

STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Martin Valadez, Chair // Kady Titus, Vice Chair // Chelsea Mason-Placek // Mack Hogans // Ben Bagherpour // Jay Reich // Crystal Donner // Emily Yim // Bernal Baca

Nate Humphrey, Executive Director // Marianna Watson, Executive Assistant

Statutory Authority: Laws of 1991, Chapter 28B.50 Revised Code of Washington

Study Session: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 // 12:15 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2025 // 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SBCTC Agency Office: 1500 Jefferson St SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Hybrid option via Zoom

State Board Members Present: Martin Valadez, Chelsea Mason-Placek, Jay Reich, Crystal Donner, Kady Titus, Emily Yim, Mack Hogans

State Board Members Absent: Bernal Baca, Ben Bagherpour

Study Session

The State Board held a study session on Oct. 15, 2025, from 12:15 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

Welcome and board member introductions

Vice Chair Kady Titus called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m., welcomed those present, and asked the board members to introduce themselves.

Land and labor acknowledgement

Board Member Jay Reich read the Land and Labor Acknowledgement.

Presentation of strategic plan monitoring report, Goal 1

Ha Nguyen, deputy executive director for strategic initiatives/chief of staff, and Joyce Hammer, deputy executive director for education, presented to the board the next installment of the strategic plan monitoring report. It focused on Goal 1 of the strategic plan, which is to increase access and retention for equitable student success.

Ms. Nguyen gave a brief overview of the reporting process and briefly touched on the five objectives and 20 strategies within Goal 1 before turning the topic over to Dr. Hammer. Dr. Hammer gave an overview of Objective 1.1, which aims to enroll more students in the FAFSA and WAFSA programs.

Ms. Nguyen introduced Objective 1.2, recognizing that student success depends on the quality of college employees and supporting colleges in their efforts to attract and retain expert and diverse faculty and staff.

Dr. Hammer walked the board through Objective 1.3, implementing actions and policies that produce equitable outcomes.

Dr. Michael Brown, director for educational resources and innovation, led discussion of Objective 1.4 utilizing online learning tools to help balance work, college, and life for students.

Dr. Hammer discussed Objective 1.5, promoting college actions to help meet students' basic needs like housing, food, childcare, and mental health services.

Board discussion included input from Nate Humphrey, executive director, Jamie Traguott, director for student services and K-12 alignment, Maya Esquivido-Strom, interim director for tribal government affairs, and Summer Kenneson, director for policy research.

Presentation of executive director annual priorities

Nate Humphrey, executive director, presented the board with his annual priorities:

1. Strengthening agency culture and capacity. It covers establishing an agency cultural baseline, prioritizing internal and external relationships, reviewing agency and board operations, and developing service culture.
2. Identifying strategic opportunities through the various existing relationships that the agency has with different entities. This priority includes advancing Guided Pathways implementation, invoking systemwide readiness for Workforce Pell implementation, accelerating ctcLink operational integration, and advancing AI readiness.
3. Enhancing fiscal health and transparency. The three components within this priority are establishing fiscal health indicators and monitoring, fostering president and trustee collaborative use, and equipping the system for the allocation model implementation and keeping the model itself alive.
4. Positioning the system for the next strategic planning cycle, which includes ensuring strategic plan readiness and establishing a strategic plan roadmap/timeline. It is imperative to identify the nuances of strong strategic planning and review existing data to determine reporting and monitoring capacity.

The roadmap spans from fiscal year 2025-2026 to 2028-2029 and the goals range from agency baseline and readiness to overall system alignment.

Legislative session update

Arlen Harris, legislative director, presented the board with an update on the upcoming legislative session, budget priorities, policies, advocacy efforts, and federal workload.

Mr. Harris discussed two different policy proposals the agency is interested in moving forward to the Legislature. The first addresses the nursing shortage in Washington state via the elimination of repetitive requirements for nursing students. For example, a college or university that has nationally recognized accreditation from a Nursing Accreditation Commission shall not have to write a separate self-study aligning their policies and procedures to WABONs WACs. The National Self Study will suffice for accreditation and WABON requirements. Furthermore, any program that has an NCLEX pass rate of 80% or more including the second attempt within 90 days will not be required to meet additional requirements above and beyond the National Standards. This proposal would not require a fiscal note.

