

Baccalaureate Leadership Council - Spring 2026 Meeting Minutes
May 6-7, 2026
Spokane Falls Community College

General Membership Meeting

BLC was welcomed to Spokane Falls Community College by Patrick McEachern, Interim President, and Bonnie Glantz, Vice President of Learning.

The meeting was called to order at 8:50am by BLC Chair Tamara Gilchrist.

BLC held a moment of silence honoring Dr. Sai K. Ramaswamy (Wenatchee Valley College Engineering Technology) who passed away after battling cancer.

Hellos and Farewells – Introductions of attendees

Review of Agenda – link to agenda is on the BLC Canvas site.

Equity Toolkit Activity: Members participated in a collaborative activity focused on identifying best practices for the Equity Toolkit. Discussion areas included Recruitment and access, Retention supports, Outcomes and employment, and Additional equity-focused strategies. Notes from facilitators and workgroups will be compiled and shared on the BLC Canvas site.

Committee Work groups– Policy, Articulation & System Alignment, Marketing, Equity

Committee Reports -

- Policy
 - o The Policy Workgroup continued discussions regarding bachelor-level certificate policy considerations, BAS composition requirements, and statewide consistency in BAS program practices.
 - o Members also discussed accelerated and reduced-credit bachelor degree models, including 135-credit bachelor degree structures and the need for statewide guidance and direction including where credit reductions should occur (associate-level coursework versus upper-division coursework). Examples referenced during discussion included models from Yavapai College, Ensign College, and BYU–Idaho. The committee recommended adding this topic to the 2026–2027 BLC workplan for further discussion and potential development of statewide guidance and recommendations.
 - o Additionally, members recommended development of a separate baccalaureate guidebook to support statewide consistency and understanding

of BAS policies and practices. This item was moved to the 2026–2027 workplan with a planned draft for initial review during Fall.

- Articulation and System Alignment
 - o The committee continued work around Common Course Numbering (CCN) alignment processes for upper-division coursework and coordination between BLC, ATC, and WEC.
 - o Additional discussions included pathways between associate, bachelor, and master's programs.
 - o Work will continue in the workplan for 2026-2027. BLC Leadership will also continue to collaborate with WEC, ATC and SBCTC leadership to discuss increasing process alignment. Meetings to be coordinated for next steps during summer/fall 2026.
- Marketing
 - o The Marketing Committee finalized revisions to the 2019 Marketing Guidelines. The committee continued development of the BLC Canvas marketing repository to support sharing of materials such as flyers, webpages, FAQs, and pathway examples across colleges.
 - o Additionally, the committee surveyed colleges regarding innovative bachelor program marketing practices, reviewed survey results during Winter quarter, and continued discussions with local PIOs during Spring quarter to better understand the role of PIC and how BLC feedback and recommendations could best be presented. Work to continue in 2026-2027.
- Equity
 - o The Marketing Committee finalized revisions to the 2019 Marketing Guidelines. The committee continued development of the BLC Canvas marketing repository to support sharing of materials such as flyers, webpages, FAQs, and pathway examples across colleges.
 - o Additionally, the committee surveyed colleges regarding innovative bachelor program marketing practices, reviewed survey results during Winter quarter, and continued discussions with local PIOs during Spring quarter to better understand the role of PIC and how BLC feedback and recommendations could best be presented. Work to continue in 2026-2027.

Hot Topics

- o BAS Faculty Compensation and Program Support
 - o Members discussed varying approaches colleges use to support bachelor-level instruction and administration, including:
 - Additional compensation for teaching 300- and 400-level courses
 - Release time for BAS program leads and coordinators
 - Stipends for outreach, advising, marketing, and community engagement
 - Director and coordinator models for BAS programs
 - o Institutions shared a range of approaches depending on local bargaining

- agreements and organizational structure.
- o BAS Program Development Processes
 - o Colleges shared internal processes used before submitting BAS program proposals, including:
 - Community and industry engagement
 - Feasibility studies and labor market analysis
 - Internal curriculum review and approval processes
 - Advisory board feedback
 - Cross-departmental collaboration
 - State Board approval requirements
 - o Several colleges described multi-stage review processes involving instructional leadership, curriculum councils, workforce representatives, and governing boards.
- o BAS Enrollment and Application Trends
 - o Members discussed current application and enrollment trends across BAS programs statewide. Colleges reported mixed experiences, including:
 - Stable or strong application pools in some programs
 - Concerns regarding leveling or declining enrollment in others
 - Questions from prospective students regarding workforce value and AI impacts
 - Continued use of rolling admissions and extended application timelines
 - Exploration of cohort flexibility and part-time/full-time scheduling options
 - o Discussion also included strategies such as CTE signing events and year-round admissions models

Business Meeting

Chair Tamra Gilchrist called the business meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Several members joined via Zoom.

