

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2017

Capital Event Center, ESD 113
Tumwater, Washington

Members attending:

Marty Brown, Violet Boyer, Maud Daudon, Paul Francis, Karen Lee, Michaela Miller, Jessica Murillo-Rosales, Susana Reyes

Staff attending:

Michael Meotti, Aaron Wyatt, Becky Thompson, Crystal Hall, Don Bennett, Emily Persky, Gail Wootan, Isaac Kwakye, Kristin Ritter, Lexi Shankster, Marc Webster, Noreen Light, Rachelle Sharpe, Randy Spaulding, Sarah Weiss, and Stephanie Gardener.

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chair Maud Daudon.

Dr. Michaela Miller (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) and Violet Boyer (Independent Colleges of Washington) were introduced and welcomed as the newest members of the Council.

Paul Francis talked highly of Gil Mendoza and his service on the Council as a representative of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and to his dedication to all students of the state of Washington.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

December 16, 2017, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Michael Meotti, Executive Director

The Executive Director's report focused on an introduction of the new executive director of the Washington Student Achievement Council. Meotti gave a few words of his excitement for his position at Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). He is excited to be a part of the WSAC team at this time. Over the last twenty years he has heard of the interesting, innovative work being done here. This state has strong institutions, a strong state policy, strong budgetary commitment, plus the growing economy and student demographic. He thanked the Council for this opportunity.

Chair Daudon and Vice Chair Lee gave a special thanks to Rachelle Sharpe for her service as the Acting Executive Director for the last six months. Daudon is looking forward to the team that Rachelle with her knowledgeable history of Washington State and Meotti's national leadership experience will make.

Adult Reengagement – Great Minds Education Initiative

Greater Spokane Incorporated

Alisha Benson, Vice President of Education & Workforce

Jodi Strote, Education Attainment Navigator

Randy Spaulding introduced the representatives of the Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI). The work of GSI aligns with the state's Strategic Action Plan in the area of adult re-engagement. This group is designed to help working adults return to school to finish their degree.

The catalyst for this work was funded by a \$40K grant from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives funded by Lumina. They have companies and higher education institutions that have stepped to invest in the initiative for four years. The goal is for it to be fee-for-service for the employer and free and accessible for the student.

Alisha Benson shared that this 20-year effort is a focus on the 86,000 working adults in the Spokane area with some college and no degree and getting them back to and through completion. It's a collaborate effort of the Spokane education community, the business community, and the community at large. The goal is to increase the number of adults in Spokane County who have high-quality certificates or post-secondary degrees to 60 percent by 2025. A big driver for this work is Spokane's 40 percent attainment rate.

GSI builds infrastructure by emphasizing to employers the importance of college completion, educating and engaging employees to be smart consumers, and by navigating the systems of education attainment and advocating for their employees. Their efforts focused on group of seven volunteer employers.

Benson introduced Jodi Strote who serves as an Education Attainment Navigator. As a Navigator, she provides support by assisting employees to understand and own their goals and create a realistic plan, she then refers them to higher educational intuitions to obtain detailed program information, and advisement. The student is given on-going support which includes workshops and access to the Navigator as a secondary resource.

Discussion:

Aligning demand and classes offered, the working adult being eligible for grants, and Lifelong Learning Accounts were topics of discussion. There was also discussion around offering this service community-wide as best practices are determined and the momentum and involvement grows.

2017 Roadmap – Discussion of Economic and Student Needs

Rachelle Sharpe, Deputy Executive Director

Randy Spaulding, Director of Academic Affairs and Policy

Staff explained the background and context for the 2014 legislatively adopted Roadmap goals, along with key imperatives to meet the needs of Washington's economy and the changing demographics of the state. The Council discussed the relevance of the goals and the potential need to make revisions as work begins on the 2017 Roadmap update.

Growth in attainment is required to meet the Roadmap goal and address the population growth. Currently 500,000 additional adults will need to complete a credential, while 90,000 would be required to keep pace with population growth. Nearly 80,000 credentials could be expected from 2017-19 Strategic Action Plan investments.

Recommendations for the Roadmap update might include starting with a vision statement where broader purpose of the achievement goals is described. The vision statement could serve to remind everyone that goals are important. The Roadmap should also reaffirm the workforce needs.

Developing interim targets could help address the complexity of the components that affect the goals. The targets could be related to educational continuum, K-12, postsecondary, type of student, sectors, degree programs, pathways based on industry needs, and regions of the state. The 2017 report will evaluate the leading indicators. A technical workgroup will address which populations to disaggregate and intersectionality between demographic and other characteristics. It would also improve accounting of all private institutions and better capture certificates and other non-degree credentials, acknowledge any data considerations, such as completion rates or lag time to data sets.

It is important to acknowledge efforts that are currently going on and proven strategies so the Roadmap truly serves as a roadmap for the Strategic Action Plan of 2019. The Council Committees are a good structure for this work. One committee will be a steering committee for the Roadmap update, which would include participation from the technical workgroup and other committee will focused on adult re-engagement.

The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) has a model that they have agreed to customize for Washington's needs. The interactive tool would be a resource to assess the impact of system improvements on attainment and provide information about return on investment for new initiatives and strategies.

