

## Washington Council - Summer Meeting in Wenatchee - June 25-26, 2024

DAY ONE - TUESDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2024 – PRESENT LEIGH JEWETT, JAMIE TRAUOGOTT, HEIDI YOUSEPH, ANNE MOLEND, ELLEN ZAMBROWSKY-HULS, LUCRETIA FOLKS, WENDY PETERSON, MYNDEE RONNING, LINDA DRAKE, SARAH WEISS, BRIAN SPRAGGINS, JULIE GARVER, JENNIFER NEHUS, GUILLERMO ESPINOSA, MEGAN COOLEY, PAUL SEEGER, MARIA MUTO, LILIA HEUSO, AUDREY MINTON, SHEILA STEINER, APRIL TAVOR VILLA (ZOOM).

ABSENT – MOLLY BROWN, GAIL BRUCE, ANDRA KELLEY-BATSTONE, MELODY FERGUSON, SUSAN MOSBY

- Anne made note of membership parameters and the necessity of any WA Council member schools being dues-paying members according to the bylaws. She pointed them out that Lucretia and (?) worked to highlight membership parameters on the WAC website.
- **Lucretia Folks** - Lucretia spoke to our being at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wenatchee for the first time, a positive experience thus far. The group further discussed where to hold future meetings in view of the fact that nowhere in Leavenworth will honor the government rate during the summer months. Wendy noted a possible discussion tomorrow, surrounding meeting dates.
- **Wendy Peterson** gave the treasurer's report, noting that budgetarily, we are where we typically are at this time of year. The organization is healthy financially.
- **Julie Garver**, as technology point person, will handle both WAC tech (website?) needs, as well as those of ICRC.
- **Agency Reports:**
  - **Linda Drake (SBE)** - Linda noted that no legislative bills were requested this year; the SBE only noted levels of support (or not) for other bills. Linda noted there are likely to be discussions about integrating financial education and computer science (for example).
  - **Sarah Weiss (WSAC)** - Sarah discussed a legislative summary and regional partnerships. She also noted there were three agency requests that all passed this year (see handouts); Outerbot expanded to include 9-10 grade students and their parents; and, August 20, is the next WSAC meeting and is open to the public (virtual only). FAFSA and FAFSA simplification - WA state is catching up in terms of completion rates for high school seniors (only 2% difference from last year - data correction by Sarah Weiss noted below in day two). There are new monies for existing and new regional partnerships (see handouts).
  - **Jamie Traugott (SBCTC)** - There are changes organizationally for the SBCTC; Jamie is taking on a different role in a more expansive organizational structure (see slides). Jamie provided updates on financial aid awarding and the processes surrounding the FAFSA "known issues" associated with the FAFSA rollout. SBCTC will host Running Start virtual sessions with CTC staff members who work with

RS. SBCTC won a NOAA Grant—one of only 10 states. The focus is on “climate ready” programs and working with the state’s Native American tribes. There is work happening to streamline the CiHS process, including an online application. (more topics and information available via the slide deck)

- **Julie Garver (COP)** - Most WA BIs are open for fall 2025 enrollment; those that aren’t will be by early September. Julie provided an update on WAGAP and its messaging. Admissions webinars were successful and will be offered again. COP has worked on CiHS equivalency mapping. COP is seeking a new investment commitment from the state via a new funding model (legislatively). COP is working toward a mechanism for receiving high school transcripts electronically (legislatively).
- **Sheila Steiner (ICW)** - ICW is invested in the state higher education goal of more degree attainment and working to contribute to student success. In the last 10 years, ICW institutions have nearly doubled the amount of aid offered. ICW has a new scholarship fund for transfer students, via a transfer pathway initiative.
- **Jamie Traugott (SBCTC)** - SB 5264: Student navigational supports to increase post-secondary enrollment. Jamie led an open discussion surrounding this SB to gain feedback for the next legislative session.
- **Event Reflection & Brainstorm** - *Transfer Student Fairs (CTC)* and *Fall Counselor Workshop* - These two commissions and their chairs broke off into separate work groups to listen to in-depth updates and deeper dives into the work of the respective commissions going forward.
- **Commission Updates and Report Outs** - After the Event Reflection & Brainstorm, Leigh Jewett and Megan Cooley shared out with the larger group the substance of their respective discussions.
- **Paul Seegert (Publications)** - Paul reported that he has added an experimental transfer advisors’ section to the Higher Education Book.
- **Hot Topics** - Anne inquired about what “Hot Topics” people might have for tomorrow’s discussion?
- **Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned for the day at 4:26 PM. Dinner walk to start at 5:45 PM for trek to the restaurant.