Quorum was met with 21 voting members present.

Executive Committee Reports

- Chair Tamra Gilchrist

Common Course Numbering (CCN) Update

- o BLC representatives met with WEC, ATC and SBCTC leadership to discuss the development of a more formalized and/or coordinated process for upper-division CCN review and approval. Discussions included developing a notice-of-intent process as a first step to ensure colleges are notified and have an opportunity to participate in early development work. Continued work and discussion are planned for summer/fall 2026

- Treasurer: Cindy Walker –

- o Meeting expenses totaled \$1,718.41
- o Current balance is \$12,493.59
- o No membership dues will be collected for 2026–2027
- o Existing funds are projected to support operations for approximately two additional years
- o Discussions occurred around supporting BLC Executive member travel if lack of institutional funds for travel presents a barrier to serving on the Executive Council. Topic will be revisited next year and with the full council on an ‘as needed’ basis.
- o A motion to suspend dues collection for 2026–2027 passed with one abstention

Voting Items

The following Executive positions were approved unanimously:

- o Chair: Tsai-En Cheng, Shoreline Community College
- o Vice Chair: Remains vacant—member to be identified and filled by Fall 2026
- o Secretary: Andrea Samuels, Renton Technical College
- o Members at Large: Tanya Powers, Highline College
Herlinda Ruvalcaba, Yakima Valley College
Annie Garrett, North Seattle College
Rebecca Jayasundara, Tacoma Community College
- o Treasurer: Cindy Walker, Columbia Basin College will continue (one year remaining on the three year term).

Marketing Guidelines Approval

- o The updated marketing guidelines were unanimously approved.

BAS Composition Requirement Discussion and Vote

- o Members continued to engage in robust discussion regarding the proposed BAS Composition Requirement changes first presented by North Seattle College in Fall quarter and reviewed further during Winter quarter. After much consideration, and significant member input, the group discussed the two primary options:
 - 1) A system-wide policy change replacing “English” Composition with “5 credits of composition”

2) A targeted addendum allowing exceptions for programs delivered fully in languages other than English

Using a multi-tier voting process, members first voted on whether to recommend a change to the current policy. In the second vote, members voted between the two options above.

- o First Vote: the majority supported moving forward with a recommendation for change. Noted 4 abstentions.
- o Second vote: the majority supported the Targeted Addendum option. Noted 6 abstentions.

The Targeted Addendum option carried. The updated draft of the recommended policy language is attached for IC review and consideration for next steps.

BLC and SBCTC leadership expressed sincere appreciation to members for engaging campus stakeholders in important discussions and dialogue while gathering valuable feedback on the proposal, including highlighting challenging areas and key considerations in developing recommendations related to this recommended policy change.

Liaison Report Summary:

- o IC discussions focused on proposed revisions to the AA-DTA and AI impacts in higher education.
- o WEC updates included Workforce Pell implementation, short-term credentials, and skills standards integration.
- o ATC discussions included allocation models, skills gap initiatives, pre-nursing DTA updates, and CCN revisions.
- o COE leadership discussed state budget reductions and leadership transitions.
- o Planning for 2026–2027
 - o BLC will work closely with WEC to coordinate meetings for the coming year as feedback continues to be positive/helpful practice given overlap in membership.
 - o BLC will be hosted by Centralia College in Fall.

- o Winter is currently planned as virtual
- o Spring TBD

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m. on May 6, 2026.

May 7, 2026, Joint meeting with Workforce Education Council (9am – Noon)

Agenda included:

- Call to Order and College Welcome
- Tabletop – Networking Discussion
- Presentation: Building Partnerships, exploring non-federal funding and strategies for competitive grant writing (Matthew Swenson, Green River College), and SBCTC report.
 - o PowerPoint slides available on BLC Canvas site

Please refer to the Workforce Education Council meeting minutes for more information.