The second proposal focuses on making the Washington College Grant available to students under the same criteria as Workforce Pell. It would expand on short-term certificates and continuing education courses for the colleges and make them eligible for Pell funding. Grants for this are currently at maximum usage, so this proposal would expand financial aid capabilities and grant wider access to students. The two bills will be finalized and brought to the State Board for its approval at the December meeting.

Mr. Harris transitioned the conversation to the federal government shutdown. The agency is working through HR 1, which impacts programs such as Basic Education for Adults and Perkins. The changes to federally appropriated funds and current government shutdown have caused anxiety throughout the college system. College presidents now ask for more focused and frequent conversations surrounding federal funds so they can update their respective institutions. The college presidents also created a federal advocacy subcommittee, of which Board Member Hogans is also a member. The subcommittee compiled a federal outreach plan and shared it with members of the board.

Mr. Harris asked college system representatives to meet regularly with congressional delegates (ensuring a student, faculty member, and board member are all part of the conversation) and conduct tours with members of Congress. Executive Director Humphrey added that people should foster individual relationships with the campuses, and Vice Chair Titus stated that it is important to capitalize on tribal liaison relationships with the federal government. Kim Tanaka, ACT director, commented to connect college trustees to organizations that can assist with colleges' needs and the needs of the agency.

Baccalaureate degree quarterly update, proposed revision to the baccalaureate program approval process, and statements of need presentation

Ken Hang, policy associate for baccalaureate programs, presented the board with its quarterly baccalaureate degree update as well as a statement of need, several program proposals, and a proposed revision to the baccalaureate program approval process.

The statement of need came from Tacoma Community College (TCC) regarding its Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Mr. Hang was joined by TCC's Dr. Chris Willett, dean of science, engineering, and mathematics, and Dr. Val Sundby, provost.

There were three program proposals for the board to approve during the regular business meeting:

- Edmonds College, Bachelor of Applied Science, Behavioral Health Support Specialist
- Everett Community College, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
- Skagit Valley College, Bachelor of Science, Nursing

Mr. Hang discussed the proposed degree approval process changes. He provided background on the existing approval process, highlighting that it is closely aligned with the substantive change process that already exists from the NWCCU. Additionally, all 34 colleges in the system have a bachelor's degree program and have gone through the substantive change process. He walked through the evolution of the approval process and proposed the question of if it could take place in fewer steps.

Adjournment

Vice chair Titus adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m. and announced the State Board dinner for board members, staff, and invited guests would take place at 5:30 p.m. at Mercato's Ristorante in Olympia.

Regular Business Meeting

The State Board held a regular business meeting on Oct. 16, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Kady Titus called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m., welcomed those present, and asked members of the board to introduce themselves. She also asked State Board staff and guests joining the meeting to introduce themselves.

Establish a quorum and adopt meeting agenda

Vice Chair Titus noted that a quorum was present and requested a vote to adopt the meeting agenda without change.

Motion: Moved by Board Member Reich, seconded by Board Member Hogans, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of the regular business meeting agenda.

Approval of consent agenda

Vice Chair Titus requested a vote to approve the consent agenda without change.

Motion: Moved by Board Member Hogans, seconded by Board Member Mason-Placek, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of the October 2025 consent agenda.

Public comments

There were no public comments.

Capital project prioritization study recommendations

Darrell Jennings, capital budget director, Eric Murray, president of Cascadia College, and Jake Jackson, vice president for finance and administration at Renton Technical College, presented the board with recommendations gathered from the capital project prioritization study. It focused on a proposal to create an intermediate category of capital projects of up to \$15 million to better address needs throughout the system. Vice Chair Titus requested a vote to approve Resolution 25-10-48, which authorizes implementation of the intermediate project framework and directs staff to support colleges wishing to convert major capital project into this new category.

Motion: Moved by Board Member Hogans, seconded by Board Member Reich, and unanimously approved by the board, the approval of Resolution 25-10-48.

Allocation model implementation timeline presentation

The agency building experienced total loss of internet connection and a myriad of other technical issues, so notes were not taken during this presentation.