## DAY TWO

- Anne called the meeting to order at 8:38 AM with Agency/Organization Reports (Continued).
- **April Tovar Villa (Washington Financial Aid Association)** - Her focus was on the 24-25 FAFSA and awarding process. Award letters are currently going out, but there are still issues with the FAFSA, creating “back-end” problems (manual package creation). WASFA still cannot be loaded into institutional systems, which is creating potential problems. 25-26 FAFSA has a target

date of October 1, according to the DOE (some doubt around this). There will be a WFAA conference in October (16-18 in Spokane) that will now include a high school professionals track (inclusive of clock hours). A national survey of financial aid professionals indicates that as much as 50% are looking to leave the field. Sarah Weiss spoke to financial aid data in WA state, noting that NCAN data differs from WSAC data. She also corrected a data point from yesterday (8% down in financial completion).

- **Maria Muto (OSPI)** - Maria noted an effort to update the Tribal Land Acknowledgement and how it is used functionally. She made comments about Schoollinks (calling the status of Schoollinks *Apparent Successful Bidder*, which means the contract is between the state and Schoollinks is not yet firm and, therefore, subject to a potential change in vendors if things fall through). Once the platform is ready (meets all the stipulations outlined in the legislation), OSPI has two years to “launch” the program. Districts will have two options: Two-Year phase in, according to how a district will want to do it; or, a One-Year option in which a district simply jumps in all at once. Next year, OSPI will offer a monthly CCSCP Career/College Development Cadre that is linked to ASCA. OSPI will offer Grad Team News You Can Use virtual Q&A sessions in the fall again.
- **Lilia Hueso (WA School Counselors Association)** - Lilia provided an update on the two association conferences (one on each side of the state). The association is encouraging counselors *and* administrators to attend. WSCA also now has a podcast that will focus on various topics in the school counseling world.
- Andra Kelley-Batstone (AWSP) - Unable to attend but hoping to be more present next year
- **Commission Updates**
  - **College Planning Days (Heidi Youseph on behalf of Melody Ferguson)** - We had six sites for this program this past year that were mostly well-attended. Several schools inquired about hosting, but it was beyond the date for getting them onto the calendar. Melody is looking for feedback on other sites.
  - **8th Grade College Exploration Days (Ellen Zambrowski-Huls & Jennifer Nehus)** - It was held at EWU with about 350 attending. The primary student populations were from the outlying districts. They put out a survey and got 170-student respondents, which gave them good feedback. Jennifer and Ellen integrated a scavenger hunt in lieu of the Jeopardy game (updated to be more relevant). The date for next year’s College Planning Day is Thursday, March 27, at EWU.
  - **Transfer Advisor Workshop (Anne Molenda for Molly Brown)** - The Transfer Advisor Workshop will be on Thursday, August 8 (virtually). Registration is open as of last week (late June). Anne shared the tentative schedule for the event.

- **ICRC (Audrey Minton)** - ICRC has decided to keep the board structure the way it is (same people for additional year in each position). Audrey noted struggles within the group that are complicating efforts to get/keep people in the board positions. The Ongoing Articulation Review (OAR) committee is back on track after COVID. ICRC is asking WA Council to take down the old website. Julie spoke to the issues surrounding our lack of ability to take it down, noting that people should go through the WA Council website to access the ICRC page. Audrey presented a proposal for changes in the bylaws for nominating ICRC member designees. Wendy discussed the process for changing the bylaws.
- **Dual Credit Programs / Equity & Diversity** - Commissions on Pause
- **General Membership (Myndee Ronning and Melody Ferguson)** - Myndee provided an update regarding membership expansion toward full capacity. Three new BI people are slated; two new CTC people are slated; and, several current members are up for renewal. The Board discussed the process for bringing on the new “slate” of board members. Myndee Ronning Moves: “Pass a unanimous slate of board nominees for board membership” / seconded by Audrey Minton. Anne Molenda called for the vote, and the slate was unanimously approved.
- **Hot Topics Discussion (Entire Board)** - The Council discussed several “Hot Topics”. Walla Walla left the ICW. Should they be a part of WA Council membership? This conversation led to a discussion surrounding Fall Counselor Workshop participation, relative to paid memberships. Sarah Weiss posed a question about impressions relative to the Class of 2025 (surrounding students’ perceived preparation for completing the FAFSA).
- **Old & New Business** - Anne inquired about any old/new business, and there was none identified.
  - Fall Meeting - November 5-6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Icicle Inn, Leavenworth
  - Winter Meeting - February 11-12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Holiday Inn Express, Olympia
  - Summer/Annual Meeting – June 24-25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Hilton Garden Inn, Wenatchee
- Anne Molenda adjourned the board meeting and called Annual General Meeting to order:
  - Membership Voting announcement - new slate
  - Jennifer Nehus nominated as President-Elect (by Executive Group). Myndee Ronning moved that the Board vote to approve Jennifer as the President-Elect; Megan Cooley seconded; the Board unanimously voted to approve her as President-Elect.
  - Anne Molenda adjourned the meeting and passed the gavel to Heidi Youseph.