



January 2012

## **Draft Minutes of November 2011 Board Meeting**

### **Board members present**

Charley Bingham  
Ethelda Burk, Chair  
Roberta Greene  
Jesus Hernandez  
Addison Jacobs  
Sam Shaddox  
Sam Smith

### **Welcome and Introductions**

HECB Chair Ethelda Burke opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and asked members of the audience and the Board to introduce themselves. She thanked Chancellor Kenyon Chan and his staff for hosting dinner the previous evening. Chancellor Chan offered a few words of welcome. He said UW Bothell is bursting at the seams. Built for 1,800 students, its current enrollment is at 3,700. UWB's biggest issue is facilities. Developing a capital budget is a significant challenge, Chan said. The Science Tech building is ready to go, but the school needs \$63 million to build it. Despite tight budgets, he said the school would continue to grow. He thinks a case can be made for growing the Bothell campus rather than building a new university near Everett.

### **Consent Agenda Items Approved**

**Action:** **Jesus Hernandez** moved for approval of the consent agenda, which included:

- The September Board Meeting Minutes
- HECB 2012 Board Officials, *Resolution 11-22*
- HECB 2012 Meeting Calendar, *Resolution 11-23*; and a
- New degree program for Bellevue College: Bachelor of Applied Science in Healthcare Technology and Management, *Resolution 11-26*

**Sam Shaddox** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**2012 Strategic Master Plan Update**

Don Bennett, Executive Director, provided an overview of the master plan update process and a summary of how current fiscal conditions are likely to impact public higher education through 2018.

Jan Ignash, Deputy Director for Policy, Planning and Research, provided a more detailed presentation on the plan update, including a progress report on degree completion goals, the probable effect of additional budget cuts on achieving those goals, and recommendations from the Master Plan Update Advisory Committee on the most critical next steps for higher education.

A panel of education leaders who have worked on the plan update discussed the top areas on which the state should focus to increase educational attainment. Panel members included:

- Mike Reilly, Executive Director, Council of Presidents;
- Charlie Earl, Executive Director, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges;
- Kathe Taylor, Policy Director, State Board of Education; and
- Chris Thompson, Director of Government and Public Relations, Independent Colleges of Washington.

Riley said the first three “next steps” outlined in the plan update reflect the goals of the four-year institutions: increase system capacity, strengthen efforts to increase transitions and completion, and maintain commitment to access for low-income students. Keeping the master plan’s original, longer-term degree goals on the table is also important, he said, but we need to focus on what can be done right now.

Making progress toward the longer-term goals means that many new groups of students will need to enroll and complete degree programs at the four-year institutions. With state funding at an all-time low, the four-year institutions wonder to what extent the state will help them in this endeavor, which will require expanded capacity.

Earl said conditions are challenging for the state’s community and technical colleges as well. Budget cuts have already forced enrollment reductions in professional/technical and job skills programs. And next year, when the first cohort of College Bound students arrives, things will be even more constrained, especially if funding cuts in the second half of this biennium are enacted. College Bound students have a contract guaranteeing admission. A large percentage of these students are expected to attend community and technical colleges.

However, Earl agreed the state should not abandon its longer-term master plan goals. Continuing to demonstrate the strong linkage between higher levels of education and more robust economic development might encourage a change in the state mindset, he suggested.

Taylor said working to reduce or eliminate conflicting goals between and among the education sectors should continue to be a priority. Students need to obtain education credentials beyond high school and “we want to think there will be capacity for them in higher education.” Citing the College Bound Scholarship program, she said access is important in all levels of education.

The State Board of Education remains interested in and committed to efforts to increase transitions and dual credit opportunities across the system.

Speaking for the independent colleges, Thompson cited the first three goals of the master plan update as the most important facing the state. The independent institutions want to continue to be seen as partners with the public institutions in achieving state goals. There are 40,000 students enrolled in the 10 major independent colleges of Washington. Transfer students are vital to their mission, as a third of their students come from the two-year public colleges.

Thompson said the state needs to move in the right direction without worrying too much about specifics. Where does it make the most sense to put limited state dollars? Where do you have the opportunity to leverage more? What are most needed? He said if independents do not receive financial aid for their students as proposed by some legislators, a few of the colleges may have to close. Those that remain may be forced to raise their price significantly, which will reduce the diversity of their student bodies.

Board member comment focused on the need to step up advocacy for higher education in face of dwindling state dollars and much-needed public support.

Jacobs – *Mobilize K-12 parents and students. Help them understand the possibilities that are worth seeking. Be passionate about the message.*

Shaddox - *We have a plan in place. What we don't have is the "why." This is the message we need to bring to the Legislature and the public.*

Bingham – *We need to get the community to realize that education is what distinguishes us from the rest of the world. We need to have a significantly higher number of people understand that the public really wants them to have a good education.*

<p><b>Action: Sam Smith</b> made a motion to approve the Master Plan Update (<i>Resolution 11-24</i>). <b>Ethelda Burke</b> seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.</p>
--

### **Passport to College Promise Program**

Rachelle Sharpe, Director of Student Financial Assistance, was joined by campus and non-profit organization student support managers and service providers:

- Kristi Jewell, Education Support Program Manager, Centralia College
- Colleen Montoya-Barbano, Fostering Scholars Program Director, Seattle University
- Lisa Predovich, Program Officer, College and Alumni Services, College Success Foundation

Sharpe provided a brief summary of the report, which covered the first three years of the six-year pilot of the Passport to College Promise Scholarship program. The Passport program was created to increase the number of foster youth participating and succeeding in postsecondary education. Specifically, the program:

- provides former foster youth with financial assistance beyond other state, federal, private and institutional financial aid for which they are eligible;
- provides incentive funding to postsecondary institutions that designate campus support staff, and take other steps to recruit and retain former foster youth; and
- establishes additional student intervention and retention services to foster youth through the College Success Foundation.

The report recommended the Legislature make Passport a permanent state financial aid program with a sustainable funding source.

The panelists described a wide range of support services they provide in working directly with Passport students to increase foster youth access and retention. They talked about barriers and challenges and shared success stories of students who have been helped.

**Action: Jesus Hernandez** moved for adoption of *Resolution 11-25*, accepting the Passport to College report and its recommendations. **Roberta Green** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

### **Proposed Rules for the Degree-Granting Institutions Act**

Randy Spaulding, Academic Affairs Director, described the proposed rules change on the Degree-granting Institutions Act, which included various fees charged to authorized schools, adding an exemption category for schools recognized by the Legislature, and providing other clarifying language.

**Action: Addison Jacobs** made a motion to approve *Resolution 11-27*, authorizing staff to engage in the formal rule-making process. **Sam Smith** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

### **Guaranteed Education Tuition Program (GET)**

Betty Lochner, director of the state's Guaranteed Education Tuition program, provided an update on the GET program and its future outlook. Lochner's presentation included an overview of the program, helpful statistics (135,000 total GET accounts with a total fund balance of 1.9 billion as of 6/30/11), and program demographics. She also talked about the current status of the GET program and the issues and directives impacting GET that came out of the 2011 legislative session. Providing tuition-setting flexibility to institutions has direct impact on the pricing of GET units. Another change is the establishment of a GET legislative oversight group made up of four members each from the House and the Senate.

The **meeting adjourned** at 2 p.m.