The board did vote to approve Resolution 25-10-49, a revised recommendation for implementing the new allocation model used to distribute general operating funds across Washington’s community and technical college districts.

Motion: Moved by Board Member Reich, seconded by Board Member Hogans, and unanimously approved by the board, the approval of Resolution 25-10-49.

ACT report

Wendy Bohlke, ACT president, announced upcoming events including the National ACCT Congress in New Orleans and the ACT Fall Conference at the Seattle Hilton Hotel. She emphasized the importance of speaking with one voice in supporting the capital budget development and allocation model. She also announced that the ACT Spring Conference will be held May 7-8 and hosted by Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College.

WACTC report

Dr. Joyce Loveday, president of Clover Park Technical College and WACTC president, congratulated Dr. Amy Morrison, president of Lake Washington Institute of Technology, for her selection as CEO of the year by the Association of Community College Trustees. Dr. Loveday also discussed the October WACTC meeting at Clark College, with the conversation focusing on comprehensive success for all students in the system. The November WACTC meeting will cover topics such as College Spark Washington’s support of the Evolve Initiative and smudging considerations and policies at colleges. Dr. Loveday talked about the Middle Leadership Academy, led by MarcusAntonio Gunn, program administrator for BEdA, and Monica Wilson, director of the Student Success Center, and commended them for all their work. She also noted that the State Board agency donated \$12,500 to both the Faculty and Staff of Color Conference and Students of Color Conference this year.

System unions report

Jacqui Cain, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), read the report for Suzanne Southerland, coordinating chair for the Washington Education Association (WEA). Ms. Southerland intends to strengthen the relationship between AFT and WEA. Her report highlighted issues such as AI usage in assignments and the need for transparency in college budgets and trustee appointments.

Ms. Cain gave her AFT report and noted that Clover Park Technical College had Title III grants pulled due to DEI language. She requested the board’s assistance in tracking other grants that might be impacted. She also stated she was made aware of parenting education program funding being cut in the latest allocation model due to their not being certificate producing programs. Ms. Cain urged the board to reconsider the funding or find new funding sources.

Financials update

Choi Halladay, deputy executive director for business operations, gave the board an update on fiscal stability and responsibility at colleges within the system. He stated that at a global level, it is too early to determine the results from fall quarter’s revenue. However, he noted that there is preliminary growth in student counts and tuition revenues but emphasized the need for more data on Running

Start program revenues.

Mr. Halladay also addressed staffing shortages and financial challenges in the college system. He discussed developing a Supplemental Business Services program to provide temporary staff support to colleges, like an outplacement program. The agency is also working on improving salary schedules for finance positions to attract and retain staff. Additionally, a new process is being developed to assess and intervene with fiscally struggling colleges. The board expressed concerns about the tone and approach of the proposed interventions, emphasizing the need for a supportive and strategic rather than punitive approach. Board member Reich requested an interim report back to the board before further implementation.

Executive director's report

Nate Humphrey, executive director, provided an update to the board on preliminary enrollment numbers for fall quarter, showing a 5% increase over fall 2024. He also announced that the agency had received an invitation from Microsoft to serve on a steering committee for Elevate Washington, aimed at expanding access and education around artificial intelligence for students in the state, providing K-12 and higher education students and educators with the company's AI tools starting January 2026.

The agency continues to monitor events happening at the federal level, including the government shutdown. It will continue to report to the board and external stakeholders as more information becomes available regarding issues that might impact the CTC system.

Mr. Humphrey stated that the capital and operating budgets requests, previously approved by the board, were submitted to the Office of Financial Management. He congratulated Darrell Jennings, capital budget director, and Stephanie Winner, operating budget director, on this accomplishment and thanked them for all their work.

Board discussion and chair's report

Chair Martin Valadez proposed forming an ad hoc committee focused on refining Mr. Humphrey's priorities given to the board on Oct. 15 and creating metrics to help evaluate the progress of those priorities. The committee itself is comprised of board members Jay Reich, Chelsea Mason-Placek, and Emily Yim, and vice chair Kady Titus. It will be active from now through the next two board meetings and can be formalized at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Vice chair Kady Titus adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.



Nate Humphrey, secretary



Martin Valadez, chair