

The committee also heard comments on SB 5405, which would grant in-state tuition to foreign nationals in the non-immigrant H, E, and L visa categories who reside in Washington for at least a year. Many foreign nationals make important contributions to the state economy, said the bill’s primary sponsor, Sen. Eric Oemig of the 45th district.

The committee also heard from Christine McCabe of College Spark Foundation and Deborah Wilds of the College Success Foundation on their roles in promoting college access in Washington.

Next week’s schedule:

- **Monday Feb. 9:** House Capital Budget Committee. Public hearing HB 1898. 3:30 p.m., House Hearing Room C.
- **Tuesday Feb. 10:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings HB 1467, 1726. House Hearing Room D.
- **Tuesday Feb. 10:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work session: Budget-reduction presentations by WSU, UW. Public hearings SB 5734. 10 a.m., Senate Hearing room 3.
- **Wednesday Feb. 11:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings HB 1671, 1674, 1808, 1706, 2021. 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Wednesday Feb. 11:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work session: Budget-reduction presentations by CWU, EWU, TESC, WWU. Public hearings SB 5526. 3:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.
- **Thursday Feb. 12:** Senate Ways & Means Committee. Work session: Higher education issues. Noon, House Hearing Room A.
- **Friday Feb. 13:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work session: Budget-reduction presentation by State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Public hearings SB 5606, 5007, 5576. 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing room 3.

House higher education bills:

- [HB 1025](#) - Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [HB 1096](#) - Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing.
- [HB 1129](#) - Establishing a lifelong learning account steering committee.
- [HB 1130](#) - Convening a workgroup to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [HB 1156](#) - Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and National Guard members.
- [HB 1216](#) - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
- [HB 1235](#) - Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [HB 1243](#) - Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations.
- [HB 1244](#) - Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.

- [HB 1312](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
 - [HB 1323](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
 - [HB 1336](#) - Discouraging pre-college courses at public four-year institutions of higher education.
 - [HB 1341](#) - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.
 - [HB 1353](#) - Regarding employment opportunities at institutions of higher education.
 - [HB 1355](#) - Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
 - [HB 1394](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
 - [HB 1395](#) - Clarifying terms for workforce and economic development.
 - [HB 1428](#) - Establishing the field of dreams program.
 - [HB 1446](#) - Requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
 - [HB 1452](#) - Concerning economic stimulus.
 - [HB 1466](#) - Regarding student fees, charges and assessments.
 - [HB 1467](#) - Establishing the University of Washington Snohomish County branch campus.
 - [HB 1474](#) - Changing border county opportunity program provisions.
 - [HB 1487](#) - Regarding resident student classification.
 - [HB 1497](#) - Eliminating boards and commissions.
 - [HB 1545](#) - Authorizing the Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
 - [HB 1594](#) - Creating the environmental cleanup opportunity grant program.
 - [HB 1643](#) - Regarding harassment, intimidation and bullying policies and practices at regional universities.
 - [HB 1671](#) - Regarding higher education accountability.
 - [HB 1672](#) - Requiring an annual college learning assessment.
 - [HB 1673](#) - Requiring development of a consumer report card with information about institutions of higher education.
 - [HB 1674](#) - Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of institutions of higher education.
 - [HB 1675](#) - Changing the work experience provisions of the alternative route partnership grant program.
 - [HB 1694](#) - Addressing fiscal matters for the 2007-2009 biennium.
 - [HB 1706](#) - Expanding resident student eligibility for purposes of the state need grant program.
 - [HB 1726](#) - Creating Bellevue College.
 - [HB 1763](#) - Requiring that all classifications of students be treated equitably and consistently in the higher education admissions process.
 - [HB 1841](#) - Adding a faculty member to the governing board of each four-year institution of higher education.
 - [HB 1884](#) - Reviewing the decision to terminate Western Washington University's football team.
 - [HB 1898](#) - Setting priorities for higher education capital projects.
 - [HB 1901](#) - Establishing additional health sciences and services authorities in certain areas.
 - [HB 1904](#) - Regarding high-cost critical programs at institutions of higher education.
 - [HB 1914](#) - Authorizing the financing of higher education institutions' maintenance and operations through the use of certificates of participation.
 - [HB 1915](#) - Changing Running Start provisions.
 - [HB 1946](#) - Regarding higher education online technology.
 - [HB 1986](#) - Authorizing a peer mentoring pilot program at Western Washington University and a community or technical college.
 - [HB 2000](#) - Providing a coordinated approach to creating an adequate supply of well-qualified mathematics and science teachers.
 - [HB 2021](#) - Revitalizing student financial aid.
 - [HCR 4403](#) - Providing for the 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
 - [HCR 4403](#) - Providing for the 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
- Senate higher education bills:**
- [SB 5001](#) - Eliminating the matching fund requirement for the American Indian endowed scholarship program.

