

## *January 23, 2013 Council Meeting*

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### **Participants**

Council Members: Brian Baird, Jay Reich, Ray Lawton, José E. Gaitán, Scott Brittain, Lindsey Jahn, Paul Francis

Council Staff: Don Bennett, Jim Reed, Gary Larson, Karen Moton-Tate, Rachelle Sharpe, Randy Spaulding, Christy England-Seigerdt, Coke Putnam

Guests: Vi Boyer, Independent Colleges of Washington; Annette Anderson, University of Washington/Bothell; Robert Corbett, University of Washington/Seattle; Ralph Ibarra, Diverse America Network; Kristin Elia, AFT Washington; Katherine Lay, Seattle Times, Jane Sherman, Washington State University; Ricardo Sanchez, LEAP; Debora Merle, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

### **Greetings and Action Items**

Brian Baird opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

*Action: Jay Reich made a motion to approve the preliminary meeting agenda, with proposed revision. Scott Brittain seconded the motion. The agenda for the January 23 meeting was unanimously approved.*

*Action: Jay Reich made a motion to approve the minutes of both the November 28, 2012 Council meeting and the December 12, 2012 Council Teleconference meeting. Scott Brittain seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted.*

### **2013 Council Meeting Calendar**

Don Bennett, Executive Director of the Council staff, introduced to the Council members a proposed 2013 meeting schedule: January 23, March 26, May 23, July 17, September 24, and November 20. There was a proposal and discussion regarding supplementing this schedule with teleconference meetings in those months not having a slated Council meeting. Brian Baird asked for Council staff to develop and circulate a proposed calendar for those teleconference meetings to be scheduled. Jim Reed of the Council staff suggested that also needing to be decided upon and scheduled is a possible Council retreat in the month of October.

*Action: Jay Reich made a motion to approve the proposed 2013 meeting schedule as presented, noting that it will be modified by the addition of teleconference meetings in the months of February, April, June, August, and December, and with a possible Council retreat being scheduled in October. Scott Brittain seconded the motion. The proposed 2013 meeting schedule, with anticipated modifications, was unanimously approved.*

### **10-Year Roadmap Process**

Jim Reed reviewed details of the handout, “10-Year Road Map: Challenge Area Schedule,” which included a preliminary timeline for development and review of the activities relating to the five challenge areas identified in the strategic action plan approved by the Council. This handout also displayed lead Council members and the staff teams designated to each of the activities identified to support the development of 10-year road map recommendations. Jim noted that Council staff are currently contacting other partner agencies (i.e., State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, State Board of Education, etc.) to identify among their staffs who might also be available to join in accomplishing the assignments associated with the road map development.

Discussion continued regarding the structure, leadership, and work management plans associated with each of the assigned segments of the challenge areas. Jim advised the Council that he was meeting with staff on Friday, January 25, to finalize staff assignments and that a conference call would follow with Council subcommittee members to help determine project leadership roles. It was suggested by Brian Baird that, to avoid conflicts of interest, citizen members might be the best choices as project leads.

### **Legislative Protocol**

Don Bennett outlined some of the processes and considerations that the Council staff factor in when reviewing and tracking proposed legislation. During this legislative session, bills impacting the the structure and duties of the Council as well as potential assignments to the agency and staff draw the highest attention, followed by pursuing bills that may affect education sectors and specific institutions/school districts. Don also shared an example of how agency staff closely follow the weekly legislative hearing and work group schedules of the various legislative committees of interest to the agency. In addition, he reviewed the bill tracking system developed by staff, showing that particular notice is given to how the proposed legislation may relate to any of the five challenge areas in the Council’s strategic action plan. Discussion followed regarding an efficient role that Council members could have in becoming aware of and understanding the details of new legislation potentially affecting education in Washington. Jay Reich suggested that the sector representatives on the Council could be very helpful by following legislative activities relevant to their respective sectors.

**Road Map Briefing: Readiness****Presentation: College Success Foundation**

Rachelle Sharpe of the Council staff presented an overview of Washington's College Bound Scholarship and how it is integral to addressing barriers in the "readiness" and "affordability" challenge areas in the development of the 10-year road map.

Joining Rachelle was Deborah Wilds, President of the College Success Foundation (CSF) as well as the Foundation's Outreach Director, Michelle Alejano. Their combined presentation to the Council outlined the mission and ongoing activities of the College Success Foundation to assist low-income students to successfully complete high school and to enter and graduate college by providing scholarships, ongoing mentoring, and personal support. Their model for success begins by working with students in middle school and following through with continued guidance and financial assistance, with the end goal of students graduating from college and securing employment. Their network of high school principals, counselors, and teachers have successfully led students' transition from K-12 to postsecondary education. And, one of the many tools currently employed by CSF to achieve student readiness and preparation for higher education is the College Bound Scholarship.

**Mandated Reports*****Prior Learning Assessment Progress Report***

Randy Spaulding and Jim West, Council staff members, and Noreen Light, staff member of the State Board for Community and Technical College, began with an overview of the processes by which a student's prior learning and career experience can be valued and equated to potential knowledge to be gained by completing a specific college course. Prior learning assessment (PLA) can be accomplished through standardized tests, course challenge exams, and the "crosswalks" between work-based learning and college courses. The panel shared that every college and university in Washington state currently offers some form of prior learning assessment, leading to the award of college course credits. By statute, the Council was given the task to convene a work group to study and develop policies and practices in awarding PLA credit, to develop articulation agreements between postsecondary institutions, and to create outcome measures to track successful assessment. The legislatively mandated report presented to the Council is a review of the progress to date towards streamlining the processes of PLA.

**Transfer Report**

Randy Spaulding and Jim West provided a summary of the mandated 2013 transfer report as presented to the Council for review. The Council is charged with establishing statewide transfer policies to improve student transition between institutions and sectors and to report progress in transfer efficiency. The most prevalent form of a student transferring from one institution to another is the “vertical” transfer – from a two-year institution to a four-year institution. However, transferring horizontally between same level institutions or transferring more than one time is not uncommon. Transfer policy in Washington state is implemented and maintained through cooperative efforts among public and private baccalaureate institutions, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, any many statewide in-sector and cross-sector groups such as the Joint Transfer Council and the Intercollege Relations Commission.

Chairman Baird asked staff if the current reports were informational in nature or included policy recommendations. Staff replied that these reports are informational; future reports from the working groups will likely include policy recommendations, but the present form is for informational purposes.

*Action: Following the presentations on the two mandated reports, Jay Reich moved that the reports be approved as presented. José E. Gaitán seconded the motion. “Credit for Prior Learning Experience in Washington” and “2013 Transfer Report: A Review of Improvements in Transfer” were unanimously approved.*

**Update on the Executive Director Search**

It was reported that the search is ongoing and that the Council’s subcommittee will inform the members of the search’s progress as it becomes available.

**Other Business**

Discussion then centered on legislative issues, including the proposed legislation to potentially increase the number of members on the Washington Student Achievement Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.