

Senior Staff Meeting
April 16, 2012
Meeting Notes

Attending: John Carmichael, Art Costantino, Susan Harris, Steve Hunter, John Hurley, Nancy Murray, Steve Trotter, Laurel Uznanski, Michael Zimmerman
Absent: Julie Garver, Lee Hoemann, Les Purce, Todd Sprague
Guests: Jane Wall

Review of Minutes

The April 9, 2012 minutes were approved as written.

Announcements

- Steve H. announced to senior staff that he forwarded by email the recommendation for the research position.

Decisions and Actions

- Review the Research Position materials sent by Steve H. (all).
- Add Research Position to next Monday's Senior Staff meeting agenda (John C.).

Legislative Update

Legislative session has adjourned. The budget was pushed through and does not have any reductions to higher education or K-12. The budget adopted left \$320 million reserve, smaller than the Governor would like.

As noted in an earlier email sent out by Julie G., while the operating budget as passed by the Legislature does not reduce general fund support for higher education, it does include some provisos and policy changes.

1. Bellevue College is authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees. Prior to the passage of this bill the College could only offer applied baccalaureate degrees.
2. The two and four year institutions are required to conduct a comprehensive review of institutional tuition waiver policies.
3. Evergreen is required to reallocate \$276,000 for FY2013 for an expansion in enrollments in STEM as defined in HB 1795. This definition includes bachelor and advanced degree programs in the sciences, which includes agriculture and natural resources, biology and biomedical sciences, computer and information sciences, engineering and engineering technologies, health professions and clinical sciences, mathematics and statistics, and physical sciences and science technologies, including participation and degree completion rates for students from traditionally underrepresented populations.
4. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy is required to conduct a longitudinal study of the state need grant program (\$100,000). In addition, WSIPP was also assigned several other studies.
5. The two and four year institutions are not permitted to use state appropriated funds to support intercollegiate athletic programs
6. Changes state payments for public employee health benefits from \$850 to \$800 per month

With regard to the STEM proviso, the official language is as follows:

\$276,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2013 is provided solely for an expansion in enrollments in science, technology, engineering and math as defined in RCW 28B.76.270(2)(k). Amounts provided in this subsection may be used only to cover direct costs of

instruction associated with this enrollment expansion. By June 30, 2012, the college shall provide a report to the legislature that provides specific detail on how these amounts will be spent. Each September 1 thereafter, the college shall provide an updated report that provides specific detail on how these amounts were spent in the preceding twelve months.

Steve T. indicated that the \$276,000 baseline for the STEM proviso will be figured from the current year.

With regard to the change to state payments for public employee health benefits from \$850 to \$800 per month, it was noted that there will be no immediate, direct impact to employees. The Public Employees Benefits Board will have to decide how to respond to the lost revenue. In addition, a pension reform bill was passed that will affect new state employees. Under the new law, retirement at age 62 will lower the benefit by 15 percent and at age 55 by 50 percent.

Decisions and Actions

- John C. and Todd S. to discuss campus communication regarding budget (John C., Todd S.).

Board of Trustees

John C. distributed a draft list of agenda items for the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting on May 8th and 9th. The Board has indicated an interest in getting an update on the carbon neutrality goal.

Steve T. distributed a draft copy of “Sizing the 2013-15 Legislative Budget Request”. Priorities for the budget request include compensation, IT infrastructure, and student success. The total draft request at this point represents a 10.7% increase in state support.

Decisions and Actions

- Nancy M. and Michael Z. to identify academic program/programs for Board participation (Nancy M., Michael Z.)
- If ready, add management objective preliminaries for S&A (Art C., John C.).
- Provide comments for the Board of Trustees agenda to John C. by Friday (all).
- Prepare a grid-like, one page summary for workgroup Board report (John C.)
- Wendy Endress to look at next week for orientation fee proposal (Wendy E., Art C.).
- Add veterans support, RTaLE position, and faculty into the base budget (Steve T.).
- Work with Wendy E. to include veterans office in budget request (Steve T., Wendy E.).

Update on Spring Enrollment

We are down about 100 headcount in spring, compared to last spring. This complicates fall enrollment. It is too soon to have a retention analysis for spring. Steve H. will be looking at reasons for the loss. We will achieve 4,500 annual average FTE for the current year, but achieving goals for next year and beyond is now even harder.