- [SB 5007](#) - Allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees.
- [SB 5043](#) - Convening a work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [SB 5044](#) - Changing work study provisions
- [SB 5048](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [SB 5077](#) - Creating the historically Black college fund pilot project.
- [SB 5078](#) - Authorizing the University of Washington to set business fees.
- [SB 5088](#) - Regarding salaries for adjunct faculty.
- [SB 5089](#) - Requiring an ethical audit of the personnel management systems at community and technical colleges.
- [SB 5106](#) - Creating an independent four-year polytechnical college and an investment district to finance it.
- [SB 5173](#) - Authorizing the regional universities to confer honorary doctorate degrees.
- [SB 5174](#) - Providing an incentive to improve the on-time graduation rates at institutions of higher education.
- [SB 5175](#) - Changing the Washington college promise scholarship program.
- [SB 5176](#) - Creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.
- [SB 5177](#) - Creating a global Asia institute within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.
- [SB 5188](#) - Requiring school districts to provide remedial postsecondary education or to pay for the cost.
- [SB 5222](#) - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
- [SB 5237](#) - Requiring the development of three-year baccalaureate programs.
- [SB 5260](#) - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.
- [SB 5264](#) - Providing for academic employee salary increments for community and technical colleges.
- [SB 5276](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [SB 5308](#) - Authorizing the higher education coordinating board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- [SB 5316](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [SB 5317](#) - Clarifying the terms for workforce and economic development.
- [SB 5376](#) - Requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
- [SB 5405](#) – Regarding resident student classification.
- [SB 5407](#) – Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations.
- [SB 5410](#) – Regarding the digital learning commons.
- [SB 5460](#) – Reducing the administrative cost of state government during the 2007-2009 and 2009-2011 fiscal biennia.
- [SB 5502](#) – Establishing the primary care physician conditional tuition waiver program.
- [SB 5553](#) – Promoting economic development through promoting innovation and the commercialization of technologies.
- [SB 5554](#) – Regarding the job skills program.
- [SB 5555](#) – Establishing a lifelong learning account steering committee.
- [SB 5575](#) – Creating Bellevue College.
- [SB 5588](#) – Administering, suspending, and eliminating boards and commissions.
- [SB 5600](#) – Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
- [SB 5604](#) – Concerning economic stimulus.
- [SB 5606](#) – Creating the Washington investment in student excellence scholarship program.
- [SB 5625](#) – Creating a state college in Snohomish County.
- [SB 5710](#) – Authorizing the board of regents at each state university to establish tuition fees rates.
- [SB 5734](#) – Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [SB 5778](#) – Requiring disclosure of certain course material information for higher education courses.
- [SB 5784](#) – Reviewing the decision to terminate Western Washington University's football team.
- [SB 5789](#) – Authorizing a second health sciences and services authority.
- [SB 5809](#) – Creating a temporary workforce employment and training program.
- [SB 5864](#) - Establishing the University of Washington Snohomish County branch campus.
- [SB 5900](#) - Regarding youth innovation education.
- [SB 5924](#) – Changing Running Start provisions.
- [SCR 8403](#) - Creating a joint select committee concerning Latino accessibility to higher education.
- [SCR 8404](#) – Providing for the 2008-18 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.