Discussion:

Members discussed how credentials are determined and could they be an opportunity to accelerate the pace at which the goals are reached. The Roadmap is driven by the need and desire to be inclusive of our own students, we have to be careful of adjusting the goals from the reality. If we adjust the goals than we may be saying we don't believe this is best for our students. What can we do create a stretch to get to these timelines? College Bound Scholarship is an example of creating hope for our students.

It was suggested to include representation of key legislators, business, employer engagement and/or organized labor. Organized labor plays a large roll in certification in journey-level certification. It was suggested that key legislators be invited to the Council committee workgroups.

Liberal arts must be recognized as important as workforce demands. The public benefit to higher education must be made known. These benefits include more voter participation, increases in state and local tax revenues, less reliance on social services, and better health outcomes.

Governor’s Budget Review and Comparison to Strategic Action Plan

Marc Webster, Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor

David Schumacher, Director of the Office of Financial Management

John Aultman, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

David Schumacher and John Aultman discussed the Governor’s proposed 2017-19 budget and context surrounding the proposed spending.

Schumacher explained the most urgent issues in the Governor’s budget were to fully fund basic education and correct the mental health crisis. Even with these huge budgetary needs, the regular budget must also be maintained. Many agency requests have been denied to balance the budget.

Education received some attention besides McCleary. Tuition was frozen for another two years and the universities and colleges were provided funds to offset that freeze to keep them from experiencing a “cut.” \$146 million was provided for financial aid to cover 14,000 more students.

Schumacher explained additional budget highlights and the process by which the state revenue collections have fallen by nearly 30 percent over the past 30 years. He further explained the plan to create a more sustainable revenue system, through state B&O taxes, imposing capital gains tax on most wealthy in our state, creating a carbon pollution tax which could generate about \$2 Billion a year, and closing loopholes.

Aultman highlighted the education budget. He said the Governor based his whole higher education budget around affordability, State Need Grant, tuition freeze, student support systems, and the Opportunity Scholarship Expansion. Another area of focus for the Governor is the latest executive order to reaffirm Washington’s commitment to tolerance, diversity, and inclusiveness.

He further stated the Washington State Apprenticeship Council approved the first registered youth apprenticeship through Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC), starting in Tacoma and ultimately ten sites operating in the K-12 system next year. It is designed to be a 2000 hour stackable credential available to juniors and seniors, with an opportunity to continue into the journey-level program. Demand is high and targets women and minorities in the trade positions. A taskforce will convene, which will include WSAC.

Council member Marty Brown also gave an overview of the State Board for Community and Technical College legislative action. Brown said he is encouraged to see many with similar education budget plans.

Legislative Session Update

Maddy Thompson, Director of Policy and Government Relations, WSAC

Staff provided Council members with an overview of the legislative session to date. The presentation covered recent legislative presentations by WSAC staff and relevant bills and progress in relation to the

Council's 2017 legislative priorities. Themes this session include Eligibility for Financial Aid, Text books and Open Educational Resources, Student Debt, Return on Investment, Tuition and Aid Funding, Teacher Preparation, Protecting Student from Unfair Business Practices, Meeting Employment Needs, and Student Supports.

Marty Brown gave an overview of the State Board for Community and Technical College legislative action. Brown said he is encouraged to see many with similar education budget plans. Brown invited folks to the February 28 at 5 p.m. in the Columbia Room for a legislative reception where six programs will be featured from teeth cleaning to automotive demonstrations and beer crafting sampling.

Paul Francis gave an overview of the legislative activity related to the Council of Presidents. This year COP has organized multiple work session and continuing the work toward maintaining bipartisanship. Washington Competes and the joint agenda continue to be in the forefront their work. Francis also mentioned Regents and Trustees Day at the legislature was a great success meeting with 25 legislators from both parties. The key theme was funding State Need Grant.

Violet Boyer shared the legislative activity related to the Independent Colleges of Washington. ICW is watching two bills that target ICW students only keep their focus off the work at hand such as funding State Need Grant. All sectors coordinated for the State Need Grant Advocacy Day for the legislature. A special thank you to the College Success Foundation and the Washington Student Association for their successful efforts.

Dr. Michaela Miller provided an overview from the point of view of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Representative Reykdal's passion is around Career and Technical Education (CTE). OSPI is working on alignment their process to align their system with the goal of 100 percent graduation rate. There is a lot of work around the opportunity gap and equity and diversity within and outside the agency. They are also keeping a close eye on the federal shifts happening which introduce another layer of intrigue and uncertainty.

Status of Agency Legislative Reports

Rachelle Sharpe, Deputy Executive Director

A brief synopsis of each of the ten agency reports required to be submitted to the Legislature was provided to the Council. These reports can be found on line at <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/reports-and-publications>.

Public Comment

Juliette Schindler Kelly from the College Success Foundation thanked the Council for supporting the State Need Grant Advocacy Day. It was a great success and they look forward to the next steps ahead. She also mentioned the Re-Pledge Campaign which, too, is a wonderful success in keeping College Bound students on track.

Paul Francis requested that if there are opportunities to attend events where he and others can meet students one on one, he would like to be included. He finds them inspiring and it helps him keep a perspective on what's going on.

Chair Maud Daudon adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be April 19 in Olympia at The Evergreen State College.