



May 2007

Draft minutes of May 2007 meeting

HECB Members Present:

Mr. Bill Grinstein, chair
Mr. Charley Bingham
Ms. Ethelda Burke
Mr. Gene Colin
Mr. Jesus Hernandez
Ms. Roberta Greene
Dr. Sam Smith
Mr. Jonathan Sprouffske

Welcome and Introductions

HECB Chair Bill Grinstein began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and asked audience members to introduce themselves. He then invited Dr. B. Jean Floten, President of Bellevue Community College (BCC), to say a few words.

Dr. Floten described some of BCC's current programs and future plans, including the pilot applied baccalaureate program, which is being offered in partnership with Columbia Basin College. BCC is planning on expanding toward the east, where most of the population growth is currently taking place. There is a satellite college north of Bellevue, as well as countless classes offered in high schools, churches, and community centers. The college also has a partnership program on campus with Eastern Washington University.

The college is very proud of its early learning center, which was the brainchild of Costco's CEO. It is a daycare center for children whose parents work in the area, as well as a teaching practicum for students in nursing, education, or other fields. Gene Colin, whose company participated in this endeavor, commented that state laws make it extremely difficult for private entities to donate funds to the public sector.

Grinstein introduced Rep. Glenn Anderson, ranking minority member of the House Higher Education Committee, who remarked that the system does need to be more integrated regarding public-private partnerships. This requires financial transparency, so as to engender trust and to provide legislators with the information they need to make the higher education system more

adaptive. Furthermore, Washington needs to look beyond its borders for potential partnerships. There are opportunities in the other Pacific Northwest states as well as in British Columbia. The two- and four-year systems would benefit from such partnerships, especially as regards workforce development.

When asked what would make the strategic master plan a relevant document in the eyes of legislators, Anderson said that simplicity is key. Additionally, phasing in implementation helps in determining how well the state is progressing toward its goals, and allows busy legislators to benchmark quickly. He also remarked that legislators will not use the plan if it is deemed to be politically driven.

Report of the Executive Director

Ann Daley, Executive Director of the HECB, updated board members on her recent activities, including her attendance at the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) conference and the Western Interchange Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) conference. At both events, discussions tended to center around diversity in higher education.

Action: Minutes of April, 2007 meeting passed

Bingham moved to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2007 meeting; **Greene** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Action: Consent agenda items approved

- **Master of Science in Biomedical Regulatory Affairs at University of Washington**
- **Master of Professional Accounting at Western Washington University**
- **Revised Freshman Minimum Admission Standards**

Smith moved to approve the resolutions listed on the consent agenda (Resolutions 07-07, 07-08, and 07-09); **Colin** seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Doctorate in Nursing, WSU Spokane

Randy Spaulding, HECB Director of Academic Affairs, introduced Washington State University's proposal to offer a Ph.D. in Nursing at WSU Spokane and via distance education. The program would have about five students in its first year and grow to 33. Ann Hirsch, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, WSU Spokane, said that there is a strong need in the state for nurse educators. Jane Sherman, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, said that there is funding for the proposed program because it is a high-demand field. Spaulding elaborated that there are different types of high demand: employer, student, economic, regional, and student. The proposed program would answer to the needs of all these groups. Hirsch added that nursing faculty members are easier to retain when they are given the opportunity to work with Ph.D. candidates.

Action: Ph.D. in Nursing, WSU Spokane approved

Smith moved to approve the Ph.D. in Nursing program at WSU Spokane (Res. 07-10); **Sprouffske** seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Update: Title II, Part A – Improving Teacher Quality

Mark Bergeson, HECB Policy Associate for Academic Affairs, described the program. Each year, the federal government gives the HECB about \$1.2 million aimed at increasing student achievement in core academic subjects by providing professional development to K-12 teachers and principals. Specifically, the agency awards grants to:

- increase participants' subject-matter knowledge
- improve teachers' instructional practices, and
- increase principals' leadership skills

Awards are granted through a competitive process; reviewers score proposals based on agreed-upon criteria and contracts are negotiated before professional development activities can begin. HECB staff monitors the entire duration of the projects. Since 2003, \$4.5 million has been awarded to 25 different projects, providing professional development to more than 1,500 educators.

Allowable activities to improve teacher quality may change with the reauthorization of The No Child Left Behind Act. Staff plan to strengthen reporting and project evaluations, and to coordinate with other HECB programs, such as College Readiness.

Degree-granting Institutions Act

Spaulding presented an overview of the program. The HECB is responsible for approving new degree programs and for authorizing private for-profit institutions to have a presence in Washington. The authorization process is designed to protect Washingtonians from potential fraudulent practices. Public institutions, long-standing institutions, and schools whose content is exclusively religious in nature are exempted from the authorization process. All other

institutions that wish to operate in Washington must undergo the process every two years. There are currently 52 authorized schools in Washington.

2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education

Institutional Panel: K-12 Preparation

Bill Moore, Policy Associate of Assessment, Teaching & Learning at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC);

Dr. Greg Brenner, Associate Professor, University of Washington Tacoma

Loyce Adams, Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Washington

Moore gave an update on Phase II of the Transition Math Project (TMP). Phase II involves 13 regional projects funded for one to three years. The TMP works to improve student achievement in math, the curriculum, instruction, and teacher support; to provide classroom assessment, messaging and communication to students and parents, and to encourage people to make data-driven decisions around math course-taking and performance. The program requires extensive fiscal and human capital; a wide variety of efforts need to be integrated; and high school / college partnerships, once built, must be sustained.

Brenner presented on Project BERS. The project exists to enhance the capacity of middle-school teachers and staff to screen, diagnose, monitor progress, and measure outcomes in reading; and to apply and sustain the use of scientifically based reading instruction to meet student literacy needs. The project aims to screen all middle-school students, divide them into tiers according to their reading ability – from inability to above average – and to train teachers to monitor and improve their progress.

Adams presented on a program funded by the National Science Foundation, in which graduate students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields are partnered with classroom teachers during their science hour. The program funds the graduate students' education and provides a stipend to the teacher.

Student Panel: Priorities for Higher Education

Keiko Weir, Senior, Todd Beamer High School, Federal Way

Rob Muilenburg, Junior, University of Washington

John Lederer, HECB Associate Director for Academic Affairs, described the Student Listening Initiative, which seeks input from high school, college, and graduate students on their experiences around higher education. On May 11, twelve students met with HECB staff to discuss college attendance, selection, and financing. Overall, students felt they had little support and guidance when choosing a college. Only one student reported getting support from a high school counselor; others got help from parents and friends.

Weir reported that in her high school, there is only one counselor for over 1,500 students. There are three types of students: the college-bound students, the undecided students, and the non-college bound students. Many students don't see college as a necessary step toward their career goals, even when those goals are predicated upon college attendance. For about two thirds of the student body, college is not seen as an option – let alone a possibility. Weir remarked that these students are largely ignored by the teachers and administrators at the school.

Muilenburg agreed with Weir, and added that while most people recognize that graduate students are important for the economy of the state, their needs are seldom addressed either. Graduate students tend to be older and have healthcare and childcare concerns. He believes that the single most important factor in high school students' decision to go to college is whether their parents attended college. For that reason, there needs to be more focus on first-generation students. Additionally, certain cultures have an abhorrence of student loans. This can be a major barrier toward college attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 12 p.m.