

HECB meets in Ellensburg to discuss state university budgets, strategic plan progress

The Higher Education Coordinating Board met July 15, 2010, at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, to consider preliminary operating budget outlines from the state's two-year and four-year institutions, among other items of business.

Institutional budget outlines focused on the need for additional enrollment funding, salaries, student success initiatives, and technology. Over-enrollment (lack of state funding to support existing levels of enrollment) continues to be a major challenge at the two- and four-year institutions.

Jim Reed, policy and planning coordinator, said declining state revenues and otherwise fixed or rising mandated costs represent a significant obstacle to achieving increased state appropriations for higher education in the 2011-13 biennium.

[Read more.](#)

Fund for Innovation would direct state support to achieve accountability goals

Jan Ignash, HECB deputy director for policy, planning and research, reported on efforts to achieve higher levels of accountability for the state's four-year institutions – particularly in support of key master plan goals.

The HECB is active in several statewide efforts to ensure high levels of accountability in higher education. Among these are the bi-annual collection and reporting of accountability data (HECB Accountability Report), and participation in the Governor's Management and Accountability for Performance (GMAP) initiative.

In adopting the recommendations of the HECB's System Design plan as law last session (SB 6355), the Legislature opened the door to creating a Fund for Innovation, which would establish a competitive incentive grant process to address specific system needs or problems. [Read more.](#) [View presentation.](#)

HECB staff conduct on-site campus visits to discuss institutional growth plans

The 2008 Strategic Master Plan called for the state and its public higher education institutions to increase degree production 40 percent by 2018. However, even if degree production keeps pace with population growth – a big if – we'll only achieve a third of this goal by 2030.

HECB policy, planning and research staff visited the state's four-year universities (and some branch campuses) recently to assess near- and longer-term plans for growth. [Read more.](#)

**Next regular board meeting is September 16, 2010
at Highline College in Des Moines.**

W A S H I N G T O N
H I G H E R
E D U C A T I O N
C O O R D I N A T I N G B O A R D

Predicting Earth Hazards

PANGA: CWU's Geodesy Lab

Much of Washington's population lives in the heart of earthquake country. Great earthquakes – 5,000 times the size of the 2001 Nisqually event – giant tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and landslides are a few of the natural threats poised to strike throughout the Puget Sound region

Timothy Melbourne, director of the Pacific Northwest Geodetic Array (PANGA) Geodesy Lab at Central Washington



University provided an overview of the lab's activities monitoring earth movement and other geophysical information.

Professor Melbourne, who holds a doctorate in seismology and tectonics from Caltech, said PANGA uses continuous GPS to monitor movements of the earth's crust that may predict a 'geological event' such as an earthquake.

CWU is the sole Washington facility that:

- Monitors public infrastructure (e.g. dams) with real-time GPS.
- Estimates timing and rate of sea level rise.
- Measures groundwater depletion.

[Read more.](#)

OFM offers sobering assessment of state budget over the next two biennia

Jim Crawford, OFM senior budget assistant, provided Board members a sobering assessment of the state's projected budgets for the next two biennia during the Board's morning session in Ellensburg.

Crawford said if no additional cuts to the FY 2010-11 budget are needed, the state will start the 2011-13 biennium with a \$3 billion budget shortfall, which may grow to as much as \$8.7 billion by the 2013-15 biennium.

These projected shortfalls will occur because the state faces sharp increases in expenses during a period of declining revenue caused by the national recession (less consumer spending; declining home values and sales). [Read more.](#)

Technology Transformation Taskforce

The Technology Transformation Taskforce was authorized by the 2009 Legislature to recommend strategies to improve and streamline the use of technology in higher education. Recommendations are due to the Legislature by December 1, 2010.

Committee reports will be completed and a draft report developed in September for final review and Board adoption in November. [Read More.](#) [See the presentation.](#)

HECB, State Board of Education fine-tuning minimum college admissions standards

General areas of discussion are continuing as the HECB and State Board of Education more closely align Core 24 high school graduation requirements with minimum college admissions standards. These include:

- **Required courses.** There are slight differences in the number and type of credits in science, math, and world languages.
- **Required total number of credits.** Twenty credits are being proposed as the required number for high school graduation and college admission.
- **How high school courses 'count'** in satisfying college admission requirements. [Read more.](#)

New rules for financial aid programs

Proposed rules changes for three financial aid programs were approved by the Board following the required public comment process. Read more at the following links.

- [Washington Award for Vocational Excellence \(WAVE\)](#)
- [State Need Grant](#)
- [College Bound Scholarship](#)

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

New Degree Programs

B.S. in Biology

The University of Washington Bothell will offer a new Bachelor of Science in Biology beginning in fall 2010. The new program will provide a foundation for careers or graduate study in medicine, dentistry, veterinary, biotechnology, environmental science, and biology education. [Read more.](#)

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering

Eastern Washington University will offer a new Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering beginning in fall 2010. The new degree will complement EWU's bachelor's programs in engineering and mechanical engineering technology. [Read more.](#)

Master of Prosthetics & Orthotics

The University of Washington will replace its existing Bachelor of Prosthetics and Orthotics with a new Master of Prosthetics and Orthotics in fall 2010. [Read more.](#)

Master of Science in Public Policy and Management

A new Master of Science in Public Policy and Management was approved for students enrolled in the UW's Ph.D. in Public Policy Management program. [Read more.](#)

M.S. & Ph.D. in Molecular Biosciences

Washington State University won approval for this moderate degree change proposal. [Read more.](#)