

September 2010

**Draft Minutes of July 15, 2010 Board Meeting**

**Board members present**

Jesus Hernandez  
Charley Bingham  
Ethelda Burke (via phone conference)  
Bill Grinstein  
Earl Hale  
Sam Smith

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Jesus Hernandez opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and asked the Board and the audience to introduce themselves. President James Gaudino gave a short welcome address highlighting CWU's centers of excellence and its need for support to continue its growth. Hernandez lauded Central Washington University for being a leader in student access in the region.

**CWU's Geodesy Lab**

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. Much of Washington's population lives in the heart of earthquake country. Great tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and landslides are a few of the natural threats poised to strike throughout the Puget Sound region. CWU has the only GPS facility in the Pacific Northwest that monitors public infrastructure (e.g. dams) with real-time GPS; estimates timing and rate of sea level rise; and measures groundwater depletion.

Professor Melbourne, who holds a doctorate in seismology and tectonics from Caltech, said PANGA uses continuous information from GPS monitors in more than 1200 locations around the Northwest to detect movements of the earth's crust that may predict a 'geological event' such as an earthquake. PANGA estimates where the crust will slip and by how much, using "real time data to report what is happening now and to predict where an earthquake will occur," enabling rapid notification and recovery that saves lives.

Melbourne said PANGA'S future growth is constrained by budgetary needs, including:

- Hebel Hall power/AC/server issues;
- GeoSciences is split between three buildings;
- Funding agencies tend to fund only R&D, not routine monitoring.

Charley Bingham asked what degree of monitoring PANGA would have provided for the Mt. St. Helen's volcano eruption. While it is hard to accurately predict when a volcano would erupt, PANGA receivers would have provided much better accuracy for early warning, Melbourne said.

### Consent Agenda Items Approved

**Action:** Charley Bingham moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Ethelda Burke seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The consent items included:

- May meeting minutes;
- Final rules for the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (*Resolution 10-18*) and the State Need Grant program (*Resolution 10-19*); and
- Five new degree programs:
  - EWU, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, *Resolution 10-12*
  - UW Bothell, B.S. in Biology, *Resolution 10-13*
  - UW Seattle, Master of Prosthetics and Orthotics, *Resolution 10-14*
  - UW Seattle, M.S. in Public Policy and Management, *Res 10-15*
  - WSU Pullman/Spokane, M.S. and Ph.D. in Molecular Biosciences *Resolution 10-16*.

### Final Rules for the College Bound Scholarship Approved

John Klacik, director of student financial assistance, requested approval of the proposed rules for the College Bound Scholarship program. Rules are needed to govern the promotion, eligibility, application process, tracking and monitoring, and scholarship disbursement of the program. The rules also outline the role of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the HECB related to program promotion and student tracking.

The HECB has concluded the public hearing process and comment period, reviewed public comment, and recommended modifications to the draft rules.

#### Board questions/comments:

Bingham – the issue of tracking students whose families move from one district to another  
Answer – OSPI provides verification.

Hernandez – is there communication about the program to the schools?

Answer – Communications to schools has been going on and will ramp up for the junior/senior cohorts.

Grinstein – Assuming the data shows the program will increase enrollment, we need to talk about how enrollments will be distributed.

**Action:** Bill Grinstein made a motion to approve **Resolution 10-20**, authorizing staff to conclude the formal rule-making process of the College Bound Scholarship program. Charley Bingham seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Executive Director's Report**

Don Bennett, interim executive director, discussed the development of the 2011-13 higher education budget. The Governor's budget panel has scheduled four public hearings regarding state resources; how services are being delivered now and how these might be changed in this environment of fewer resources. As an agency, the HECB is trying to comply with new instructions from the Office of Financial Management (OFM), including responding to questions about how essential our services are to the citizens of the state.

Another effort from the Governor is the newly established Higher Education Funding Taskforce. Jesus Hernandez, HECB chair, is a member of the taskforce. The HECB will be, among others, a source of information and data for the taskforce.

**2011-13 Agency Budget Request**

Bennett requested approval to complete staff preparation of the 2011-13 agency budget. The deadline for submission to OFM is September 8, which is several days before the Board's next scheduled meeting on September 16.

**Action:** **Sam Smith** made a motion to approve **Resolution 10-17**, authorizing the HECB executive director to complete the preparation of the agency budget, with appropriate consultation with board members. **Earl Hale** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**State Revenue and Budget Projections**

Jim Crawford, OFM senior budget assistant, provided an assessment of the state's projected budgets for the next two biennia. Crawford said if no additional cuts to the FY 2010-11 budgets 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).

Crawford said federal funds are not expected to continue and not enough reserves are left in state coffers. OFM does not see the situation getting better.

**Overview of Institutions' Operating Budget Requests**

Rick Heggie, HECB fiscal analyst, provided a preliminary report on the 2011-13 budget requests and proposal process for the state's two- and four-year institutions. The public colleges and universities must submit operating and capital budget requests to the HECB by July 1 and August 15 respectively. At the Board's September 16 meeting, the presidents of our public higher education institutions and the State Board for Community & Technical Colleges will present the details of their budget requests. Final recommendations to OFM are due in October.

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 fixed or rising mandated costs represent a significant obstacle to achieving increased state appropriations for higher education in the 2011-13 biennium.

Earl Hale said the HECB can add value to the budget process by establishing priorities based on policy and value. Questions to pose to institutions should touch on state funding, financial aid, and tuition policy.

### **Master Plan Progress Briefing**

Jan Ignash, deputy director for policy, planning and research, provided updates on the work being done to implement the recommendations of the 2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education. The Plan called for the state and the public higher education institutions to: (1) increase postsecondary education attainment; (2) promote economic growth and innovation; and (3) monitor and fund higher education for innovation and achievement.

- **Performance and Accountability**

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.

- **System Design Plan**

Staff are conducting visits with the state's colleges and universities to assess near- and longer-term plans for growth. Although the poor economic climate will delay implementation of long-term strategies, Ignash stressed the importance of developing processes now for future expansion so the state will be ready when the economy improves. The System Design plan recommended the creation of a Fund for Innovation, which would establish a competitive incentive grant process to address specific system needs or problems.

- **College Admissions Standards Alignment**

Randy Spaulding, HECB director of academic affairs, said general areas of discussion are continuing as the HECB and SBE more closely align Core 24 high school graduation requirements with minimum college admission 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.

HECB and SBE staffs are working with stakeholders and will develop draft proposals for discussion at coming board meetings (October 20th for the HECB).

### **Update on Technology Transformation Taskforce**

Bob Billings, HECB Chief Information Officer and Taskforce Co-chair Dr. Denise Yochum, President of Pierce College Fort Steilacoom, reported on the progress of the Technology Transformation Taskforce. The Taskforce was authorized by the 2009 Legislature to recommend strategies to improve and streamline the use of technology in higher education. It is composed of administrative staff and faculty from the public 4- and 2- year institutions and representatives from the HECB, SBCTC, COP, WTECB, and DIS.

The Taskforce first convened in September 2009, and has since:

- ✓ Elected co-chairs
- ✓ Established a Steering Committee
- ✓ Developed Subcommittees
- ✓ Adopted a project charter; established goals, objectives and priorities; developed guiding principles and timelines; and identified metrics for success.

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.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**